

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 April 24, 2006, at 5:00 p.m.

Vice-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	Gerald E. Loudenslager
Michael D. Dunlap	Robin Baker
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Absent: Monte Bordner

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the minutes for April 4, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

AGENDA

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

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, April 7, April 14 and April 20, 2006.
2. Letter from Indiana Michigan Power Company, Re: Notice of public hearing on May 16 to consider the application of Indiana Michigan Power to reconcile its 2005 power supply cost recovery plan.
3. Resolution from Oceana County, Re: Support of legislation that would allow County Board of Commissioners the **option** to assume the duties of its Road Commission.
4. Resolution from Tuscola County, Re: Support of restoration of State Revenue Sharing Resolution and support of MAC Amicus Curiae Brief Resolution.
5. Resolution from Hillsdale County, Re: Urging the United States Congress to fund the JAG law enforcement programs at the authorized level of \$1.1 billion.
6. Resolution from Lenawee County, Re: Designating May as Motorcycle Awareness Month.
7. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of March 20, 2006.
8. Minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of February 15 and March 24, 2006.
9. Minutes of the Community Mental Health Services Board meeting of March 28, 2006 and the Executive Committee minutes of April 19, 2006.

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

COMMISSION ON AGING BALLOT LANGUAGE

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the following ballot language be placed on the August 8, 2006 Primary Ballot in St. Joseph County:

COMMISSION ON AGING MILLAGE PROPOSITION

Shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed on one year upon all property within the County of St. Joseph, State of Michigan, be increased by the County and authorized to levy 3/4 mill, that being 75.00 cents (.75) on each One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) on the taxable valuation for a period of six years, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 inclusive, for the sole purpose of operating millage for the continuation of Senior Services through the St. Joseph County Commission on Aging? It is estimated that if this tax levy were spread in 2006 it would generate \$1,201,978 in additional revenue.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO UPDATE COUNTY MASTER PLAN

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the County request proposals for the updating of the County Master Plan.

Commissioner Shafer stated that the reason for updating the County Master Plan is to be able to take care of Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) funds if they become available. He stated that they are really asking for 2 requests for proposals: 1 – for updating the entire plan; and 2 – for part of plan as it relates to the Agricultural Preservation Fund (APF).

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

REIMBURSEMENT FREQUENCY FOR CHIROPRACTIC MANIPULATION COPAY

Ms. West-Wing stated that at the last Board Meeting it was approved to have the County reimburse employees for the \$20 chiropractic manipulation co-pay but the frequency of the reimbursement was not addressed.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the employees be reimbursed for the chiropractic manipulation co-pay on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Shafer asked if this would require more administrative time. Ms. West-Wing responded that it would be about the same on a monthly or quarterly basis.

Motion carried.

DISTRICT COURT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2005

Carol Frohriep, District Court Administrator, gave an overview of the 2005 Annual Report for District Court. She stated that the ever changing laws and rules imposed upon the Courts directly impact their operations.

They have many time guidelines to meet, but can now download many records to the State Court Administrator which saves time. In addition, they now accept credit card payments online which is showing an increase in fines and costs that are collected. The total cost of this is on the user and not on the County. The money collected through this process continues to increase every year.

Mrs. Frohriep stated that the JMS Court System Software works very well and whenever they have to change anything to comply with mandates that JMS is very accommodating and provides information on a timely basis.

In 2005, 1 employee changed jobs with the County and another retired and 2 new people were hired to replace those two.

Excitation was begun in 2005 which has been quite an undertaking. It is going slow but problems are being ironed out.

Their Traffic Division was the most affected in 2005 because of less police officers on the road due to medical leave and military leave.

The Probation Department is a vital part of the District Court making sure that defendants pay their obligations to the Court. Their oversight and screening fees have also increased.

She thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time and invited them to visit at any time. She also complimented the great staff in District Court.

Following are some statistics:

ACCOUNT NAME	2005 TOTAL FEES COLLECTED	2005 AMOUNT TO COUNTY TREASURER	2005 TOTAL BY FUNDS
ORDINANCE FINES & COSTS DUE TO CITIES	315,725.05	\$ 209,651.11	\$
STURGIS			38,346.46
THREE RIVERS			41,082.51
DUE TO VILLAGES			
CONSTANTINE			7,409.46
COLON			2,518.36
BURR OAK			129.02
WHITE PIGEON			7,039.00
CENTREVILLE			5,100.77
MENDON			3,809.82
DUE TO TOWNSHIPS			
FLORENCE			46.66
LOCKPORT			64.98
MOTTVILLE			296.64
CONSTANTINE			43.32
FAWN RIVER			5.00
SHERMAN			56.66
COLON			45.00
FABIUS			80.00

ACCOUNT NAME	2005 TOTAL FEES COLLECTED	2005 AMOUNT TO COUNTY TREASURER	2005 TOTAL BY FUNDS
COURT COSTS	428,319.93	428,319.93	
CIVIL (various)	85,729.37	85,729.37	
CIVIL FEES (filings)	166,512.00	59,943.00	
BOND FORFEITURE	21,872.00	21,872.00	
OVERSIGHT FEES	117,538.77	117,538.77	
SHORTAGE/OVERAGE	15.00	15.00	
SCREENING FEES	25,523.00	25,523.00	
CONTEMPT	5,161.05	5,161.05	
CRIMINAL VICTIM RIGHTS FUND	51,800.00	5,180.00	
ST. CASEFLOW ASSIST. FUND	16,257.29	16,257.29	
INTEREST	1,151.91	1,151.91	
COUNTY DRUG FUND	19,272.75	19,272.75	
ATTORNEY FEES	39,917.50	39,917.50	
COUNTY BOOKING FEES	2,530.00	2,530.00	
DUE STATE BOOKING FEES	504.00	504.00	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
TOTAL DUE COUNTY		\$ 1,038,566.68	\$ 1,038,566.68
PENAL FINES	212,819.53		\$ 212,819.53
DUE TO STATE:			
JUSTICE SYSTEM FUND	621,780.94		\$ 621,780.94
CIVIL FILING FEE FUND			106,569.00
DNR FISH & GAME FUND	850.00		850.00
DRIVERS LICENSE REINST. FUND	25,425.00		25,425.00
DRIVERS LICENSE CLEAR. FUND	25,425.00		25,425.00
CIVIL STATE COURT FUND	6,770.00		6,770.00
*CRIMINAL VICTIMS' RIGHTS FUND			46,620.00
DRUNK DRIVING ASSESSMENT	7,200.00		7,200.00
CIVIL JURY DEMAND FEE	80.00		80.00
	<hr/>	Total to State	<hr/> \$ 840,719.94
	2,198,180.09		\$ 1,807,873.15
**BOND RECEIVED	534,799.98		
WITNESS & JURY	5,147.20		
	<hr/>		
	2,738,127.27		

*The County retains a percentage of fees collected and the remainder is submitted to the state.

**Bond received includes: Bonds for appearance, restitution and application to fines/costs and overpayments.

NEW CASES FILED IN:	2002	2003	2004	2005
CRIMINAL				
Felony	846	815	844	814
Misdemeanors	2,124	2,001	1,820	1,726
Civil Infractions	370	413	759	975
Total	<u>3,340</u>	<u>3,229</u>	<u>3,423</u>	<u>3,515</u>
TRAFFIC				
Misd. & Civil Infractions	19,134	18,471	20,120	17,959
Parking			66	67
OUIL/UBAL	387	276	359	368
Total	<u>19,521</u>	<u>18,747</u>	<u>20,545</u>	<u>18,394</u>
CIVIL				
Civil	2,079	2,056	1,971	1,978
Small Claims	468	526	452	527
Summary	702	770	726	730
Total	<u>3,249</u>	<u>3,352</u>	<u>3,149</u>	<u>3,235</u>
Year Totals	26,110	25,326	27,117	25,144
CASE DISPOSITIONS				
Total Case Dispositions	26,725	27,557	29,485	27,119
Cases Pending 12/31/05	-----	3,104	2,784	1600
Bench Warrants	974	1,134	1,049	985
Criminal Warrants	1,044	1,121	989	908
Search Warrants	208	186	195	204
PROBATION:				
		2003	2004	2005
Pending Caseload		732	741	839
New Cases Filed		565	604	593
Discharged		-556	-506	-604
Pending Caseload		741	<u>839</u>	<u>828</u>
Presentence Investigations		109	89	107
Screenings (OUIL cases)		161	283	377
Oversight fees		\$76,675.10	\$ 80,801.37	\$117,538.77
Screening fees		\$8,366.37	\$ 20,581.00	\$25,523.00

CREDIT CARD USAGE AND COMPARISON

	2002	2003	2004	2005
January	\$3,532.00	\$7,672.00	\$8,009.45	\$13,664.60
February	3,965.00	5,465.00	8,640.00	12,985.40
March	4,160.00	5,524.00	8,336.00	15,657.60
April	23,695.00	4,380.00	9,336.00	15,036.00
May	5,162.00	5,339.00	9,618.40	12,544.20
June	5,983.00	9,318.09	12,194.20	17,156.62
July	8,167.00	9,195.00	9,607.20	13,094.78
August	5,516.00	8,016.00	12,357.00	20,186.40
September	7,310.00	11,523.00	13,012.60	19,094.40
October	6,666.00	7,493.00	9,976.40	18,037.20
November	5,723.00	5,881.00	10,538.60	13,241.20
December	5,903.00	6,482.07	11,789.40	15,121.60
	\$85,782.00	\$86,288.16	\$123,415.25	\$185,820.00

Commissioner Dobberteen thanked Mrs. Frohriep for all of her work.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the District Court Annual Report for 2005 be accepted. Motion carried.

EQUALIZATION REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, stated that she has a great staff and announced that both Brenda Babcock and Jan Hart recently took and passed State tests last week. Mrs. Babcock is now a Level I Appraiser and Mrs. Hart passed Appraisal Principles.

She provided additional information regarding the increase in Sheriff's Deeds or foreclosures on properties which she attributes to the economy.

Mrs. Nelson stated that both Leonidas Township and Sturgis City have decreases in residential.

The Industrial Class is at 51.54% and Commercial is at 51.66%. There was an overall increase in commercial, industrial and residential.

County-wide there was growth.

The reduction in agricultural is due to it being transferred to other classes.

Commissioner Shafer congratulated Mrs. Nelson again on achieving her Level IV classification last year.

The Equalization Report is as follows:

Personal and Real Property – Totals

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		TOTAL REAL PLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS
BURR OAK	\$74,775,100	\$74,775,100	\$2,512,500	\$2,512,500	\$77,287,600	\$77,287,600
COLON	\$123,939,154	\$123,939,154	\$4,021,800	\$4,021,800	\$127,960,954	\$127,960,954
CONSTANTINE	\$113,389,100	\$113,389,100	\$18,448,800	\$18,448,800	\$131,837,900	\$131,837,900
FABIUS	\$204,434,259	\$204,434,259	\$7,284,600	\$7,284,600	\$211,718,859	\$211,718,859
FAWN RIVER	\$46,163,606	\$46,163,606	\$752,237	\$752,237	\$46,915,843	\$46,915,843

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		PERSONAL PROPERTY VALUATIONS		TOTAL REAL PLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY	
	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS	ASSESSED VALUATIONS	EQUALIZED VALUATIONS
FLORENCE	\$50,720,200	\$50,720,200	\$1,538,200	\$1,538,200	\$52,258,400	\$52,258,400
FLOWERFIELD	\$63,761,693	\$61,595,853	\$5,358,464	\$5,358,464	\$69,120,157	\$66,954,317
LEONIDAS	\$50,269,400	\$50,269,400	\$965,900	\$965,900	\$51,235,300	\$51,235,300
LOCKPORT	\$114,282,800	\$114,282,800	\$3,505,700	\$3,505,700	\$117,788,500	\$117,788,500
MENDON	\$84,431,100	\$84,431,100	\$21,586,100	\$21,586,100	\$106,017,200	\$106,017,200
MOTTVILLE	\$52,030,100	\$52,030,100	\$5,893,500	\$5,893,500	\$57,923,600	\$57,923,600
NOTTAWA	\$149,877,100	\$149,877,100	\$3,967,600	\$3,967,600	\$153,844,700	\$153,844,700
PARK	\$117,487,600	\$117,487,600	\$12,886,300	\$12,886,300	\$130,373,900	\$130,373,900
SHERMAN	\$134,646,700	\$134,646,700	\$3,516,400	\$3,516,400	\$138,163,100	\$138,163,100
STURGIS	\$59,169,000	\$59,169,000	\$3,245,900	\$3,245,900	\$62,414,900	\$62,414,900
WHITE PIGEON	\$177,632,600	\$177,632,600	\$15,335,300	\$15,335,300	\$192,967,900	\$192,967,900
STURGIS CITY	\$212,078,250	\$212,078,250	\$57,850,000	\$57,850,000	\$269,928,250	\$269,928,250
THREE RIVERS	\$168,858,200	\$168,858,200	\$33,242,400	\$33,242,400	\$202,100,600	\$202,100,600
	\$1,997,945,962	\$1,995,780,122	\$201,911,701	\$201,911,701	\$2,199,857,663	\$2,197,691,823

Equalized Valuations – Real

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	\$23,465,600	\$1,208,700	\$947,200	\$49,153,600	\$74,775,100
COLON	\$28,739,720	\$4,903,734	\$2,400,100	\$87,895,600	\$123,939,154
CONSTANTINE	\$20,461,700	\$4,701,300	\$20,095,300	\$68,130,800	\$113,389,100
FABIUS	\$12,045,900	\$5,529,800	\$3,522,800	\$183,335,759	\$204,434,259
FAWN RIVER	\$13,358,277	\$1,654,397	\$0	\$31,150,932	\$46,163,606
FLORENCE	\$27,959,500	\$9,900	\$79,000	\$22,671,800	\$50,720,200
FLOWERFIELD	\$20,653,722	\$917,600	\$229,200	\$39,795,331	\$61,595,853
LEONIDAS	\$30,021,200	\$910,200	\$0	\$19,338,000	\$50,269,400
LOCKPORT	\$17,708,500	\$4,246,300	\$1,024,400	\$91,303,600	\$114,282,800
MENDON	\$25,695,100	\$3,485,900	\$4,041,100	\$51,209,000	\$84,431,100
MOTTVILLE	\$13,781,400	\$1,845,000	\$7,322,000	\$29,081,700	\$52,030,100
NOTTAWA	\$32,823,800	\$13,598,600	\$620,200	\$102,834,500	\$149,877,100
PARK	\$31,293,800	\$4,120,800	\$3,638,900	\$78,434,100	\$117,487,600
SHERMAN	\$16,372,900	\$1,349,300	\$364,900	\$116,559,600	\$134,646,700
STURGIS	\$14,855,500	\$11,943,900	\$371,700	\$31,997,900	\$59,169,000
WHITE PIGEON	\$14,764,300	\$9,404,800	\$7,467,000	\$145,996,500	\$177,632,600
STURGIS CITY	\$187,600	\$47,906,450	\$33,990,700	\$129,993,500	\$212,078,250
THREE RIVERS	\$0	\$56,799,900	\$24,534,800	\$87,523,500	\$168,858,200
	\$344,188,519	\$174,536,581	\$110,649,300	\$1,366,405,722	\$1,995,780,122

Assessed Valuations – Real

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	\$23,465,600	\$1,208,700	\$947,200	\$49,153,600	\$74,775,100
COLON	\$28,739,720	\$4,903,734	\$2,400,100	\$87,895,600	\$123,939,154
CONSTANTINE	\$20,461,700	\$4,701,300	\$20,095,300	\$68,130,800	\$113,389,100
FABIUS	\$12,045,900	\$5,529,800	\$3,522,800	\$183,335,759	\$204,434,259
FAWN RIVER	\$13,358,277	\$1,654,397	\$0	\$31,150,932	\$46,163,606
FLORENCE	\$27,959,500	\$9,900	\$79,000	\$22,671,800	\$50,720,200
FLOWERFIELD	\$21,003,493	\$917,600	\$229,200	\$41,611,400	\$63,761,693
LEONIDAS	\$30,021,200	\$910,200	\$0	\$19,338,000	\$50,269,400
LOCKPORT	\$17,708,500	\$4,246,300	\$1,024,400	\$91,303,600	\$114,282,800
MENDON	\$25,695,100	\$3,485,900	\$4,041,100	\$51,209,000	\$84,431,100

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
MOTTVILLE	\$13,781,400	\$1,845,000	\$7,322,000	\$29,081,700	\$52,030,100
NOTTAWA	\$32,823,800	\$13,598,600	\$620,200	\$102,834,500	\$149,877,100
PARK	\$31,293,800	\$4,120,800	\$3,638,900	\$78,434,100	\$117,487,600
SHERMAN	\$16,372,900	\$1,349,300	\$364,900	\$116,559,600	\$134,646,700
STURGIS	\$14,855,500	\$11,943,900	\$371,700	\$31,997,900	\$59,169,000
WHITE PIGEON	\$14,764,300	\$9,404,800	\$7,467,000	\$145,996,500	\$177,632,600
STURGIS CITY	\$187,600	\$47,906,450	\$33,990,770	\$129,993,500	\$212,078,250
THREE RIVERS	\$0	\$56,799,900	\$24,534,800	\$87,523,500	\$168,858,200
	\$344,538,290	\$174,536,581	\$110,649,370	\$1,368,221,791	\$1,997,945,962

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the 2006 Equalization Report be adopted.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY HEALING CENTER

Sally Reames, Executive Director of the Community Healing Center, gave an update on their programs. She stated that the Community Healing Center was born in St. Joseph County 36 years ago.

She stated that in 2005 there were 1,027 people in treatment out of the Sturgis and Three Rivers centers including HOPE House.

Their money comes from a Community Development Block Grant through a regional coordinating agency. They also received Medicaid funds as well as money from the alcohol tax.

In 2005 \$250,000 was spent in St. Joseph County in outpatient services and \$86,270 in residential and detox services.

They serve multiple locations but their home is in St. Joseph County. Robin Baker and Arlan Wenzel from St. Joseph County serve on their board. They have 16 employees here and 14 of those live in St. Joseph County. Their services are well used. They currently have 3 Board vacancies and they meet 2 or 3 times per year.

On a statistical report that they provided derived from clients' self-surveys alcohol is the #1 substance of choice, followed by marijuana at #2 and methamphetamine at #3.

She introduced Mike Wilson who for the last 16 months has been the Meth Task Coordinator. He has been very active and has made presentations to over 1,600 people. The task force is going strong and pointed out that methamphetamine is a problem to the people that use it and to the community and the environment.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that it appears that this area is a hot spot for meth. Mr. Wilson responded by saying that there is a 9 county region of which St. Joseph County is a part where there is widespread meth use and labs because we are in an agricultural area where one of the key ingredients, anhydrous ammonia, is readily available unlike Detroit, for instance.

Because of the recent law change regarding the purchase of cold medicine they expect more meth to be imported from other states, (which will be better on our environment) especially along the I-94 corridor.

Mr. Wilson also mentioned that it seems that we may have more meth labs in St. Joseph County in comparison to our immediately surrounding areas and he attributes that to very active law enforcement that are busting these labs.

Commissioner Loudenslager thanked Mr. Wilson for his work in this area.

Mr. Wilson thanked the Board for their support of their programs.

Ms. Reames mentioned that heroin use seems to be growing among high schoolers. Also, because of the awareness of meth there are more going into treatment.

Mr. Wilson mentioned that they have a website www.sjcmethtaskforce.org and invites all to visit and responded to a question that it is not linked to the County's website.

COLON TOWNSHIP CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that he and Carl Holsinger, Chairman of the Solid Waste Committee, met with the Colon Township Board regarding curbside recycling in the more densely populated areas of Colon Township excluding Colon Village.

50% of a grant for this service from the County would be \$10,620 for 600 residences.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Administrator/Controller enter into talks with Colon Township and Republic Waste Services for curbside recycling in the more densely populated areas of Colon Township excluding Colon Village.

Commissioner Shafer explained the thrust of curbside recycling and why they hope that it will encourage more recycling than the bins have collected over the years. He also said that they are hearing from Constantine, White Pigeon and Mendon Villages regarding this effort.

Commissioner Dunlap asked if this is planned for the whole County.

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the bins were not working effectively as they are too expensive and produced little result.

He further stated that the County can assess up to \$2.00 per month per residence but they would prefer that the local units of government do that and not the County.

Commissioner Shafer stated that in 2004 there were 900,000 tons of recyclables collected from the bins and the landfill collects 1,500 – 2,300 tons per day so the bins are ineffective.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

CANCEL APRIL 28TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND MAY 1ST COMMISSION MEETINGS

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the April 28th Executive Committee and the May 1st Commission Meetings be cancelled. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2006

FAIR HOUSING PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the Federal Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended to prohibit housing discrimination when based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, familial status, and disability, and declared that equal housing opportunity is a basic right of every American; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Legislature passed the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of Michigan in 1976 further deeming it unlawful to discriminate based on age and marital status; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Legislature passed the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Law of 1976 to protect individuals with disabilities from housing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, equal opportunity in housing can best be accomplished through leadership, example, education and the mutual cooperation of all those affiliated with the housing industry and the public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of April 2006 as Fair Housing Month in hopes that this observance will promote fair housing practices throughout the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Resolution adopted.

Commissioner Shafer presented the resolution to Pat Maye who is from the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan. They have 9 counties in this region and she stated that their mission is to eliminate housing discrimination and they try to assist low and no income people. She said that they have had 11 legitimate complaints in St. Joseph County, 10 in Three Rivers and 1 in Constantine.

Ms. Maye thanked the Board for the proclamation.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-2006

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, victims of crime across America need and deserve support and assistance to help them cope with the consequences of crime; and

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 23 to 29, 2006 – offers us all the opportunity to promote strength in unity in helping victims and survivors of crime, and recognizing their rights as victims; and

WHEREAS, victims and survivors of crime can gain strength from the wide range of supportive services offered by over 10,000 community and justice system-based programs, and the more than 32,000 federal and state statutes that define and protect their rights; and

WHEREAS, America has demonstrated its caring and compassion for victims of crime, from individuals who provide support to a victim in need, to community collaborations that result in comprehensive services for victims of violence against men, women and children, to our entire nation's response to the victims of the terrorist attacks on Oklahoma City and on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, by being united against crime and for victims' rights and services, we gain strength as individuals, as communities, and as a nation as a whole, and offer strength to victims who seek to recover in the aftermath of crime; and

WHEREAS, we must remain united in our commitment to ensure that all crime victims and survivors are treated with compassion and respect, recognized as key participants within our systems of justice, and afforded services that provide help and hope to them; and

WHEREAS, America has joined together annually each April since 1981 to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners proclaims the week of April 23 to 29, 2006, to be St. Joseph County Crime Victims' Rights Week, and honors crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand united in our commitment to victim justice as individuals, communities and a Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this proclamation be presented to the St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office, Victim Rights Division, on this 24th day of April, 2006.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Resolution adopted.

Linda Baker, Crime Victims' Coordinator, thanked the Board for the proclamation and she stated that it is very evident that the people working in the public sector are doing their jobs. It is satisfying to the victims that someone took the time to listen to them.

She also stated that State Trooper Miaza will be receiving the State Victim Rights Advocate award.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2006

NEW DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

Commissioner Shafer presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Section 280.51 of the Drain Code of 1956 states as follows: "The board of supervisors, by resolution, may instruct the drain commissioner to refuse any application to lay out a drainage district unless a cash deposit, sufficient to cover the preliminary costs, accompanies the application".

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts this resolution as required, to ensure that the St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner does not accept any application to lay out a drainage district unless a cash deposit, sufficient to cover the preliminary costs, accompanies the application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be provided to the office of the St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2006

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK
PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES

Commissioner Shafer presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, America's counties provide a variety of essential services, many of these services work to protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, counties protect residents from natural disasters, crime and drug abuse. Counties are the first to respond to emergency situations and are primarily responsible for planning for disasters. Counties also work to protect families, children and youth; and

WHEREAS, there are 3,066 counties in the United States collectively responsible for the well being of more than 250 million residents; and

WHEREAS, counties provide services that make America's communities stronger, safer places to live and raise families. Counties police our streets, keep families healthy, repair bridges, help troubled youth, encourage and promote economic development and recycling opportunities, train laid-off workers, and perform countless other jobs; and

WHEREAS, counties have a long history of providing critical services and are the citizen's local government voice, providing solutions that bring communities together; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners recognizes the leadership, innovation and valuable service provided by dedicated employees and County elected officials, past and present.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 23 – 29, 2006 as National County Government Week.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Resolution adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Law Enforcement Committee had not met.

Judiciary

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that the Judiciary Committee met on April 12th and discussed the following:

- renovations to the Friend of the Court referee room and changes in their staff.
- Family Court
- J.I.S. Jury system
- Collections
- District Court Video Courtroom
- Hearing Assistance device for Probate Court
- Judge Cherry presented a positive report concerning his tenure here as Chief Judge

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Executive Committee met on April 21st and the minutes have been distributed and he will answer any questions that anyone may have.

Equalization

Commissioner Shafer asked Judy Nelson about the factor in Flowerfield Township. Judy Nelson responded by saying that the agricultural and residential classes did not meet the County’s requirement for level of assessment based on County studies, therefore a factor was placed on them.

REQUISITIONS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

JAVS Assistive Listening System for Probate Courtroom	\$ 2,410.00
Annual use of the State’s JIS juror software for Circuit Court. 2006 partial year cost is \$294.25 and 2007 fee will be \$1,557.50.	\$ 295.00 \$ 1,558.00

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$192,980.00 from Community Mental Health Appropriation to Community Mental Health Fund.

FROM GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY:

\$2,410.00 to Probate Court line item 101-148-980.000 (Equipment).

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

DECREASE PROSECUTOR’S BUDGET:

Line item 101-229-816.060 (Translators)	\$ 1,250.00
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INCREASE CIRCUIT COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-131-816.060 (Translators) \$ 1,250.00

DECREASE PROBATE COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-148-802.020 (Court Appointed Attorney) \$ 314.00

INCREASE PROBATE COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-148-980.000 (Equipment) \$ 314.00

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker - 16 half days 3/22 x 3, 3/23 x 2, 3/29, 3/30, 3/31, 4/5, 4/12, 4/13, 4/17, 4/20 x 2 & 4/21/06 x 2 & 1 full day 3/27/06	\$ 895.00
Monte Bordner – 10 half days 3/22, 3/23, 3/27, 3/28, 3/29 x 3, 3/30, 4/11 & 4/20/06 & 4 full days 3/27, 4/10, 4/17 & 4/24/06	880.00
Michael Dunlap - 7 half days 3/23 x 2, 3/24, 4/5, 4/11, 4/12 & 4/24/06	350.00
John Dobberteen – 11 half days 3/22, 3/23, 3/24 x 2, 3/27, 3/28 x 2, 3/31, 4/11, 4/19 & 4/21/06 & 2 full days 4/22 & 4/24/06	740.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 5 half days 3/23, 3/24, 3/29, 4/8 & 4/18/06 & 2 full days 4/12 & 4/20/06	440.00
David Pueschel – 13 half days 3/22, 3/23, 3/28, 3/29, 3/30 x 2, 4/5, 4/12, 4/13, 4/17, 4/19 & 4/20 & 4/21/06	650.00
Eric Shafer – 11 half days 3/22, 3/23 x 2, 3/24, 3/29 x 2, 3/30, 4/4, 4/5, 4/12 & 4/19/06	<u>550.00</u>
	\$ 4,505.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 305.27
Monte Bordner	351.21
Michael Dunlap	70.76
John Dobberteen	115.70
Gerald Loudenslager	77.43
David Pueschel	<u>120.81</u>
	\$ 1,041.18

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
March	\$ 1,220,831	\$ 1,056,887
Year to Date	3,394,640	3,468,940
Period Fund Balance	(\$74,301.00)	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	25.00%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	24.80%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	25.34%	

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the financial statements be accepted. Motion carried.

Independent Contractor's Agreement

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that an Independent Contractor's Agreement with Douglas Brousseau to provide appraisals and sales/appraisals on improved commercial and industrial properties and vacant parcels be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Baker stated that Representative Shaffer and Senator Brown worked very hard to get the U.S. 131 project back on the table and the Constantine area will be addressed.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Shafer stated that the U.S. 131 news is good and thanked our two legislators.

Commissioner Loudenslager asked that a letter be sent to both legislators from the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until May 16, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Vice-Chairman