

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 June 5, 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
David J. Pueschel	John Dobberteen

Absent: Monte Bordner

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

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that a request from the Parks and Recreation Director to fill a vacancy should be added under new business.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the minutes for May 15, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, May 25 and June 1, 2007.
2. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: Thank you for resolution supporting E-911 funding.
3. Letter from Senator Cameron Brown, Re: Thank you for resolution supporting E-911 funding.
4. Letter from Indiana Michigan Power Company, Re: Notice of public hearing on June 5, 2007 regarding annual decommissioning provision for the Cook Nuclear Power Plant.
5. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on June 13, 2007 for consideration of an Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Certificate to James Ware Real Estate, LLC.
6. Resolution from Saginaw County, Re: Senate Bills 410 and 411 (Funding for 9-1-1).
7. Resolution from VanBuren County, Re: Opposing reductions in P.A. 2 appropriations to counties (convention facility/liquor tax).
8. Resolution from Berrien County, Re: Opposing HB 4780.
9. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of March 21 and April 18, 2007.
10. Minutes of the Department of Human Services Board meeting of April 24, 2007.
11. Minutes of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission meeting of April 3, 2007.
12. Minutes of the Community Mental Health Services Board meeting of April 24, 2007.
13. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's Newsletter – Spring/Summer 2007.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rebecca Shank, 12302 Corey Lake Road, Three Rivers spoke to the Board regarding the Coon Hollow Preserve at the corner of Coon Hollow Road and Ferguson Road in Fabius Township. There are 3.5 acres that the Fabius Township Coalition, Inc., is attempting to purchase for this preserve. It is a critical area of the Rocky River Water Shed. Over 200 species of wildlife have been identified in this area with 16 of those being threatened.

She stated that she will be attending a meeting tonight regarding the County-wide Trails Program that is being studied and they hope to have this Coon Hollow Preserve as a part of this program if it comes to fruition. The meeting is being held at the Glen Oaks Business Center at 6:00 p.m.

2007 TAXABLE VALUE REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, presented the 2007 Taxable Value Report. She stated that the figures in this report only increase by the rate of inflation or if a property is sold and then the taxable value is uncapped.

She stated that the State Legislature continues to change laws that affect their department and they may be doing away with the personal property tax. There has been an avalanche of personal property taxes that have been appealed by attorneys and accountants.

The Legislature also wants to change the reporting time of the Apportionment Report from October to May which makes no sense to her because the Taxable Value Report is not reported until June.

Mrs. Nelson stated that their meetings with the local Treasurers that they have been having for 3-4 years have been well attended.

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources, is requesting that wetland maps get on the tax bills.

There was discussion on the fact that Agricultural properties only account for 10% of the property tax revenues in the County and they never generate more tax.

Following is the 2007 Taxable Value Report:

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	DEVELOP- MENTAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	11,718,243	1,428,957	898,543	37,821,977		51,867,720
COLON	12,750,757	3,755,548	2,546,195	64,525,220		83,577,720
CONSTANTINE	10,114,299	4,531,278	18,461,294	59,111,403		92,218,274
FABIUS	5,557,897	4,112,103	2,740,469	124,149,958		136,560,427
FAWN RIVER	6,126,029	1,094,201	0	24,865,001		32,085,231
FLORENCE	15,013,217	9,509	72,347	17,492,187		32,587,260
FLOWERFIELD	9,670,089	886,239	113,303	30,104,594		40,774,225
LEONIDAS	14,989,818	682,141	0	15,258,380		30,930,339
LOCKPORT	10,511,605	3,471,393	809,220	78,708,923		93,501,141
MENDON	11,201,543	3,016,127	3,951,670	39,717,702		57,887,042
MOTTVILLE	8,672,457	1,777,655	7,677,973	24,775,015		42,903,100
NOTTAWA	16,486,939	8,491,357	399,898	82,236,232		107,614,426
PARK	16,079,688	3,727,718	5,018,531	61,389,636		86,215,573
SHERMAN	9,195,239	1,140,672	327,900	93,738,530		104,402,341
STURGIS	7,479,571	11,252,544	711,017	27,828,422	261,928	47,533,482
WHITE PIGEON	9,200,067	8,110,281	6,257,569	115,475,743		139,043,660
THREE RIVERS	0	50,179,468	23,249,801	69,548,004		142,977,273
STURGIS CITY	419,197	46,773,539	40,733,167	116,267,687		204,193,590
COUNTY TOTALS	175,186,655	154,440,730	113,968,897	1,083,014,614		1,526,610,896

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUATIONS	TOTAL REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUATIONS	HOMESTEAD & QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL TAXABLE VALUATIONS	NON- HOMESTEAD & NON- QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL TAXABLE VALUATIONS
BURR OAK	2,542,200	54,409,920	43,638,349	10,771,571
COLON	4,040,200	87,617,920	53,653,674	33,964,246
CONSTANTINE	24,713,405	116,931,679	57,996,363	58,935,316
FABIUS	7,315,800	143,876,227	84,461,207	59,415,020
FAWN RIVER	927,120	33,012,351	26,756,184	6,256,167
FLORENCE	1,527,000	34,114,260	29,355,771	4,758,489
FLOWERFIELD	5,185,643	45,959,868	35,662,249	10,297,619
LEONIDAS	1,124,900	32,055,239	27,328,224	4,727,015
LOCKPORT	3,642,600	97,143,741	74,928,131	22,215,610
MENDON	20,387,149	78,274,191	44,583,286	33,690,905
MOTTVILLE	6,620,100	49,523,200	29,320,315	20,202,885
NOTTAWA	3,985,100	111,599,526	75,609,457	35,990,069
PARK	11,893,200	98,108,773	63,814,248	34,294,525
SHERMAN	3,570,600	107,972,941	80,784,388	27,188,553
STURGIS	3,396,500	50,929,982	33,527,290	17,402,692
WHITE PIGEON	15,214,300	154,257,960	78,520,356	75,737,604
THREE RIVERS	38,742,800	181,720,073	54,862,296	126,857,777
STURGIS CITY	62,902,900	267,096,490	95,625,262	171,471,228
COUNTY TOTALS	217,731,517	1,744,604,341	990,427,050	754,177,291

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the 2007 Taxable Value 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.

Report adopted.

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Steve Todd, Health Officer, for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph District Health Department, presented for approval, the Annual Implementation Plan for the AAA. He stated that the Health Department administers the AAA for Branch and St. Joseph Counties.

The \$830,000 in federal and state dollars are used for many programs, some of which are disease prevention, the local Commissions on Aging, the Transportation Authority and to support the AAA being an active partner in the long term care connection.

The following resolution was submitted:

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2007

WHEREAS, the Branch-St. Joseph Area Agency on Aging (Region IIIC) has been designated as the area agency on aging to serve Branch and St. Joseph Counties since 1996 under the Federal Older Americans Act (Public Law 89-73, and subsequent amendments), and the State Older Michigianians Act (Public Act 180, and subsequent amendments); and

WHEREAS, the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Board of Health has been designated and approved as the Policy Board for Region IIIC; and

WHEREAS, Region IIIC is required to develop an Annual Implementation Plan for fiscal year 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Region IIIC Policy Board has developed, reviewed and accepted the Plan after input sessions and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Region IIIC Policy Board has taken into consideration the views expressed at the public hearing for the final draft of the Annual Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Region IIIC Policy Board substantiates that this document meets the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging approval criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners endorses the submission of this final planning document to the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging for final review and approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the resolution be adopted and second 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.

APPROVE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Selection Criteria for the Farmland Preservation Program is being recommended for approval by the Farmland Preservation Board who have been working with Brad Neumann. If adopted, it will become a part of the Farmland Preservation Ordinance.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Selection Criteria for the Farmland Preservation Ordinance be approved.

Commissioner Dunlap questioned the wisdom of approving this because of farmland only contributing 10% of the total property tax revenue in the County.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that agriculture brings more to the County than property taxes. It is an industry ranking right behind the auto industry in the State. This Program must be in place in order for land owners to apply for grants. There is a scoring process to do this and it is spelled out in this document.

Commissioner Dunlap agreed that agriculture is important to the County but in order for this program to work it needs public support. He said that we need jobs here now and by approving this document it could inhibit that.

Commissioner Shafer understands both points of view, but if money becomes available through this program then we need to get it here and not let it go somewhere else.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Baker, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 1 – Commissioner Dunlap.

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Bordner.

Resolution adopted.

POLICY REVISION – CLOSING OF COUNTY OFFICES/BUILDINGS

Ms. West-Wing recommends that the policy regarding the closing of county offices/buildings be revised. The revisions address the hours that offices should be open is now 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This currently only affects two offices that do not open until 9:00 a.m. Other revisions relate to when the buildings are closed because of weather, etc., and what type of time is taken for those that cannot get here when the offices are open.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Policy Revision regarding the Closing of County Offices/Buildings 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.

POLICY REVISION – COURTS BUILDING SECURITY

Ms. West-Wing recommends approval of a Policy Revision regarding Courts Building Security. When the policy was first approved the Sheriff's Department was taking care of producing each employee identification badge. Now, the County Clerk has the capabilities of producing them so the verbiage in the policy has been modified to reflect this change.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Policy Revision regarding Courts Building Security 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.

FISH LAKE CONTROL STRUCTURE EASEMENTS

Ms. West-Wing stated that everyone had received a communication from the Drain Commissioner stating that a former Drain Commissioner had failed to obtain easements on 44 parcels of property at Fish Lake when a lake control structure was constructed. When he discovered this oversight he approached all 44 parcel owners and 42 have agreed to grant the County an easement. Two have refused and he would like the Board of Commissioners to begin proceedings in Circuit Court to condemn these two parcels.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Board begin proceedings to condemn these two parcels at Fish Lake that will not grant easements to the County for the construction of the control structure.

Commissioner Loudenslager asked that if the Board cannot control the Drain Commissioner how can they approve these condemnation procedures.

Ms. West-Wing stated that this affects maintaining the legal lake level and that is the responsibility of the Board of Commissioners.

The cost of the legal proceedings that will be filed in Circuit Court will be paid by the Fish Lake Special Assessment District.

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 TO FILL VACANT PART TIME PARKS AND RECREATION SECRETARY

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the vacant part time secretary's position at the Parks and Recreation Department be filled. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that Carol Frohriep be nominated and appointed to the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission as the Citizen-At-Large for a term to expire on November 30, 2008. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

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

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no Judiciary Committee report.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that they would set a date for a Physical Resources Meeting after the meeting tonight.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that everyone has a copy of the June 1, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting minutes and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Commission on Aging

Commissioner Shafer stated that in reference to the Executive Committee minutes the COA has settled their AFSCME Union Contract with the employees giving them a 3% raise. He stated that this was what part of the millage money that was approved last year was supposed to be used for to try to retain their employees as they have a terrible turnover rate.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

T.J. Harrington, Corrections Officer, is on medical leave commencing May 31, 2007 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Jason Auton, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing May 17, 2007.

Maria Ridenour, FOC Enforcement Clerk, is on medical leave commencing June 4, 2007 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Jacquilyn Wells will transfer from part-time Parks Secretary to full-time Deputy County Clerk at \$12.44/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 5, minimum) effective June 5, 2007.

NEW HIRE:

Tasha N. Bonds has been hired as part-time Corrections Officer at \$14.70/hr. effective May 22, 2007.

Susan K. Leist has been hired as part-time Typist/Accounting Clerk for Sheriff's Department at \$10.53/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 3, minimum) effective May 29, 2007. This position is 20 hours/week.

Tamyra L. Mouser has been hired as Family Division Neglect/Abuse Specialist at \$11.40/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 4, minimum) effective June 12, 2007.

SEASONAL/TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT:

Stacey Carr has been hired as Cade Lake Park Attendant at \$7.25/hr. effective May 21, 2007.

RESIGNATION:

Jacob Lentz, Central Dispatch Intern, has resigned effective May 25, 2007.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

DECREASE EQUALIZATION'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-225-985.000 (Computer Software) \$ 430.00

INCREASE EQUALIZATION'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-225-931.020 (Service Contract) \$ 430.00

INCREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REVENUES:

Line item 101-301-675.000 (Gasoline Reimbursement) \$ 739.00

Line item 101-301-676.060 (Reimbursed Wages & Fringe Benefits) 14,037.00

\$ 14,776.00

INCREASE JAIL AND TURNKEY'S EXPENDITURES:

Line item 101-351-706.380 (Wages – Corrections Officers) \$ 5,650.00

Line item 101-351-707.000 (Wages – Part time) 2,542.00

Line item 101-351-712.000 (Wages – Overtime) 3,874.00

Line item 101-351-715.000 (FICA) 924.00

Line item 101-351-718.050 (MERS) 1,047.00

Line item 101-301-746.000 (Gasoline and Oil) 739.00

\$ 14,776.00

DECREASE LOCAL CORRECTIONS OFFICERS' TRAINING FUND EXPENDITURES:

Line item 264-351-862.000 (Seminars) \$ 10,000.00

INCREASE LOCAL CORRECTIONS OFFICERS' TRAINING FUND EXPENDITURES:

Line item 264-351-999 (Operating Transfers Out) \$ 10,000.00

INCREASE REVENUES:

Line item 101-390-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance) \$ 33,456.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

Line item 101-390-999.000 (Operating Transfers Out) \$ 33,456.00

ESTABLISH NEW FUND:

Fund #636 – Information Technology Improvement Fund

DECREASE DISTRICT COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-136-602.000 \$ 13,614.00

<u>INCREASE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT FUND #636:</u>	
Line item 636-301-602.000	\$ 13,614.00
<u>DECREASE FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND REVENUES:</u>	
Line item 406-253-6999.000 (Transfers In)	\$ 20,000.00
<u>DECREASE FACILITIES MAINTENANCE FUND EXPENSES:</u>	
Line item 406-253-984.000 (Hardware)	\$ 20,000.00
<u>ESTABLISH 2007 BUDGET for FUND #636 and DEPARTMENTS 301 and 258:</u>	
Revenue: 636-301-602.000 Court Costs	\$ 28,000.00
636-301-699.000 Operating Transfers In	33,456.00
636-258-699.000 Operating Transfers In	20,000.00
Expense: 636-301-984.000 Computer Hardware	\$ 61,456.00
636-258-984.000 Computer Hardware	20,000.00

Ms. West-Wing explained that the information Technology Fund that is being established is for computer replacements. The Board is asked to approve allocating \$3.00 from each applicable traffic citation to this fund for future improvements to the laptops in patrol cars program. There was also some money for future computer replacements in the 2007 budget and this will be moved to this fund. All decisions made on replacing computers will be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

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

BILLS

Mr. Carey presented the following bills for payment:

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Due from State	\$ 6,763.86	\$
County Commission	1,272.80	10,099.64
Circuit Court	127.50	12,888.40
District Court	1,492.80	59,369.88
Friend of the Court	2,934.59	33,639.35
Jury Commission	157.98	373.00
Probate Court	5,296.29	18,194.37
Juvenile Branch	14,314.00	36,298.58
Appeals Court	533.40	1,489.88
Administration		9,368.22
Elections	941.99	
Finance Department	1,562.71	10,558.69
County Clerk	125.00	22,227.60
Equalization Department	100.00	14,816.66
Human Resources	6.50	6,753.81
Geographic Information Systems	157.22	6,220.80
Prosecutor's Office	2,125.84	40,500.35
Central Services	5,288.51	5,301.26
Register of Deeds	179.00	12,277.18
County Treasurer		14,483.75
Cooperative Extension	747.79	8,220.96
Information Technology	199.16	11,313.56
Buildings & Grounds	3,357.95	14,509.10
Courts Building Security		5,843.36
Drain Commission		5,425.75
Sheriff Department	12,319.05	89,776.99
Sheriff Reserves	112.00	
Marine Patrol	135.96	589.09
Jail & Turnkey	21,710.32	103,640.59

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Emergency Services	\$ 53.37	\$ 5,239.00
Animal Control	663.87	8,738.79
Board of Public Works		618.71
Medical Examiners	5,396.66	
Child Care - Probate	8,025.80	
Veterans' Services	339.62	1,269.38
Utilities & General Services	36,873.45	
Total	\$ 133,314.99	\$ 570,046.70
<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
County Road Commission	\$ 536,359.45	\$
Parks & Recreation	1,228.76	7,576.95
Emergency 911 Service	4,403.30	48,744.45
Central Dispatch - Wireless	3,544.49	4,131.14
Meyer Broadway/Coon Hollow Park	3,463.37	2,346.98
Friend of the Court		1,203.97
Cade Lake Park	1,597.25	1,455.42
Waste Management Fund		
County Commission	24,160.44	
Traffic Safety Program Fund	624.53	
Economic Development Fund		3,949.22
Survey & Remonumentation	12,840.40	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund		1,406.27
Victims' Rights Advocate Fund		3,128.14
Community Corrections Advisory Board	5,866.67	2,847.76
Community Corrections Program	2,755.00	
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	1,193.84	
Law Enforcement Fund	557.09	11,911.86
Secondary Road Patrol		8,991.90
Homeland Security Grant Fund	4,711.24	
Law Library Fund	1,349.50	
Principal Residence Denial Fund	730.57	619.25
Commission on Aging	40,973.47	45,839.98
Sheriff's Justice Training Fund	170.00	
Department of Human Services	1,007.92	
Child Care - Probate Court	27,712.88	4,289.85
Child Care - Department of Human Services	28,811.74	
Veterans' Trust Fund	1,600.40	
Tax Payment Fund	38,061.85	
Inmate Store	6,630.21	
Three Rivers Community Center	1,879.68	851.75
Flexible Benefits Insurance Fund	144,519.89	
Total	\$ 896,753.94	\$ 149,294.89
Grand Total	\$ 1,030,068.93	\$ 719,341.59

General Fund Operating Expenditures		
Pre-Authorized	\$53,634.36	
Accounts Payable	<u>79,680.63</u>	
		\$ 133,314.99
General Fund Payroll Expenditures		\$ 570,046.70
Other Funds Operating Expenditures		
Pre-authorized	\$826,930.89	
Accounts Payable	<u>69,823.05</u>	
		\$ 896,753.94
Other Funds Payroll Expenditures		\$ 149,294.89
Total Recorded for the Month		\$ <u>1,749,410.52</u>

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the bills be approved for payment. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Baker reminded everyone of the work session scheduled for Monday, June 11th at 3:00 p.m.

He also mentioned the Retirement Party for Sheriff's Deputy Rick Eickhoff on Friday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the F.O.P. Lodge.

Chairman Baker stated that there are some issues with the 131 corridor and the Village of Constantine. MDOT is working with the Village in an attempt to resolve these issues.

CITIZENS COMENTS

Rebecca Shank stated in regards to the previously discussed farmland preservation issue that while agriculture may be one of the three major industries in Michigan we are years behind other states in farmland preservation. She also mentioned that the agricultural community is a less consuming part of society when it comes to services.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until June 19, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman