

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 26, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Bordner called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Pueschel.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

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

Eric Shafer	Gerald E. Loudenslager
John W. Bippus	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

Chairman Bordner stated that the Address Ordinance Revision should be removed from the agenda and 2 resignations should be added under Nominations/Appointments.

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus 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 Pueschel that the minutes for April 5, 2005 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, April 8, April 15 and April 22, 2005.
2. Letter from the Village of Centreville, Re: Notice of public hearing on May 2, 2005 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for SME Plastics, Inc.
3. Resolution from Oceana County, Re: Senate Bill 150 and House Companion Bill 4507 (Building Inspectors.)
4. Minutes of Commission on Aging Board meeting of March 16, 2005.
5. Minutes of Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of March 21, 2005.
6. Minutes of Community Action Agency Board meeting of March 21, 2005.
7. Minutes of Community Mental Health Services Board meeting of March 29, 2005.
8. Newsletter from the St. Joseph Basin Commission – Spring 2005.

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

DRAIN COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT

David Hassenger, Drain Commissioner, gave an overview of the annual report for 2004. He thanked the Board for approving the position of Deputy Drain Commissioner. He appointed Cherie Bouterse to that position. She has been a great deal of help especially when he is out of the office.

He also gave an update on several specific projects on which they have been working: He invited the Commissioners to walk the Portage Lake Drain after the punch list is completed.

Permits have been obtained from MDEQ and MDOT on the Grover and Coohon Drain and they are waiting to receive release of right of ways from several property owners before they can bid the project. They hope to be able to assess this year.

Mr. Hassenger stated that the Colon Number One Drain is directly downstream from the Grover and Coohon Drain and surveying has been completed and an engineering group is preparing a plan and profile.

Surveying has been completed on the Felker Drain and a plan and profile is being done by the engineering group and they hope to assess this year.

Drain clean out was completed on the Carter-Bowers Intercounty Drain and a 2004 assessment was done.

On the Section Four Drain, Millburn Peat was assessed \$68,161.00 and they appealed this decision. We were upheld and Millburn Peat went to Circuit Court to request a summary judgment. This is an ongoing battle and he has heard that Millburn Peat is currently in the throes of bankruptcy.

Park Drain, Section Four Drain, Henry Drain and Hill Drain were all reviewed for abandonment cost and pre-assessment.

A pre-assessment was done in 2004 for the Tutewiler, Townline and Plug Drain.

There is a court hearing on Friday to establish an assessment district at Klinger Lake.

Mr. Hassenger stated that they are still negotiating with Floyd Templin on the Lake Templene Dam ownership.

The fund and drain balances are as follows:

Assessments

The following assessments were filed in September of 2004:

Long Lake and Palmer Lake - Lake Improvement, Colon Township (Weed Control Assessment)	\$51,127.50
Fish Lake, Sherman Township (Construction of Control Structure Assessment)	\$18,848.00
Benedict Lake Drain, Colon and Leonidas Township (Inspection and Maintenance Assessment)	\$4,417.13
Copenhafer Drain, Colon Township (Inspection Assessment)	\$2,858.40
Little Swan Creek, Colon and Burr Oak Township (Inspection and Maintenance Assessment)	\$5,000.05
Portage Lake Drain, Mendon Township (Petition Cleanout)	\$32,556.48
Park Drain, Park Township (Abandonment and Pre-assessment)	\$10,438.83
Section Four Drain, Park Township (Abandonment and Pre-assessment)	\$12,952.25
Henry Drain, Park Township (Abandonment and Pre-assessment)	\$3,391.33
Hill Drain, Park Township (Abandonment and Pre-assessment)	\$2,998.18
Carter Bowers Intercounty Drain, Leonidas Township (Petition Cleanout)	\$3,931.67
Tutewiler, Townline & Plug Drain, Leonidas Township (Pre-assessment)	\$8,750.00

Drain Fund Balances as of 12-31-04

Long Lake Revolving Fund (Fabius)	\$6,127.17
Drain Assessment Fund (*)	\$250,382.73
Klinger Lake Level Fund	\$453.17
Revolving Drain Fund	\$13,100.14
Revolving Drain Maintenance Fund	\$8,498.19

Palmer & Long Lake Level Fund (Weed Control)	\$89,290.57
Fish Lake Drain Fund	\$87.15
Eberhard Lake Level	\$4,371.24
Grey Lake Level Study Fund	\$1,195.42
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TOTALS	\$373,505.78

Individual Drain Account Balances as of 12-31-04

AINSLEY	\$0.00
AMBS	\$0.01
BARTHOLOMEW/SPRING CREEK	\$2.86
BEAVER LAKE & EXTENSION	\$634.47
BENEDICT LAKE	-\$5,879.88
BENNETT & BIRCH	\$1.87
BERKLEY & REED	\$451.46
BLACK RUN	\$201.44
BRICKER	\$21.62
BRISTOL	\$5.46
BROOKS	\$6.62
BURR OAK VILLAGE	\$1.47
BURR OAK/COUNTYLINE	\$5,539.74
CALVERT & FOUR COUNTY	\$2,121.98
CARL	\$71.84
CARTER-BOWER	\$15.90
CLARKS	\$2.72
COLE & DARLING	\$37.91
COLON NO. 1	\$67,090.45
COOPER	\$35.70
COPENHAFER	-\$4,390.10
COREY LAKE	\$158.49
DAVIS TILE	\$27.98
DELONG	\$3.18
DENT EXTENSION	\$3.34
DRY LAKE	\$2.57
FABIUS NEWBERG	\$0.00
EBERHARD LAKE (DRAIN)	\$22.76
EDWARDS-STARKWEATHER	\$1.00
FARNHAM	\$45.31
FAWN RIVER	\$0.00
FELKER	\$85,496.29
FLETCHER	\$44.00
FOUR COUNTY	\$40.20
FOUR COUNTY BRANCH	\$39.26
FOWLER	\$0.00
FREEMAN	\$5,868.40
GARMAN FOSTER BRANCH	\$1,781.08
GEMBERLING	\$230.04
GILL & TRY	\$271.88
GILLETT	\$7.06
GOOSE LAKE	\$91.52
GRAVES	\$17.56
GROVER-COOHON	\$11,471.36
HALLWOOD - BRANCH #1	\$185.70

HANSHAW	\$0.00
HASBROOK & MUMBY	\$0.15
HASSINGER	\$878.30
HAZZARD	\$45.54
HENRY-HILL	\$803.28
HILL	\$2,926.26
HIMEBAUGH & NOBLE	\$21.92
HOG CREEK & BRYANT LAKE	\$606.44
HOOVER-KELLY	\$142.52
JOHNSON & KELLY	\$40.52
KEIGHTLY	\$217.62
KIBBIE & AKEY	\$3.42
KISER & BICKLE	\$0.00
KLADY	\$0.00
LAIRD TOMPKINS & DOANE	\$5.31
LEONIDAS VILLAGE	\$20.59
LEONIDAS/MENDON/LITTLE PORTAGE	\$5.89
LITTLE PORTAGE CREEK EXTENSION	\$0.00
LEVERANCE & REED	\$246.59
LITTLE SWAN CREEK	\$100.00
MARVIN	\$21.33
METTY RICE	\$45.01
MOE	\$0.00
MOORE & BURGNER	\$19.18
MOOREPARK	\$39.49
NOTTAWA LOCKPORT	\$57.68
NOTTAWA NO. 1	\$84.08
NYE	\$9,741.33
OLDORF	\$19.99
OUTWATER	\$4.65
PARK	\$1,878.99
PIERCE-SHERMAN	\$10.50
PLUG EXTENSION	\$44.66
PLUM	\$0.01
PORTAGE CREEK INTERCOUNTY	-\$7.50
PORTAGE LAKE	\$102,289.04
PROFILE LAKE	\$129.06
RAILROAD STREET & TRY	\$55.42
REED	\$0.00
REED & HAGAR	\$1.44
RUMSEY	\$0.00
SADAWASSER	\$80.77
SAMUEL CLYDE	\$16.93
SAM METTA	\$0.00
SANBORN & HOG CREEK	\$172.01
SECTION FIFTEEN	\$0.00
SECTION FOUR	-\$47,978.44
SECTION FOUR & FIVE	\$33.47
SECTION LINE	\$191.46
SECTION SEVEN	\$150.50
SECTION SIXTEEN	\$0.91
SECTION THIRTY-ONE	\$23.18
SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT	\$9.20
SHAW & AKEY	\$4.08
SIMPSON	\$6.91

SKIRVIN	\$7.69
SMITH & TYLER	\$50.00
SMITH WOODWORTH	\$37.11
SNAKE	\$14.90
STEPHENSON	\$331.32
STEWART LAKE	\$8,756.72
SWEET LAKE	\$0.00
THORNTON-BEAVER MARCH	\$27.73
TRECKLE	\$2.64
TUTEWILER & TOWNLINE & PLUG	-\$1,213.86
WAITS	\$13.38
WANEER	\$87.29
WASEPI	\$10.12
WILCOX	\$97.23
WINGER	\$0.00
WOOD & WATSON	\$23.02
YAPLE	\$60.85
YEATTER JOINT	\$301.93
YODER	\$82.45
RECLASSIFIED CKS FROM DRAIN ACCT TO GENERAL FUND	-\$3,300.00
TOTALS	\$250,382.73

Commissioner Bippus stated that it was a good report and asked that if the special assessments go delinquent can the property be foreclosed. Mr. Hassenger stated that it would be foreclosed as any other foreclosure for non-payment of taxes.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he has been dealing with some very thorny issues over the past year and wanted to commend him for a job well done.

Chairman Bordner stated that he appreciates the work that Mr. Hassenger and Mrs. Bouterse do and it must be unbelievable that they must go back 100 years to dig up information on these drains to get them current. Probably no one realized what dire shape some of the drains and records were in when they came into the office. Chairman Bordner thanked them for the report and the job that they do.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Drain Commissioner's Annual Report for 2004 be accepted. Motion carried.

DISTRICT COURT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

Carol Frohriep, District Court Administrator, presented the Court's annual report for 2004. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the Court. She says that their operations are continually impacted by changes from the Supreme Court, the Legislature, Court Rule Changes and the State Court Administrator's Office. Each shapes and directs the life of the District Court. Change is evitable on a daily basis.

Last year each Court was required to submit and commit to a Caseflow Management Plan to SCAO. They must process and monitor cases according to the plan as approved by the Supreme Court. They received new PCs last year from the State which have been most beneficial.

They have had a tremendous growth and they find themselves continually challenged and on a fast track because of the ever growing caseload. They have a sense of gratification as they complete the seemingly impossible tasks before them.

They filed 27,117 cases in 2004 over 1,791 from 2003. This is the largest caseload ever and she commended her staff for working very hard.

The Court has used the Government Payment System which allows people to pay their costs, fines, etc., by credit card at no cost to the County. They estimate that they will collect \$170,000 this year through this method. Effective May 1st this company will offer payments with credit cards on line, again at no cost to the County. They will notify the public through press releases, posters and there will also be information on the website.

Mrs. Frohriep stated that the Probation Department is extremely vital to the court. They monitor defendants and make sure that they are meeting their obligations to the court.

The Civil Division also has a large caseload. There has been an increase in garnishments and executions. Last year there were 7,107 of these cases.

They have taken back the in-house screening for OUIL Cases as well.

She is very proud of the staff and she thanked the Board for their support.

The statistics and financials are as follows:

NEW CASES FILED IN:	2001	2002	2003	2004
CRIMINAL				
Felony	595	846	815	844
Misdemeanors	2,051	2,124	2,001	1,820
Civil Infractions	129	370	413	759
Total	<u>2,775</u>	<u>3,340</u>	<u>3,229</u>	<u>3,423</u>
TRAFFIC				
Misd. & Civil Infractions	15,032	19,134	18,471	20,120
Parking				66
OUIL/UBAL	369	387	276	359
Total	<u>15,401</u>	<u>19,521</u>	<u>18,747</u>	<u>20,545</u>
CIVIL				
Civil	1,903	2,079	2,056	1,971
Small Claims	476	468	526	452
Summary	736	702	770	726
Total	<u>3,115</u>	<u>3,249</u>	<u>3,352</u>	<u>3,149</u>
		Increase of 134 cases		
Year Totals	21,291	26,110	25,326	27,117
			Increase of 1791 cases over 2003	
CASE DISPOSITIONS				
Total Case Dispositions	21,025	26,725	27,557	29,485
Cases Pending 12/31/04	-----	-----	3,104	2,784
Bench Warrants	884	974	1,134	1,049
Criminal Warrants	856	1,044	1,121	989
Search Warrants	184	208	186	195

PROBATION:	2003	2004
Pending Caseload	732	741
New Cases Filed	565	604
Discharged	-556	-506
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Pending Caseload	741	839
Presentence Investigations	109	89
Screenings (OUIL cases)	161	283
Oversight fees	\$76,675.10	\$ 80,801.37
Screening fees	\$8,366.37	\$ 20,581.00

ACCOUNT NAME	2004 TOTAL FEES COLLECTED	2004 AMOUNT TO COUNTY TREASURER	2004 TOTAL BY FUNDS
ORDINANCE FINES & COSTS DUE TO CITIES	315,463.07	\$ 209,094.98	\$
STURGIS			40,941.61
THREE RIVERS			39,413.56
DUE TO VILLAGES			
CONSTANTINE			6,534.46
COLON			2,256.36
BURR OAK			535.62
WHITE PIGEON			7,733.90
CENTREVILLE			7,931.00
MENDON			846.60
DUE TO TOWNSHIPS			
FLORENCE			33.32
LOCKPORT			50.00
BURR OAK			21.66
MOTTVILLE			70.00
COURT COSTS	414,832.60	414,832.60	
CIVIL (various)	78,122.24	78,122.24	
CIVIL FEES (filings)	166,915.00	59,651.00	
BOND FORFEITURE	22,366.38	22,366.38	
OVERSIGHT FEES	80,801.37	80,801.37	
SHORTAGE/OVERAGE	10.00	10.00	
SCREENING FEES	20,581.00	20,581.00	
CONTEMPT	5,567.00	5,567.00	
STATE FORENSIC FUND			
CRIMINAL VICTIM RIGHTS FUND	52,050.00	5,205.00	
TRAFFIC SAFETY FUND			
ST. CASEFLOW ASSIST. FUND	11,031.71	11,031.71	
INTEREST	808.64	808.64	
COUNTY DRUG FUND	15,460.50	15,460.50	
ATTORNEY FEES	33,726.00	33,726.00	

COUNTY BOOKING FEES	\$ 2,370.00	\$ 2,370.00	
DUE STATE BOOKING FEES	474.00	474.00	
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TOTAL DUE COUNTY		\$ 960,102.42	\$ 960,102.42
PENAL FINES	\$ 227,035.29		\$ 227,035.29
DUE TO STATE:			
JUSTICE SYSTEM FUND	\$ 669,605.50		\$ 669,605.50
CIVIL FILING FEE FUND			107,264.00
COURT EQUITY FUND			
9% DEPT OF MANAGEMENT			
MICH. JUSTICE TRAINING FUND			
SECONDARY ROAD PATROL			
COMMUNITY DIS. RES. FUND			
HIGHWAY SAFETY FUND			
DNR FISH & GAME FUND	550.00		550.00
DRIVERS LICENSE REINST. FUND	23,640.00		23,640.00
DRIVERS LICENSE CLEAR. FUND	23,640.00		23,640.00
LEG. RETIREMENT FUND			
CIVIL STATE COURT FUND	8,790.00		8,790.00
TR. & CR. STATE COURT FUND			
*JUDGES' RETIREMENT (filing)			
*STATE FORENSIC FUND			
*CRIMINAL VICTIMS RIGHTS FUND			46,845.00
DRUNK DRIVING ASSESSMENT	6,700.00		6,700.00
CIVIL JURY DEMAND FEE	120.00		120.00
JAIL REIMBURSEMENT			
DNA SPEC. ASSESSMENT			
		<hr/>	
		Total to State	\$ 887,154.50
	\$ 2,180,660.30		\$ 1,807,873.15
**BOND RECEIVED	\$ 597,600.78		
WITNESS & JURY	10,183.70		
	\$ 2,788,444.78		

Credit Card Use and Comparison

2002		2003		2004	
January	\$3,532.00	January	\$7,672.00	January	\$8,009.45
February	3,965.00	February	5,465.00	February	8,640.00
March	4,160.00	March	5,524.00	March	8,336.00
April	23,695.00	April	4,380.00	April	9,336.00
May	5,162.00	May	5,339.00	May	9,618.40
June	5,983.00	June	9,318.09	June	12,194.20
July	8,167.00	July	9,195.00	July	9,607.20
August	5,516.00	August	8,016.00	August	12,357.00
September	7,310.00	September	11,523.00	September	13,012.60
October	6,666.00	October	7,493.00	October	9,976.40

November	5,723.00	November	5,881.00	November	10,538.60
December	5,903.00	December	6,482.07	December	11,789.40
	\$85,782.00		\$86,288.16		\$123,415.25

Commissioner Bippus congratulated Mrs. Frohriep on an excellent report.

Commissioner Loudenslager also stated that it was an excellent report and he is glad that they are on the internet.

Commissioner Pueschel thanked Mrs. Frohriep for the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the District Court Annual Report for 2004 be accepted. Motion carried.

Chairman Bordner thanked Mrs. Frohriep for presenting the report.

EQUALIZATION REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, stated that the assessed values are submitted by the assessor and the equalized values are results of the County studies that were conducted. The studies were turned in on time and they were faxed into the State making us one of the few counties that had our numbers in on time. The studies were reviewed by the regional representation from the State Tax Commission and St. Joseph County was one of 2 in the southwest corner of Michigan that received good marks on their studies. Fabius Township equalized is the same as assessed as they conducted a complete re-appraisal and have submitted documentation and that was accepted. Flowerfield Township is the only unit that had factors in agriculture and commercial. They chose to take a factor, which was a reduction in value, and she does not know why but that is what they chose to do. All other units came in and met the County study numbers.

She did not have time to do the typical comparison report, but there is a comparison sheet which shows where there was growth. There are some negatives because the State Tax Commission provided new charts several years ago on utilities and most assessors decided not to implement them. The Court cases have finally been completed and there was an agreement and there is a reduction in most of those numbers.

Overall there was about a 10% growth in equalized value in the County.

REAL PROPERTY ASSESSED VALUATIONS APPROVED BY BOARDS OF REVIEW

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	\$26,207,600	\$1,455,700	\$936,600	\$46,457,900	\$75,057,800
COLON	\$24,968,200	\$4,609,300	\$2,421,600	\$80,725,200	\$112,724,300
CONSTANTINE	\$23,092,200	\$5,230,600	\$19,257,400	\$65,300,000	\$112,880,200
FABIUS	\$14,254,720	\$6,355,400	\$3,574,780	\$188,477,153	\$212,662,053
FAWN RIVER	\$13,496,115	\$1,364,973	\$0	\$29,704,206	\$44,565,294
FLORENCE	\$27,384,100	\$9,900	\$82,000	\$21,957,800	\$49,433,800
FLOWERFIELD	\$20,919,976	\$914,900	\$239,300	\$39,890,051	\$61,964,227
LEONIDAS	\$27,113,600	\$892,200	\$0	\$20,497,900	\$48,503,700
LOCKPORT	\$17,372,800	\$4,441,800	\$1,115,600	\$89,266,300	\$112,196,500
MENDON	\$22,829,800	\$3,509,600	\$3,005,000	\$47,724,000	\$77,068,400
MOTTVILLE	\$12,780,300	\$1,893,700	\$8,407,000	\$27,957,700	\$51,038,700
NOTTAWA	\$28,725,500	\$11,782,600	\$573,600	\$90,386,500	\$131,468,200
PARK	\$26,863,500	\$5,124,600	\$3,419,000	\$74,527,700	\$109,934,800
SHERMAN	\$16,982,900	\$1,300,500	\$441,000	\$117,785,150	\$136,509,550
STURGIS	\$14,625,200	\$13,846,300	\$362,900	\$31,178,000	\$60,012,400
WHITE PIGEON	\$15,384,800	\$9,957,700	\$7,495,300	\$141,611,700	\$174,449,500
STURGIS CITY	\$191,500	\$52,011,500	\$34,431,100	\$132,644,500	\$219,278,600
THREE RIVERS	\$0	\$44,304,524	\$24,556,500	\$83,339,100	\$152,200,124
	\$333,192,811	\$169,005,797	\$110,318,680	\$1,329,430,860	\$1,941,948,148

REAL PROPERTY EQUALIZED VALUATIONS BY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	\$26,207,600	\$1,455,700	\$936,600	\$46,457,900	\$75,057,800
COLON	\$24,968,200	\$4,609,300	\$2,421,600	\$80,725,200	\$112,724,300
CONSTANTINE	\$23,092,200	\$5,230,600	\$19,257,400	\$65,300,000	\$112,880,200
FABIUS	\$14,254,720	\$6,355,400	\$3,574,780	\$188,477,153	\$212,662,053
FAWN RIVER	\$13,496,115	\$1,364,973	\$0	\$29,704,206	\$44,565,294
FLORENCE	\$27,384,100	\$9,900	\$82,000	\$21,957,800	\$49,433,800
FLOWERFIELD	\$20,537,665	\$914,635	\$239,300	\$39,890,051	\$61,581,651
LEONIDAS	\$27,113,600	\$892,200	\$0	\$20,497,900	\$48,503,700
LOCKPORT	\$17,372,800	\$4,441,800	\$1,115,600	\$89,266,300	\$112,196,500
MENDON	\$22,829,800	\$3,509,600	\$3,005,000	\$47,724,000	\$77,068,400
MOTTVILLE	\$12,780,300	\$1,893,700	\$8,407,000	\$27,957,700	\$51,038,700
NOTTAWA	\$28,725,500	\$11,782,600	\$573,600	\$90,386,500	\$131,468,200
PARK	\$26,863,500	\$5,124,600	\$3,419,000	\$74,527,700	\$109,934,800
SHERMAN	\$16,982,900	\$1,300,500	\$441,000	\$117,785,150	\$136,509,550
STURGIS	\$14,625,200	\$13,846,300	\$362,900	\$31,178,000	\$60,012,400
WHITE PIGEON	\$15,384,800	\$9,957,700	\$7,495,300	\$141,611,700	\$174,449,500
STURGIS CITY	\$191,500	\$52,011,500	\$34,431,100	\$132,644,500	\$219,278,600
THREE RIVERS	\$0	\$44,304,524	\$24,556,500	\$83,339,100	\$152,200,124
	\$332,810,500	\$169,005,532	\$110,318,680	\$1,329,430,860	\$1,941,565,572

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	\$75,057,800	\$75,057,800	\$2,529,900	\$2,529,900	\$77,587,700	\$77,587,700
COLON	\$112,724,300	\$112,724,300	\$4,131,400	\$4,131,400	\$116,855,700	\$116,855,700
CONSTANTINE	\$112,880,200	\$112,880,200	\$17,807,500	\$17,807,500	\$130,687,700	\$130,687,700
FABIUS	\$212,662,053	\$212,662,053	\$7,015,630	\$7,015,630	\$219,677,683	\$219,677,683
FAWN RIVER	\$44,565,294	\$44,565,294	\$745,265	\$745,265	\$45,310,559	\$45,310,559
FLORENCE	\$49,433,800	\$49,433,800	\$1,434,100	\$1,434,100	\$50,867,900	\$50,867,900
FLOWERFIELD	\$61,964,227	\$61,581,651	\$5,479,146	\$5,479,146	\$67,443,373	\$67,060,797
LEONIDAS	\$48,503,700	\$48,503,700	\$963,000	\$963,000	\$49,466,700	\$49,466,700
LOCKPORT	\$112,196,500	\$112,196,500	\$3,307,700	\$3,307,700	\$115,504,200	\$115,504,200
MENDON	\$77,068,400	\$77,068,400	\$16,743,700	\$16,743,700	\$93,812,100	\$93,812,100
MOTTVILLE	\$51,039,700	\$51,038,700	\$5,463,800	\$5,463,800	\$56,502,500	\$56,502,500
NOTTAWA	\$131,468,200	\$131,468,200	\$4,026,300	\$4,026,300	\$135,494,500	\$135,494,500
PARK	\$109,934,800	\$109,934,800	\$11,577,200	\$11,577,200	\$121,512,000	\$121,512,000
SHERMAN	\$136,509,550	\$136,509,550	\$3,362,400	\$3,362,400	\$139,871,950	\$139,871,950
STURGIS	\$60,012,400	\$60,012,400	\$3,040,100	\$3,040,100	\$63,052,500	\$63,052,500
WHITE PIGEON	\$174,449,500	\$174,449,500	\$14,631,300	\$14,631,300	\$189,080,800	\$189,080,800
STURGIS CITY	\$219,278,600	\$219,278,600	\$59,911,500	\$59,911,500	\$279,190,100	\$279,190,100
THREE RIVERS	\$152,200,124	\$152,200,124	\$33,279,550	\$33,279,550	\$185,479,674	\$185,479,674
	\$1,941,949,148	\$1,941,565,572	\$195,449,491	\$195,449,491	\$2,137,397,639	\$2,137,015,063

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that it was a good report.

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

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel & Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Report adopted.

FRIEND OF THE COURT FUNDING

William Thistlethwaite, Friend of the Court, explained to the Board the funding cuts by the State for some of their programs. They have 2 contracts with the State as follows: 1 – Cooperative Reimbursement which was for \$26,422 and has been cut \$8,300; and 2 – Contract for a Medical Enforcement Clerk which was for \$25,827 which pays for 100% of a part time person at 29 hours per week with limited benefits. This program will be cut to 66% effective June 30, 2005. He stated that they need to come up with 34% of the cost from July 1st to December 31st. This is \$476 per month or \$2,856 for the year.

Mr. Thistlethwaite stated that this is the first time that mid-year budget cuts have been made. He stated that the Medical Enforcement Clerk has 2 major duties: 1 – make sure that the parent enrolls their children in the medical insurance plan with their employer at reasonable costs which insures that the State does not have to enroll them in Medicaid to cover the same children. Last year they issued 1,500 parents with information; 2 – helps collect uninsured medical bills that non-custodial parents are obligated to pay. Last year over \$20,000 in reimbursement costs were recovered.

He suggests that with the recent staff turnover that they can absorb the costs to continue to pay this position through the end of the year without asking for funding from the County. Their estimated revenues for 2005 were \$100,000 and now they believe that they will collect \$120,000.

Ms. West-Wing concurred with Mr. Thistlethwaite that the money for this position could be absorbed within this year's budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bippus that the Medical Enforcement Clerk in the Friend of the Court be funded through the end of the year. Motion carried.

Ms. West-Wing stated that this does not require any budget adjustments because of the reasons stated above.

Chairman Bordner thanked Mr. Thistlethwaite for explaining this situation to the Board.

MEETING CANCELLED FOR MAY 2, 2005

Chairman Bordner stated that since the next meeting is scheduled for less than 1 week away it has been suggested that that meeting be cancelled.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bippus that the meeting scheduled for May 2, 2005 be cancelled and that the Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for April 29th be cancelled as well. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Chairman Bordner stated that everyone had received a copy of a letter of resignation from Commissioner Bippus as Vice-Chairman and member of the Executive Committee and it further stated that he would remain committed to represent District #3 and all citizens of St. Joseph County as a member of the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the resignation of John Bippus as Vice-Chairman and member of the Executive Committee be accepted with regret. Motion carried.

Commissioner Dobberteen nominated Robin Baker as Vice-Chairman.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Robin Baker as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried. (Vice-Chairman Baker will become a member of the Executive Committee).

Commission on Aging

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that Jack C. Brooks be appointed to the Commission on Aging to fill a vacancy for a term to expire June 30, 2005 and that Audrey L. Althaus and Lorrie C. Witt be appointed to the Commission on Aging for terms to expire June 30, 2006. Motion carried.

Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission

Commissioner Baker nominated Kenneth Cochran to the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission.

Substance Abuse Advisory Council

Chairman Bordner stated that he had a conflict in his schedule with the Substance Abuse Advisory Council and suggested that Commissioner Baker take his place.

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that Commissioner Baker be nominated and appointed to the Substance Abuse Advisory Council. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Law Enforcement Committee had not met but the Sheriff is moving forward with the possibility of proposing a Law Enforcement millage to the Board for placement on the ballot next year.

Judiciary

Commissioner Baker stated that there was good attendance at the last Judiciary Committee meeting held on April 13th. Several suggestions were made for the website that Commissioner Shafer will take back to the Website Committee. Mrs. Frohriep mentioned that there would be availability to pay tickets over the internet effective May 1st. Sheriff Lori is working on a law enforcement millage. Judge Shumaker expressed his concerns with Court Security after 4:00 p.m. Mr. Ryder suggested that a Court Security Committee be established to review security issues. Judge Cherry mentioned that the application time for the Circuit Judge appointment has closed. Measurements have been taken for video equipment in Judge Middleton's Courtroom as well as Circuit Court.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that the next meeting of the Physical Resources is tomorrow at 9:00 a.m.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bippus stated that the Executive Committee met on April 22nd, minutes have been distributed and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Brian Stears, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing March 31, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Marc Pashby, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing March 15, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Dru Carney, Road Patrol Officer, is on family leave commencing April 11, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

James Clawson, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing April 21, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Brad Balk, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing April 13, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Tammy Miller to work temporary, full-time in the Prosecutor's Office (to replace Joni Kelley during her medical leave) at \$11.79/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 5, minimum) effective May 2, 2005.

NEW HIRE:

Dorine Cheney has been hired as Deputy District Court Clerk at \$10.80/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 4, minimum) effective May 9, 2005.

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

REQUISITION

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

Paving of Cade Lake Park – 415 feet going to upper camping area and 280 feet from existing asphalt to bottom of hill \$ 11,700.00

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$30,000.00 from Probate Child Care Appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker – 11 half days 3/16 x 2, 3/18, 3/21, 3/22, 4/1, 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/22 & 4/25/05 & 2 full days 3/24 & 4/11/05	\$ 740.00
John Bippus – 14 half days 1/4, 1/17, 1/28, 2/1, 2/8, 2/11, 3/11, 3/22, 4/1, 4/5, 4/6, 4/22, 4/25 and 4/26/05	700.00
Monte Bordner – 14 half days 3/21, 3/22, 3/29, 3/30 x 2, 4/1, 4/5 x 2, 4/11, 4/12, 4/25 & 4/26/05 x 3 & 6 full days 3/16, 3/21, 3/22, 3/30, 4/8 & 4/18/05	1,270.00
John Dobberteen – 16 half days 3/18, 3/21, 3/23, 3/29, 3/30 x 2, 3/31, 4/1, 4/8, 4/12, 4/13, 4/18, 4/22, 4/25 & 4/26/05 x 2 & 2 full days 3/16 & 4/23/05	990.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 7 half days 3/16, 3/17, 4/6, 4/11, 4/13, 4/25 & 4/26/05	350.00
David Puschel – 12 half days 3/16, 3/21, 3/22, 3/24, 3/28, 3/29, 4/1, 4/4, 4/6, 4/20, 4/21 & 4/26/05	600.00
Eric Shafer – 10 half days 3/29 x 2, 3/30, 4/5, 4/6 x 2, 4/12, 4/13, 4/21 & 4/25/05 & 2 full days 3/22 & 4/22/05	<u>690.00</u>
	\$ 5,340.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 204.53
Monte Bordner	420.46
John Dobberteen	143.37
Gerald Loudenslager	58.73
David Pueschel	88.29
Eric Shafer	<u>144.18</u>
	\$ 1,059.56

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
March	\$ 957,510.00	\$ 1,134,676.00
Year to Date	2,920,967.00	3,441,852.00
Period Fund Balance	(\$177,166.00)	

Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	25.00%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	21.82%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	25.71%

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

Independent Contractor Agreement

Mr. Carey recommended approval of a renewal of an Independent Contractor Agreement with Sherry Burd for commercial and industrial appraisals for the Equalization Director for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Independent Contractor Agreement with Sherry Burd be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel & Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bordner stated that he attended a luncheon in Sturgis today where the Governor spoke.

He stated that there was a good turnout out last night at Glen Oaks at their structural deficit meeting. It was very informative. They gained some knowledge on structural tax, Headlee Amendment and Proposal A. Our Equalization Director posed a question to the panel who has been working for quite some time regarding the revenue sharing shift. They could not answer her question. It was a very informative meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Baker thanked everyone for their vote of support in electing him Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Loudenslager agreed that the meeting last night was excellent.

Commissioner Dobberteen suggested to Commissioner Baker that Judge Cherry be put on the Court Security Committee while he is acting as our Chief Judge.

Commissioner Shafer would like to publicly thank the City of Sturgis for their help with a pump problem that we had at Cade Lake Park. They donated their manpower and the total cost was zero.

He mentioned that the canoe trip is scheduled for May 14th.

Commissioner Bippus hopes that if there is any change in security that the cost is less. He congratulated Vice-Chairman Baker on his election.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until May 17, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Chairman