

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, 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 | Gerald E. Loudenslager |
| Michael D. Dunlap | Robin Baker |
| Monte Bordner | David J. Pueschel |

Absent: John Dobberteen

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

AGENDA

Chairman Baker stated that 2 items should be added to the agenda. A request from the Sheriff's Department to fill a vacancy in Corrections and a request from the County Clerk to fill a Deputy Clerk vacancy.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the minutes for April 3, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, April 6 and April 20, 2007.
2. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: Guide to Michigan's 94th Legislature.
3. Letter from Jack Brooks, Re: Declining reappointment to Commission on Aging.
4. Letter from Constantine Township, Re: Notice of public hearing on May 8 to consider issuing an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to DeKalb Genetics, Inc.
5. Letter from Mottville Township, Re: Notice of public hearing on May 10 to consider issuing an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to United Specialties, Inc.
6. Letter from Indiana Michigan Power Company, Re: Notice of public hearing on May 15 to consider its application to reconcile its 2006 power supply cost recovery plan.
7. Resolution from Cass County, Re: Funding for E-911.
8. Resolution from Allegan County, Re: Opposition to House Bill 4398.
9. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of March 19, 2007.
10. Minutes of the Community Mental Health Services Board meeting of March 27, 2007.

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

EQUALIZATION REPORT

Brenda Babcock, Deputy Equalization Director, presented the 2007 Equalization Report. She stated that the County's total equalized value is \$2,356,719,789 which represents 50% of True Cash Value.

This year a new Developmental class was added. Assessors assign classification and value to represent highest and best use and these parcels are most likely to be “developed” rather than remain in agricultural or residential use.

Mrs. Babcock further stated that assessments are considered to be at the state equalized value if the ratio for classification is within 49% to 50%. This year the assessed values came in at that range therefore there are not factors in any of the classifications for any jurisdiction in the County.

All values are considered tentative until the State equalization which is on May 29th.

She stated that overall St. Joseph County’s SEV’s increased 7.2%. The taxable values increased 5.3% which is consistent with the last couple of years.

Warranty deeds have decreased and Sheriff’s deeds have increased. In 2006, 1066 warranty deeds were recorded compared to 1667 in 2005 which is a 36% decrease.

During the first three months of 2007 91 Sheriff’s deeds were recorded. This represents one per day, 7 days per week.

After the Board adopts this report tonight, the IT Department will include it on the website. She stated that they continue to receive many positive comments regarding access to this information via the Internet.

The report 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 | \$79,395,900 | \$79,395,900 | \$2,542,200 | \$2,542,200 | \$81,938,100 | \$81,938,100 |
| COLON | \$128,924,200 | \$128,924,200 | \$4,040,200 | \$4,040,200 | \$132,964,400 | \$132,964,400 |
| CONSTANTINE | \$120,313,000 | \$120,313,000 | \$24,715,700 | \$24,715,700 | \$145,028,700 | \$145,028,700 |
| FABIUS | \$225,628,700 | \$225,628,700 | \$7,315,800 | \$7,315,800 | \$232,944,500 | \$232,944,500 |
| FAWN RIVER | \$47,119,265 | \$47,119,265 | \$927,120 | \$927,120 | \$48,046,385 | \$48,046,385 |
| FLORENCE | \$53,121,000 | \$53,121,000 | \$1,527,000 | \$1,527,000 | \$54,648,000 | \$54,648,000 |
| FLOWERFIELD | \$68,819,943 | \$68,819,943 | \$5,185,643 | \$5,185,643 | \$74,005,586 | \$74,005,586 |
| LEONIDAS | \$54,070,300 | \$54,070,300 | \$1,124,900 | \$1,124,900 | \$55,195,200 | \$55,195,200 |
| LOCKPORT | \$125,909,000 | \$125,909,000 | \$3,642,600 | \$3,642,600 | \$129,551,600 | \$129,551,600 |
| MENDON | \$88,539,000 | \$88,539,000 | \$20,653,683 | \$20,653,683 | \$109,192,683 | \$109,192,683 |
| MOTTVILLE | \$55,774,800 | \$55,774,800 | \$6,620,100 | \$6,620,100 | \$62,394,900 | \$62,394,900 |
| NOTTAWA | \$166,157,100 | \$166,157,100 | \$3,985,100 | \$3,985,100 | \$170,142,200 | \$170,142,200 |
| PARK | \$123,519,900 | \$123,519,900 | \$11,893,200 | \$11,893,200 | \$135,413,100 | \$135,413,100 |
| SHERMAN | \$143,585,435 | \$143,585,435 | \$3,570,600 | \$3,570,600 | \$147,156,035 | \$147,156,035 |
| STURGIS | \$62,147,500 | \$62,147,500 | \$3,396,500 | \$3,396,500 | \$65,544,000 | \$65,544,000 |
| WHITE PIGEON | \$191,649,400 | \$191,649,400 | \$15,214,300 | \$15,214,300 | \$206,863,700 | \$206,863,700 |
| STURGIS CITY | \$226,642,800 | \$226,642,800 | \$62,902,900 | \$62,902,900 | \$289,545,700 | \$289,545,700 |
| THREE RIVERS | \$177,402,200 | \$177,402,200 | \$38,742,800 | \$38,742,800 | \$216,145,000 | \$216,145,000 |
| | \$2,138,719,443 | \$2,138,719,443 | \$218,000,346 | \$218,000,346 | \$2,356,719,789 | \$2,356,719,789 |

EQUALIZATION VALUATIONS – REAL

| | AGRICULTURE | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL | RESIDENTIAL | DEVELOP- MENTAL | TOTAL REAL PROPERTY |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| BURR OAK | \$25,423,600 | \$1,590,800 | \$970,900 | \$51,410,600 | | \$79,395,900 |
| COLON | \$29,489,800 | \$4,663,900 | \$3,111,300 | \$91,659,200 | | \$128,924,200 |
| CONSTANTINE | \$23,219,000 | \$5,602,800 | \$21,188,900 | \$70,302,300 | | \$120,313,000 |
| FABIUS | \$11,694,200 | \$6,894,300 | \$3,851,400 | \$203,188,800 | | \$225,628,700 |
| FAWN RIVER | \$14,193,665 | \$1,600,693 | \$0 | \$31,324,907 | | \$47,119,265 |
| FLORENCE | \$31,049,700 | \$10,300 | \$78,000 | \$21,983,000 | | \$53,121,000 |

| | AGRICULTURE | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL | RESIDENTIAL | DEVELOPMENTAL | TOTAL REAL PROPERTY |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| FLOWERFIELD | \$23,993,144 | \$916,990 | \$228,950 | \$43,680,859 | | \$68,819,943 |
| LEONIDAS | \$31,367,400 | \$755,500 | \$0 | \$21,947,400 | | \$54,070,300 |
| LOCKPORT | \$20,358,200 | \$4,641,200 | \$1,160,000 | \$99,749,600 | | \$125,909,000 |
| MENDON | \$27,963,300 | \$3,896,800 | \$4,213,600 | \$52,465,300 | | \$88,539,000 |
| MOTTVILLE | \$15,749,200 | \$2,033,500 | \$8,776,800 | \$29,215,300 | | \$55,774,800 |
| NOTTAWA | \$36,810,700 | \$13,342,900 | \$620,200 | \$115,383,300 | | \$166,157,100 |
| PARK | \$29,599,000 | \$4,365,100 | \$5,820,300 | \$83,735,500 | | \$123,519,900 |
| SHERMAN | \$19,179,500 | \$1,363,800 | \$327,900 | \$122,714,235 | | \$143,585,435 |
| STURGIS | \$14,251,300 | \$13,135,000 | \$1,433,800 | \$32,791,200 | \$536,200 | \$62,147,500 |
| WHITE PIGEON | \$16,970,700 | \$11,019,100 | \$7,713,300 | \$155,946,300 | | \$191,649,400 |
| STURGIS CITY | \$494,700 | \$51,896,100 | \$44,011,000 | \$130,241,000 | | \$226,642,800 |
| THREE RIVERS | \$0 | \$61,168,700 | \$27,299,900 | \$88,933,600 | | \$177,402,200 |
| | \$371,807,109 | \$188,897,483 | \$130,806,250 | \$1,446,672,401 | \$536,200 | \$2,138,719,443 |

ASSESSED VALUATIONS – REAL

| | AGRICULTURE | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL | RESIDENTIAL | DEVELOPMENTAL | TOTAL REAL PROPERTY |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| BURR OAK | \$25,423,600 | \$1,590,800 | \$970,900 | \$51,410,600 | | \$79,395,900 |
| COLON | \$29,489,800 | \$4,663,900 | \$3,111,300 | \$91,659,200 | | \$128,924,200 |
| CONSTANTINE | \$23,219,000 | \$5,602,800 | \$21,188,900 | \$70,302,300 | | \$120,313,000 |
| FABIUS | \$11,694,200 | \$6,894,300 | \$3,851,400 | \$203,188,800 | | \$225,628,700 |
| FAWN RIVER | \$14,193,665 | \$1,600,693 | \$0 | \$31,324,907 | | \$47,119,265 |
| FLORENCE | \$31,049,700 | \$10,300 | \$78,000 | \$21,983,000 | | \$53,121,000 |
| FLOWERFIELD | \$23,993,144 | \$916,990 | \$228,950 | \$43,680,859 | | \$68,819,943 |
| LEONIDAS | \$31,367,400 | \$755,500 | \$0 | \$21,947,400 | | \$54,070,300 |
| LOCKPORT | \$20,358,200 | \$4,641,200 | \$1,160,000 | \$99,749,600 | | \$125,909,000 |
| MENDON | \$27,963,300 | \$3,896,800 | \$4,213,600 | \$52,465,300 | | \$88,539,000 |
| MOTTVILLE | \$15,749,200 | \$2,033,500 | \$8,776,800 | \$29,215,300 | | \$55,774,800 |
| NOTTAWA | \$36,810,700 | \$13,342,900 | \$620,200 | \$115,383,300 | | \$166,157,100 |
| PARK | \$29,599,000 | \$4,365,100 | \$5,820,300 | \$83,735,500 | | \$123,519,900 |
| SHERMAN | \$19,179,500 | \$1,363,800 | \$327,900 | \$122,714,235 | | \$143,585,435 |
| STURGIS | \$14,251,300 | \$13,135,000 | \$1,433,800 | \$32,791,200 | \$536,200 | \$62,147,500 |
| WHITE PIGEON | \$16,970,700 | \$11,019,100 | \$7,713,300 | \$155,946,300 | | \$191,649,400 |
| STURGIS CITY | \$494,700 | \$51,896,100 | \$44,011,000 | \$130,241,000 | | \$226,642,800 |
| THREE RIVERS | \$0 | \$61,168,700 | \$27,299,900 | \$88,933,600 | | \$177,402,200 |
| | \$371,807,109 | \$188,897,483 | \$130,806,250 | \$1,446,672,401 | \$536,200 | \$2,138,719,443 |

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the 2007 Equalization Report be adopted.

The aye and nay votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Report adopted.

AGREEMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES WITH FABIUS TOWNSHIP

Ms. West-Wing stated that this agreement is a renewal of an agreement with Fabius Township and is for 40 hours per week effective April 1st. The township will be billed for the actual costs incurred.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Law Enforcement Agreement with Fabius Township be approved.

The aye and nay votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

REQUEST TO FILL CORRECTIONS OFFICER VACANCY

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Corrections Officer vacancy be filled. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO FILL DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK VACANCY

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Deputy County Clerk vacancy be filled. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Economic Development Corporation

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that Ken Jones be nominated and appointed to the Economic Development Corporation, term to expire June 1, 2013. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Law Enforcement Committee met on April 13th and the minutes have been distributed and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Judiciary Committee met on April 11th and the main topic of discussion was the possibility that the State may discharge some prisoners early and the ramifications that that may have and the programs that will be available.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that the Executive Committee met on April 19th and the minutes have been distributed and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Community Action Agency

Commissioner Bordner stated that the CAA has been working with people in the area helping them file for their income tax credits. A preliminary total of money that will be returned to taxpayers of one group that have been working with them is \$48,000. And, there are many more groups that have not reported to CAA yet so the program is definitely beneficial and will be continued.

Investment Advisory Committee

Commissioner Dunlap stated that the Investment Advisory Committee met today and the interest rates are still good. The Treasurer has been doing a good job on keeping up with bank ratings. Everything is in good shape.

Planning Commission

Commissioner Shafer stated that they are at a point in the Master Plan update for the County-wide land use plan map. He encouraged all Commissioners to attend meetings that will be held in their quadrant.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Jeanette Jackson, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, was on medical leave from March 28 to April 9, 2007 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Lea German will change from part-time to full-time Telecommunicator at \$14.26/hr. (6-month step) effective April 24, 2007.

Approve I.T. Programmer classification change from pay grade 6 to pay grade 7, 1010 points under the Rye system.

Approve I.T. Technician classification change from pay grade 6 to pay grade 7, 990 points under the Rye system.

Approve Central Dispatch Deputy Director classification change from pay grade 7 to pay grade 8, 1120 points under the Rye system.

Dave Cover, I.T. Computer Programmer, will change to \$39,499.00 (step 3) effective April 24, 2007.

Dustin Bainbridge, I.T. Technician, will change to \$36,171.00 (step 1) effective April 24, 2007.

Gary LeTourneau, Central Dispatch Deputy Director, will change to \$44,986.00 (step 4) effective April 24, 2007.

RETIREMENT:

Rick Eickhoff, Road Patrol Officer, will retire effective May 31, 2007.

DISMISSAL:

Travis Everitt, Corrections Officer, has been dismissed effective April 20, 2007.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

| | |
|--|------------|
| Robin Baker – 13 half days 3/21, 3/22 x 2, 3/29 x 2, 3/30, 4/4, 4/9, 4/11 x 2, 4/18, 4/19 & 4/23/07 & 5 full days 3/23, 3/26, 4/10, 4/16 & 4/23/07 | \$1,125.00 |
| Monte Bordner – 10 half days 3/22, 3/23, 3/27, 3/29, 4/10, 4/16 x 2, 4/17, 4/19 & 4/24/07 & 8 full days 1/25, 3/22, 3/26, 3/29, 4/10, 4/16, 4/20 & 4/23/07 | 1,260.00 |
| John Dobberteen – 11 half days 3/27, 4/5, 4/10 x 2, 4/11, 4/15, 4/16, 4/18 x 2, 4/19, 4/20/07 & 1 full day 4/16/07 | 645.00 |
| Michael Dunlap – 8 half days 3/22, 4/4, 4/9, 4/10, 4/11 x 2, 4/19 & 4/24/07 & 2 full days 3/23 & 4/10/07 | 590.00 |
| Gerald Loudenslager – 14 half days 2/21, 2/22, 2/23, 3/6, 3/13, 3/14, 3/15, 3/28, 4/11 x 3, 4/13, 4/14 & 4/24/07 & 1 full day 2/28/07 | 795.00 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| David Pueschel – 8 half days 3/21, 3/22, 3/28, 3/29, 4/11, 4/12, 4/13 & 4/23/07 & 1 full day 3/26/07 | \$ 495.00 |
| Eric Shafer – 10 half days 3/21 x 2, 3/27, 3/29, 3/30, 4/2, 4/9, 4/11, 4/17 & 4/18/07 & 1 full day 4/13/07 | <u>595.00</u> |
| | \$5,505.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Robin Baker | \$ 434.08 |
| Monte Bordner | 582.53 |
| John Dobberteen | 113.49 |
| Michael Dunlap | 231.83 |
| Gerald Loudenslager | 204.67 |
| David Pueschel | <u>106.70</u> |
| | \$1,673.30 |

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 | \$ 1,268,854 | \$ 1,120,140 |
| Year to Date | 3,379,288 | 3,387,131 |

Period Fund Balance \$148,715.00

| | |
|---|--------|
| Percent of budget year elapsed year to date. | 25.00% |
| Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date | 24.22% |
| Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date | 24.28% |

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the financial statements be approved. Motion carried.

Independent Contractor's Agreement

Mr. Carey recommended that the Independent Contractor's Agreement with Douglas A. Brousseau to do the Equalization Study Field Work be approved. This is a 3% increase over last year.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Independent Contractor's Agreement with Douglas A. Brousseau be approved.

The aye and nay votes were cast as follows:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----|--|
| Aye votes cast: | 6 - | Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner and Pueschel. |
| Nay votes cast: | 0 | |
| Absent: | 1 - | Commissioner Dobberteen. |

Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Baker stated that the next Commissioners' Meeting is scheduled for next week, May 1st and the Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 27th and wondered if they could both be cancelled.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Commissioners' Meeting scheduled for May 1st be cancelled and the Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for April 27th be cancelled. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing possible property acquisition.

The aye and nay votes were cast as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

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 with the recommendation discussed in closed session.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Loudenslager drew everyone's attention to the flyer regarding the canoe outing to be held on May 12th.

Commissioner Shafer stated that Jack Brooks does not want to be reappointed to the Commission on Aging and he would like to thank Mr. Brooks for his service.

Ms. West-Wing stated that the notice to request applications for the Commission on Aging Board will be advertised soon.

She also reminded everyone of the meeting in Coldwater on Monday, April 30th at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until May 15, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman