

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 March 20, 2007, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Baker 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	Michael D. Dunlap
Robin Baker	Monte Bordner
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Absent: Gerald E. Loudenslager

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

AGENDA

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bordner 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 March 6, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, March 9 and March 16, 2007.
2. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on March 14 to consider a tax exemption for the Sturgis Neighborhood Program.
3. Letter from Governor Jennifer Granholm, Re: Thank you for resolutions concerning funding for Conservation District and MSUE Extension.
4. Letter from Kim McCurdy, Re: Sheriff's Department.
5. Resolution from Hillsdale County, Re: Deficit Reduction Act.
6. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of January 17 and February 21, 2007.

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

2006 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Sheriff Matt Lori gave an overview of the 2006 Annual Report for the Sheriff's Department. He stated that overall complaints were down. There are 17 officers at the Department and they issued 4,572 citations for an average of 269 per officer. There were 7,077 Criminal complaints handled for an average per officer of 416. There were 10,393 quick calls for an average of 611 per officer. Total tickets with 58 officers in the County were 15,120 and with the \$5.00 surcharge on each, the revenue is \$87,855.

Overall incidents were down from 7,364 in 2005 to 7,077 in 2006. Part I consist of homicide, aggravated assault, arson, breaking and entering, etc., are down in most townships except they are up in Colon, Constantine, Fabius, Florence, Flowerfield, Mottville, Nottawa, Park and Sherman.

Busiest days are Friday, Saturday, Wednesday and Monday. Busiest times are between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. followed by 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the busiest months are July, August and June.

Criminal sexual complaints are down, assaults up slightly, domestic violence complaints are down, property crimes and breakings and enterings are down, malicious destruction of property crimes are up but not much, larcenies are down slightly but stolen vehicle complaints are up. Operating under the influence is down a little.

The number of accidents which were 917 dropped probably because of good weather in November and December. Fatalities are up with 7 of them being in Mottville Township which is extremely unusual.

Grants that are coming up this summer are for alcohol and seat belt violations. Accident causes are about the same. Controlled substance complaints are down a little and they are optimistic for bringing these down this year. SCAN unit activities are in the report.

Asset forfeitures for 2006 were \$31,787.

Marine Safety Patrol hours and contacts were up significantly. Students taking safety classes are up and he would like it to continue to increase.

Jail population was up. They were over capacity for a few months last year and they met with the prosecutor and the judges to try to reduce the population.

Booking fees collected was \$27,660 which is a new fee in 2006.

Meals served were 169,975 down from 175,345 in 2005.

Work crew hours totaled 8,521 which translates into 2930 good days. Schools make good use of this program.

There were 172 reserve rides and Dick Metty rode a little over 100 himself!

Total miles driven in the primary patrol cars were 265,366 or 727 miles per day versus 299,232 or 934 miles per day in 2004. Mileage is down because of the price of gasoline.

T.J. Harrington was named the Corrections Officer of the year and Jim Holton was named Road Patrol officer of the year.

The Victim Services Program continues to be a popular program.

They are working out the bugs in the laptops that were installed in each patrol car in 2006.

Commissioner Shafer mentioned the recent decision by the Governor to reduce the State Troopers. Sheriff Lori responded by saying that he has been in contact with Lt. Risko at the White Pigeon Post and the number of officers there will not be decreased.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the 2006 Sheriff's Department Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE 9-1-1 SYSTEM AND CENTRAL DISPATCH

Andrew Goldberger, Central Dispatch Director, gave an overview of the Annual Report for 2006 with a power point presentation which was run by Dennis Brandenburg who is one of the shift supervisors at Central Dispatch. He expressed his appreciation to County Administrator, Judy West-Wing; to Charles Cleaver, Human Resources Director; and the I.T. Department and its Director, Dan Wing.

The definition of a quick call is an officer-started call. There were 45,701 in 2006 compared to 48,264 in 2005. The police calls were down slightly from 35,047 in 2005 to 34,225 in 2006. Fire and EMS calls were virtually the same between 2005 and 2006. There were 9,196 police incidents in 2006 in the City of Sturgis compared to 10,820 in 2005. In Three Rivers there were 10,310 in 2006 compared to 10,869 in 2005. The comparisons in the Villages and Townships are:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Burr Oak	550	705
Centreville	1,490	910
Colon	1,337	1,046
Constantine	1,924	1,875
Mendon	595	669
White Pigeon	1,535	1,226
Townships:	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Burr Oak	794	570
Colon	1,166	690
Constantine	1,226	1,021
Fabius	1,938	1,542
Fawn River	811	486
Florence	703	494
Flowerfield	610	502
Leonidas	517	323
Lockport	2,090	1,571
Mendon	398	498
Mottville	1,179	1,052
Nottawa	1,077	911
Park	1,798	1,225
Sherman	1,201	852
Sturgis	1,741	1,363
White Pigeon	1,190	889

He stated that Mr. Brandenburg and Deputy Director Gary LeTourneau and the Centreville High School Intern, Jack Lentz work on the laptop project on a daily basis. He stated that with laptops in each car the officer can now print the ticket with the charges on it. There can be up to 3 charges on a single ticket. They are now easily read because the handwriting of the officer has been eliminated.

Ordinance Officer complaints were up in Three Rivers and down in Sturgis.

They also receive traffic from the Friend of the Court Officer.

Cameras have been installed in or will be in all schools except Nottawa. The schools collectively received a grant and the cameras are in the schools except Three Rivers where they have been under construction. Two incidents in Colon School were shown that were captured with the monitors.

In 2007 they hope to install a new phone system, do some research on updating and enhancing the entire radio system and to conduct special training of staff.

Mr. Goldberger stated that he is on a couple of State committees. On one of the committees that he serves they have funded training state-wide in the amount of \$5,133,870.05.

On the legislative side they have been working for almost 2 years on a complete re-work of their current legislation. They have been working with MAC, the State Chamber of Commerce and many other groups and have presented information that will make funding for 9-1-1 Centers State-wide by all types of surcharges on all devices that can call 9-1-1. Senator Brown is sponsoring these bills and is hoping to have them through both houses and signed by the Governor by their summer recess.

Commissioners Dunlap and Shafer told Mr. Goldberger that it was a good report.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the 9-1-1/Central Dispatch Annual Report for 2006 be accepted. Motion carried.

RENEWAL OF LEASE AGREEMENT WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Ms. West-Wing presented, for approval, a renewal of a lease agreement with the Economic Development Corporation. The lease is for 1 year and the annual sum is \$1,911.80.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the Renewal of the Lease Agreement with the Economic Development Corporation be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

LETTERS OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING MERS

Ms. West-Wing stated that with the transfer to MERS we need to approve Letters of Understanding with the AFSCME units, the District Court Association and the Telecommunicators' Association.

AFSCME - General Unit

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Letter of Understanding with AFSCME - General Unit be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

AFSCME - Circuit Court - Family Division

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Letter of Understanding with AFSCME - Circuit Court - Family Division be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

AFSCME - Circuit Court and Friend of the Court

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Letter of Understanding with AFSCME - Circuit Court – Friend of the Court be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

AFSCME - Probate Court

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Letter of Understanding with AFSCME - Probate Court be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

District Court Association

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Letter of Understanding with the District Court Association be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

Telecommunicators' Association

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Letter of Understanding with the Telecommunicators' Association be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

REQUEST TO USE COUNTY PROPERTY FOR COVERED BRIDGE DAYS

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the request from the Covered Bridge Days Committee to use County property for their festival be approved. Motion carried.

REMONUMENTATION CONTRACT

Ms. West-Wing presented for approval a remonumentation contract from Wightman-Petrie, Inc. This is identical to the contracts approved at the February 20th meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the remonumentation contract with Wightman-Petrie, Inc., be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANT CORRECTION OFFICER POSITION

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the vacant correction officer position be filled. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO INCREASE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE POSITION TO FULL TIME

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the accounts payable position be approved as a full time position when the current employee retires. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Community Mental Health

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that Rebecca Black, Gaylene Adams, Veronica Atkins and Dori Leo be nominated and appointed to the Community Mental Health Board for 3 year terms. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that they are in the process of scheduling a Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Judiciary

Chairman Baker stated that the Judiciary Committee had not met.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that the Executive Committee met on March 15th and all items discussed then have been taken care of tonight.

Website Committee

The Clerk stated that the Website Committee met today at 3:00 p.m. and discussed the grantee/grantor index for the Register of Deeds; discussed the VitalChek on the County Clerk's webpage; discussed indices for vital records on the Clerk's webpage; Commissioner Shafer will continue to contact Department Managers regarding items for their websites per the Technological Survey; and the pictures of the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he will bring in his camera and email digitized pictures to the IT Department.

Solid Waste Management Planning Committee

Commissioner Shafer stated that Korie Bachleda has agreed to oversee the Household Hazardous Waste collections during Earth Day on April 21, 2007 at the fairgrounds.

Ms. West-Wing stated that she would run a couple of notices in the paper regarding this collection. Also, at the same time there will be a county-wide garage sale and the Conservation District tree distribution.

MAC Tax and Education Meeting

Commissioner Bordner stated that he attended the MAC Tax and Education meeting last Friday in Lansing and Mitch Bean from the House Fiscal Agency spoke and gave a very good explanation of the State budget and he suggested that he be invited to a future work session.

MAC Legislative Update

Commissioner Bordner stated that everyone received a recent MAC Legislative Update and Representative Shafer should be contacted to support House Bill 4442 which affects the Headlee calculation.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

NEW HIRE:

Deborah L. Hotchkiss has been hired as Part-time Telecommunicator at \$8.50/hr. effective March 7, 2007.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the personnel report be approved. Motion carried.

REQUISITION

One Toshiba 352 copy machine, high capacity paper tray, document feeder, 5-year maintenance cost locked in at \$.005/copy for County Clerk’s Office in Courts Building \$ 3,895.00

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the requisition be approved. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

DECREASE BUILDING AND GROUNDS’ BUDGET:

Line item 101-265-706.290 (Wages - Maintenance Worker) \$ 1,000.00

INCREASE BUILDING AND GROUNDS’ BUDGET:

Line item 101-265-706.300 (Wages – Custodian) \$ 1,000.00

DECREASE VETERANS’ BUDGET:

Line item 101-682-707.000 (Wages – Part time) \$11,044.00

INCREASE VETERANS’ BUDGET:

Line item 101-682-706.250 (Wages-Secretary) \$11,044.00

INCREASE REVENUES LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND #266:

Line item 266-301-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance) \$ 2,250.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND #266:

Line item 266-301-728.000 (Printing) \$ 250.00

Line item 266-301-743.020 (Supplies – Patrol) 2,000.00

\$ 2,250.00

2006 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

GENERAL FUND

Appropriations

Marine Safety Patrol

Child Care – Probate Court

Utilities & General Insurance

Family Counseling Fund

County Law Library Fund

Child Care – Probate Court Fund

INCREASE:

\$20,000 Operating

400 Operating

4,500 Operating

9,500 Payroll

10,500 Operating

700 Operating

1,500 Capital

20,000 Operating

DECREASE:

\$20,000 Contingency

400 Contingency

4,500 Contingency

9,500 Contingency

10,500 Contingency

700 Use of Fund Balance

1,500 Use of Fund Balance

20,000 Operating Transfer In

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$40,000.00 from Probate Child Care Appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker – 10 half days 2/21 x 3, 3/2, 3/5, 3/6 x 2, 3/9, 3/13 & 3/15/07 & 1 full day 2/22/07	\$ 595.00
Monte Bordner – 10 half days 2/21 x 2, 2/22, 2/26, 2/27, 3/2, 3/5, 3/13 x 2 & 3/15/07 & 4 full Days 2/26, 3/1, 3/16 & 3/19/07	880.00
John Dobberteen – 9 half days 2/21, 2/27, 2/28, 3/1, 3/2, 3/9, 3/13 x 2 & 3/16/07	450.00
Michael Dunlap – 5 half days 2/21 x 2, 3/5, 3/14 & 3/16/07 & 2 full days 2/22 & 3/7/07	440.00
David Pueschel – 5 half days 2/21 x 2, 3/5, 3/7 & 3/8/07 & 1 full day 2/22/07	345.00
Eric Shafer – 10 half days 2/21 x 2, 2/28, 3/5, 3/6, 3/7 x 2, 3/14, 3/15 & 3/19/07 & 1 full day 3/9/07	<u>595.00</u>
	\$3,305.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 142.59
Monte Bordner	333.68
John Dobberteen	84.39
Michael Dunlap	123.19
David Pueschel	<u>68.39</u>
	\$ 752.24

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

Financial Statement

	Revenues	Expenditures
February	\$ 1,033,283	\$ 1,088,926
Year to Date	2,110,434	2,266,991
Period Fund Balance		(\$55,643.00)
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.		16.67%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date		15.13%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date		16.25%

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Financial Statements be accepted. Motion carried.

Independent Contractor's Agreement

Mr. Carey stated that he is recommending approval of an Independent Contractor's Agreement with G. Persing, Inc., as requested by Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Phil Adams to perform plumbing work as needed.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Independent Contractor's Agreement with G. Persing, Inc., be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Baker reminded everyone that the Farmland Preservation forum regarding the Master Plan will be held on March 29th at the Intermediate School Offices at 6:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Bordner stated that there will be a meeting on grants held on April 13th and thought that Gene Alli may want to attend as there are grants available for epidemiology and drunk driving.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Board go into closed session to discuss pending litigation and property acquisition.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

The Board resumed business in open session. It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Board proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until April 3, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman