

Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners for the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, was held in the Commissioners' Room, Courthouse at the Village of Centreville, Michigan on January 17, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Monte Bordner called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Pueschel.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

The Clerk, Pattie S. Bender, called the roll and the following Commissioners were present:

Eric Shafer	Gerald E. Loudenslager
Robin Baker	Monte Bordner
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Also present were Judy West-Wing, Administrator/Controller, Dan Carey, Finance Director and Charles Cleaver, Human Resources Director.

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Drain Commissioner would like the Felker Drain Resolution removed from the agenda as the public postings need to be done first. The resolution should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the agenda be approved as amended. Motion carried.

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the minutes for January 3, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Mendon Township, Re: Copy of resolution approving the township's participation in the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Purchase of Development Rights Program.
2. Letter from the State Emergency Telephone Service Committee, Re: Wireless E-911 funds.
3. Copy of letter from Andy Goldberger to the State Department of Treasury, Re: Request for wireless funds.
4. Letter from Governor Granholm's Office, Re: Thank you for resolution regarding the State of Michigan's payment of bills and invoices.
5. Resolution from Isabella County, Re: Soaring energy costs.
6. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of November 16 and December 13, 2005.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the communications be accepted and placed on file. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Commissioner Dobberteen introduced William Olney who has been appointed the new Transportation Authority Director. Mr. Olney stated that he was the Transportation Coordinator in VanBuren County for 20 years.

He has been very busy since he began on January 9th preparing the 2007 application for funding which will be for the October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007 year.

He will be attending the Local Advisory Council this Friday and the Authority Board Meeting on January 23rd.

Mr. Olney thanked the Board for funding the position.

Tim Carls, 63044 Klinger Lake Road, Centreville stated that he was at a Florence Township Board Meeting last night and found out about a meeting at the MDOT Transportation Service Center in Kalamazoo on January 30th at 1:00 p.m. and wondered if the Commissioners had been invited. Commissioner Baker stated that he has been notified of a meeting on January 18th but did not know about the meeting on January 30th. Mr. Carls wondered if it was a non-public meeting. He was assured that the meeting would be public.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANT ROAD PATROL POSITION

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Law Enforcement Committee met and it was the consensus that the vacant road patrol position should be filled due to officers on military leave and sick leave and one retirement.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the vacant road patrol position be filled. Motion carried.

APPOINT THIRD DISTRICT COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Chairman Bordner stated that there were 2 applicants for the Third District County Commissioner position, Danielle Moreland and Michael Dunlap. Both were in attendance.

Ms. Moreland addressed the Board and thanked Commissioner Bippus for his service as a Commissioner. She gave her background and the activities and jobs that she has had.

Mr. Dunlap stated that he has been a lifelong resident and has served on numerous Boards and Commissions.

Commissioner Shafer stated that both were excellent candidates with a lot of community involvement in Three Rivers and St. Joseph County. He has struggled with his decision who to vote for.

Commissioner Loudenslager studied the applications and he is looking forward to the outcome of the vote.

Commissioner Pueschel echoed Commissioner Loudenslager's comments.

Chairman Bordner stated that he agrees that we are fortunate to have the 2 applicants that we have.

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that these are 2 excellent people and he encouraged the loser of the vote to apply for appointment to other Boards.

The Clerk called each Commissioner in order of their District number and the result of the vote is as follows:

Moreland	2 votes
Dunlap	4 votes

Dunlap was declared appointed, the Clerk swore him in and he took his seat.

Chairman Bordner stated that this was an unusual situation and he appreciated the interest that the 2 applicants showed.

Chairman Bordner provided Commissioner Dunlap with a Commissioners' Workshop book.

TERMINATE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH MSU EXTENSION
FAMILY NUTRITION PROGRAM

Ms. West Wing stated that the Memorandum of Agreement was entered into with MSU for the Family Nutrition Program and the Veterans' Services Coordinator and Diana Fair filled this position. The benefits for this position were paid for by the County.

Now, Diana Fair will be moving into the position created by the retirement of Sally Carpenter and the Veterans' Services Coordinator will be added to that job description. MSU will now pay the benefits for Mrs. Fair.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Memorandum of Agreement with MSUE for the Family Nutrition Program be terminated.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

COVERED BRIDGE DAYS

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Covered Bridge Days Committee has requested use of the Courthouse lawn and parking lots during Covered Bridge Days, June 23 and June 24, 2006.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the request from the Covered Bridge Days Committee for use of the Courthouse lawn and parking lots be approved. Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR ADMINISTERING MSHDA HOUSING GRANT

Ms. West-Wing stated that this grant will now be administered by CAA similar to the previous contract that we had with the City of Three Rivers.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Contract with the CAA for Administering the MSHDA Housing Grant be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES WITH THE VILLAGE OF CENTREVILLE

Ms. West-Wing stated that this is a renewal of an Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with the Village of Centreville.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Agreement for Law Enforcement Services with the Village of Centreville be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

FRIEND OF THE COURT ACCESS AND VISITATION GRANT (MONITORED EXCHANGE PROGRAM)

Ms. West-Wing stated that this grant is for the monitoring of the children exchange that takes place at the Sheriff's Department and is managed by the Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition. The grant is for \$20,000 and we act as a pass through for the funding.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Friend of the Court Access and Visitation Grant (Monitored Exchange Program) be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Community Mental Health

Commissioner Dobberteen nominated Gaylene Adams and Danielle Moreland to the Community Mental Health Board.

Transportation Authority

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that Tim Carmichael be nominated and appointed to the Transportation Authority Board representing Community Mental Health. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Law Enforcement Committee met last week and everyone has a copy of the minutes. The issue of a law enforcement millage was discussed but there are some legislative issues that must be resolved first.

Judiciary

Commissioner Baker stated that the Judiciary Committee met on January 11th and everyone has a copy of the minutes in their packets.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Physical Resources Committee had not met.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Baker stated that all items discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting held on January 13th have been discussed tonight except:

- statistics were provided by the LRC and the County Treasurer on the Principle Residential Exemption program.
- Colon Village is interested in curbside recycling.
- an idea by Chairman Bordner that anyone who speaks during Citizens Comments fill out a card with their name, address, phone number and question so that the card may be forwarded, if necessary to the appropriate Board for an answer.

Chairman Bordner stated that this is the procedure that is used when speaking before committees in Lansing so that an accurate record is made of the name, address and telephone number and the questions may be forwarded to the right body.

Website

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Website Committee met today and the Technology Plan has been worked on for a year. One of the big things left in the Plan is to institute an Intranet System which will be the next project worked on by IT.

Solid Waste

Commissioner Shafer stated that he met with the Household Hazardous Waste Manager from Kalamazoo and they will put together a proposal to provide this service for St. Joseph County. He also provided another resource that we may contact.

Commissioner Shafer also spoke with Waste Management and an adjustment will be made to the fees when the recycling bin is removed from the Village of Colon when they begin curbside recycling.

Commissioner Loudenslager drew everyone’s attention to the email received from Ms. West-Wing today concerning curbside recycling.

Park and Recreation Master Plan

There will be a meeting held tomorrow at 7:00 p.m. at the Park and Recreation building to hear public input on the County’s Park and Recreation Master Plan.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following reports:

Personnel

Miscellaneous:

Timothy Reed to change from part-time to full-time District Court Magistrate at the salaried rate of \$35,298.00 (Rye system, grade 7, step 1) effective February 7, 2006.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Personnel Report be approved. Motion carried.

Budget Adjustments

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$14,000.00 from Soil Conservation Appropriation to Soil Conservation Fund.

\$8,000.00 from Soil Conservation – Soil Erosion Appropriation to Soil Conservation – Soil Erosion Fund.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

<u>INCREASE FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND 215 REVENUE:</u>	
215-141-578.000 (State Reimbursement Grant)	\$ 20,000.00
<u>INCREASE FRIEND OF THE COURT FUND 215 EXPENDITURE):</u>	
215-141-816.000 (Contractual Services)	\$ 20,000.00
<u>INCREASE FAMILY DIVISION – JUVENILE BRANCH’S BUDGET:</u>	
101-149-980.000 (Equipment)	\$ 90.00
<u>DECREASE:</u>	
101-149-860.000 (Travel Expense)	\$ 90.00

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the budget adjustments be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dan Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker – 5 half days 12/21/05, 1/9, 1/11 x 2 & 1/13/06	\$ 250.00
Monte Bordner – 4 half days 1/4, 1/9, 1/10 & 1/13/06 & 1 full day 1/4/06	295.00
John Dobberteen – 15 half days 12/5 x 2, 12/6, 12/8, 12/12, 12/14, 12/15 & 12/19/05 x 2 & 1/5, 1/9 x 2, 1/10, 1/11 x 2 & 1/13/06 & 3 full days 12/12/05 & 1/4 & 1/13/06	1,085.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 2 half days 1/9 & 1/11/06	100.00
David Pueschel – 2 half days 1/5 & 1/10/06	100.00
Eric Shafer – 6 half days 1/4, 1/9, 1/11 & x 2, 1/12 & 1/17/06	<u>300.00</u>
	\$2,130.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 40.04
Monte Bordner	171.77
John Dobberteen	104.89
Gerald Loudenslager	12.46
David Pueschel	<u>14.24</u>
	\$ 343.40

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the per diem and expenses be approved. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bordner stated that he will be making committee assignments.

He also noted that they have been advised that Tom Miller has been elected Vice-President of the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers and said that it was very commendable to be active in the organization.

Chairman Bordner reminded everyone of the open house for Dave Allen on January 26th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the EDC Office.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Nancy Percival stated that the Colon Village Council unanimously approved the curbside recycling and they are ready to move forward.

Also, she will be collecting money for Walk for Warmth after the meeting. She stated that the needs are very critical this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that he believes that the County has been assessed an exorbitant amount of money on drain projects. The one being proposed for the Felker Drain is approximately \$86,000 over a 10 year period and he believes that that is too much and could better be used for Economic Development.

Commissioner Dobberteen congratulated Commissioner Dunlap on his appointment.

Commissioner Shafer congratulated Commissioner Dunlap. He also stated that he attended the New Jerusalem Church last night for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration.

Commissioner Shafer congratulated Liz O'Dell on receiving a Human Services Grant.

Commissioner Baker also congratulated Commissioner Dunlap.

He also asked the Clerk to explain her recent appointment by Chief Justice Clifford Taylor.

The Clerk stated that she has been appointed to a Subcommittee on Collections which will be discussing best practices and developing policies and procedures for more effectively collecting court ordered fines.

Commissioner Loudenslager congratulated Commissioner Dunlap. He also stated that he has been reappointed to the Human Services Committee of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Commissioner Pueschel asked about the report on the Principle Residential Exemptions.

Ms. West-Wing responded by stating that the LRC and County Treasurer have been working with this program for the last 2 years and through November 2005, \$729,000 has been billed for the schools. Following are monies collected in interest through December 2005: \$76,000 for the County; \$11,000 for the State and \$22,000 for the local units of government. \$507,000 has been collected and distributed to the schools.

Through the same process 200 parcels did not claim a homestead exemption and they should have and as a result \$180,000 has been returned to the taxpayers from the schools.

She stated that this has been a lot of work for the LRC and the County Treasurer, but is a good program. Indirect expenses have been \$13,000 without figuring in any existing staff costs.

Apparently Grand Traverse and St. Joseph Counties are the only 2 counties that are pursuing this. Senator Brown sponsored legislation that has passed and the State will pay auditors to do this in counties where they are not administering the program.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that he appreciated the vote of confidence, he is honored to serve and he will do the best that he can.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until February 7, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Chairman