

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 17, 2008, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Robin 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:

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

Absent: Eric Shafer and John L. Dobberteen

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

AGENDA

Commissioner Shafer was present at this time.

Chairman Baker stated that a Closed Session should be added after Commissioners' comments.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Dunlap stated that under FARMLAND PRESERVATION APPLICATIONS on page 100 of the June 3, 2008 minutes that the 3rd sentence in the 1st paragraph should be amended.

As it reads:

“The next step would be to seek funding for the program, stating that most of the funding available will be from P.A. 116 monies.”

As corrected:

“The next step would be to seek funding for the program, stating some money will come from donations by applicants, but most of the funding available will be from P.A. 116 monies.”

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the minutes for June 3, 2008 be approved as amended. Motion carried. Commissioner Loudenslager abstained due to absence.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, June 6 and June 13, 2008.
2. Letter from the City of Three Rivers, Re: Notice of public hearing on June 17 to consider a request from Kadant Johnson, Inc. to establish an Industrial Development District.
3. Letter from the City of Three Rivers, Re: Notice of public hearing on June 17 for the establishment of an Obsolete Property and Rehabilitation District for 214 Spring Street.
4. Letter from Manistee County, Re: Invitation to attend the third annual Michigan Energy Fair on June 27-28-29 at the Manistee County Fairgrounds.
5. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of May 21, 2008.

6. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of May 19, 2008.
7. Minutes of the Department of Human Services Board meeting of April 22, 2008.
8. Minutes of the St. Joseph River Basin Commission meeting of March 4, 2008.

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

TAXABLE VALUE REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, presented the Taxable Value Report for 2008. She stated that this always follows the State Equalization and is figured by the rate of inflation as determined by the State. There are new and more exemptions to personal, commercial and industrial properties. The schools are looking at deficits, but are hoping that the new State aid formula will make up the difference.

Commissioner Dunlap asked about the assessments on the residential lake properties.

Mrs. Nelson responded by saying that it is the job of the assessors to assess it properly according to the equalization studies.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Taxable Value Report be adopted.

Mrs. Nelson also stated that they recently met with all of the Township and City Treasurers and all but 2 were in attendance. Mrs. Nelson added that these are excellent meetings and all of the units are happy with the way that things are going.

In addition, Mrs. Nelson stated that they have done a fee study in regards to their contracts with the Treasurers taking into consideration the new equipment in the Equalization Department. They are being proactive by keeping close tabs on expenses.

Commissioner Bordner stated that the assessors' relationships with the Equalization Department are good and they are complimentary of Mrs. Nelson. He applauds her efforts.

Mrs. Nelson stated that she will be teaching a Damage Assessment Class on July 16th to the Township Supervisors and she will be including village assessors as well and extended an invitation to the County Commissioners to attend.

Following is the Taxable Valuation Report:

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	DEVELOP- MENTAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
BURR OAK	12,174,436	1,436,511	883,884	39,289,422		53,784,253
COLON	13,157,948	3,870,452	2,604,633	67,958,482		87,591,515
CONSTANTINE	9,993,863	4,771,235	17,835,390	62,187,643		94,788,131
FABIUS	5,834,705	4,388,170	2,760,066	130,567,535		143,550,476
FAWN RIVER	6,324,885	1,282,647	0	25,984,366		33,591,898
FLORENCE	15,716,196	9,727	74,010	18,317,709		34,117,642
FLOWERFIELD	8,380,973	828,734	115,908	33,183,800		42,509,415
LEONIDAS	15,152,338	716,567	0	16,460,002		32,328,907
LOCKPORT	11,351,319	3,699,975	824,101	82,546,346		98,421,741
MENDON	11,665,889	3,250,938	4,109,104	40,966,584		59,992,515
MOTTVILLE	8,521,052	1,817,322	8,193,767	25,890,006		44,422,147
NOTTAWA	16,853,310	8,502,810	543,173	85,383,335		111,282,628
PARK	18,138,219	3,663,977	4,722,677	64,761,372		91,286,245
SHERMAN	9,438,601	1,365,205	185,114	98,802,010		109,790,930
STURGIS	7,749,410	11,114,161	1,114,270	28,899,591	267,949	49,145,381
WHITE PIGEON	9,433,060	8,641,325	6,607,412	121,252,895		145,934,692
THREE RIVERS	0	58,963,381	26,303,141	70,834,171		156,100,693
STURGIS CITY	418,691	46,826,686	41,434,963	120,212,543		208,892,883
BURR OAK VILLAGE	21,585	718,066	652,949	7,670,224		9,062,824
CENT. VILLAGE	19,714	5,980,750	1,203,631	14,823,195		22,027,290

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	AGRICULTURE	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	RESIDENTIAL	DEVELOP- MENTAL	TOTAL REAL PROPERTY
COLON VILLAGE	0	2,847,859	1,787,962	21,392,218		26,028,039
CONST. VILLAGE	104,571	3,769,008	14,208,763	18,833,952		36,916,294
MENDON VILLAGE	20,323	2,026,124	3,092,229	11,626,372		16,765,048
W. PIGEON VILLAGE	106,133	6,216,012	3,418,016	16,347,460		26,087,621
COUNTY TOTALS	180,304,895	165,149,823	118,311,613	1,133,497,812	267,949	1,597,532,092

Village values are also reported as part of the respective township's values.

TOWNSHIP OR CITY	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUATIONS	TOTAL REAL & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUATIONS	HOMESTEAD & QUALIFIED FOREST TAXABLE VALUATIONS	COMMERCIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	INDUSTRIAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXABLE VALUE	NON- HOMESTEAD & NON- QUALIFIED FOREST NON-QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL TAXABLE VALUATIONS EXCEPT COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL
BURR OAK	2,446,100	56,230,353	45,199,647	131,200	469,800	10,429,706
COLON	4,221,300	91,812,815	55,967,150	1,116,700	1,276,000	33,452,965
CONSTANTINE	21,088,500	115,876,631	60,185,621	4,427,000	14,028,000	37,236,010
FABIUS	6,512,255	150,062,731	88,550,192	1,402,500	316,000	59,794,039
FAWN RIVER	746,413	34,338,311	28,340,822	362,099	0	5,635,390
FLORENCE	1,529,200	35,646,842	30,703,005	239,800	0	4,704,037
FLOWERFIELD	4,792,731	47,302,146	37,120,013	636,884	136,738	9,408,037
LEONIDAS	1,142,800	33,471,707	28,668,605	271,800	0	4,531,302
LOCKPORT	3,608,000	102,029,741	80,031,199	1,514,800	80,900	20,402,842
MENDON	19,374,136	79,366,651	45,583,780	549,900	13,370,900	19,862,071
MOTTVILLE	6,860,500	51,282,647	30,193,788	2,045,700	2,293,100	16,750,059
NOTTAWA	4,071,500	115,354,128	77,597,644	1,676,000	281,800	35,798,684
PARK	11,436,100	102,722,345	68,535,980	541,500	4,447,200	29,197,665
SHERMAN	3,111,100	112,902,030	84,177,605	316,000	54,900	28,353,525
STURGIS	3,055,700	52,201,081	34,486,720	1,857,800	37,500	15,819,061
WHITE PIGEON	15,588,200	161,522,892	81,414,872	1,319,900	5,729,700	73,058,420
THREE RIVERS	44,877,500	200,978,193	55,767,251	10,424,150	30,673,100	104,113,692
STURGIS CITY	65,139,400	274,032,283	98,213,899	14,420,900	49,664,900	111,732,584
BURR OAK VIL	724,800	9,787,624	6,775,678	41,900	353,700	2,616,346
CENT. VILL.	2,150,700	24,177,990	13,194,864	1,196,900	324,700	9,461,526
COLON VILL.	2,026,500	28,054,539	14,305,655	531,300	879,900	12,337,684
CONST. VILL.	17,708,000	54,624,294	14,404,970	3,559,400	13,385,600	23,274,324
MENDON VIL.	14,055,800	30,820,848	9,880,037	344,900	13,123,900	7,472,011
W. PIGEON VIL	2,450,400	28,538,021	13,549,215	749,600	780,300	13,458,906
CO. TOTALS	219,601,435	1,817,133,527	1,030,737,793	43,254,633	122,860,538	620,280,089

Village values are also reported as part of the respective township's values.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Laura Sutter was present to submit the Annual Implementation Plan for the AAA. They anticipate receiving \$866,000 in federal and state funds to implement a variety of programs for the senior population. They have made some cuts to improve efficiencies.

Some of the services that they provide are in-home assistance, respite care and family cost-sharing. They rely more on local service providers than they have in the past.

They work hand in hand with the Department of Human Services, nursing facilities and disability resources.

Mrs. Sutter thanked the Board of Commissioners for their commitment to the AAA.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that it is a very detailed report and Mrs. Sutter has been very thorough.

The following resolution was presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2008

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 2009; 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 Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the foregoing 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, Bordner and Pueschel.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION RENEWAL

District Court Judge, Jeffrey C. Middleton, requested approval of the Community Corrections Grant Application Renewal.

These applications are now on a 2 year cycle. The Advisory Board would like the programs funded at the same level for a cost of \$104,100. There is an additional \$346,750 allocated just for the Twin County Probation Center.

This is the 20th Community Corrections Grant Application that has been submitted. The Judge stated that there is no County money involved except for a telephone and office space.

He thanked the County Grant Writer, Marcia Saunders, for her help in completing the grant application. These monies will maintain the programs that are currently in place. He also thanked Nancy Pick for all of her work in completing the application.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Board approve the Community Corrections Grant Application.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

LEASE AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE DAY TREATMENT CENTER

Ms. West-Wing recommended approval of a Lease Agreement for the Juvenile Day Treatment Center for 3 years. The increase is 3% each year. If the heating and cooling systems need to be replaced, the landlord will cover the expense. All other maintenance is taken care of by the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Lease Agreement for the Juvenile Day Treatment Center be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called 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 CLOSE COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the offices be closed December 10th from noon to 1:00 p.m. for employees that will be attending the annual Courthouse Girls' Christmas Luncheon. Motion carried.

REQUEST FROM DRAIN COMMISSIONER TO EXTEND LAKE LOAN

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Drain Commissioner is requesting a 1 year extension of the lake loan that is owed to the County at the end of June. The Commissioners asked him to establish special assessment districts for all the lakes that have an established lake level. There are 5 of them that are completed and 5 are in progress. The County receives 5% interest on this loan.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the \$75,000 loan to the Drain Commissioner be extended 1 year.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

CONTRACT WITH COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY FOR ADMINISTERING
MSHDA HOUSING GRANT

Ms. West-Wing recommended renewal of a contract with the CAA for administering the MSHDA Housing Grant for the County.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the contract with CAA for Administering the County's MSHDA Housing Grant be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the next Judiciary Committee Meeting will be held on July 9th at noon.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Pueschel stated that everyone had a copy of the Executive Committee Meeting minutes of June 13th and would answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kristine Chobot, part-time Telecommunicator, increase rate of pay to \$10.00/hr. effective June 10, 2008. Ms. Chobot has completed her department training.

SEASONAL/TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT:

Sherry Bowen has been hired as seasonal Park Maintenance at \$7.50/hr. effective June 10, 2008.

Denise Franklin has been hired as Nottawa Campground Attendant at \$7.50/hr. effective June 11, 2008.

Erika Herbert to work temporary clerical for Commission on Aging at \$9.66/hr. effective June 16, 2008.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the personnel report be approved.

REQUISITIONS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

One Destroyit strip-cut shredder, model 2603 \$ 1,295.00

Two air compressors 60 ton DX rooftop units for the 1st and 2nd floors of the Courts Building.
Estimate of \$15,000.00 was approved on 4/22/08 AMENDED COST \$21,611.48

JMS collections/receipting software module and increase in annual maintenance fee for Circuit Court \$ 4,000.00

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

INCREASE DISTRICT COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-136-816.000 (Contractual Services) \$ 338.00

DECREASE DISTRICT COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-136-707.000 (Part-time Wages) \$ 144.00

Line item 101-136-712.000 (Overtime Wages) \$ 194.00

INCREASE CENTRAL SERVICES' BUDGET:

Line item 101-233-980.000 (Office Equipment) \$ 1,295.00

DECREASE CENTRAL SERVICES' BUDGET:

Line item 101-233-727.000 (Supplies) \$ 1,295.00

DECREASE SPAY/NEUTER FUND #701:

Line item 701-430-265.000 (T & A Spay/Neuter Fund) \$ 7,000.00

INCREASE ANIMAL CONTROL'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-430-707.000 (Wages – Part time) \$ 6,350.00

Line item 101-430-715.000 (FICA) 486.00

Line item 101-430-716.100 (Worker's Compensation) 164.00

\$ 7,000.00

FROM APPROPRIATION:

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

\$161,702.00 from Parks and Recreation Appropriation to Parks and Recreation Fund.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker - 5 half days 5/22 x 2, 5/28, 5/30, 6/3 & 2 full days 5/29 & 6/2/08 \$ 440.00

Monte Bordner - 10 half days 5/22, 5/27, 5/28, 5/30 x 2, 6/2, 6/9, 6/10 x 2, 6/16/08 500.00

Michael Dunlap - 3 half days 5/22, 6/4, 6/10 & 1 full day 5/30/08	245.00
Gerald Loudenslager - 6 half days 5/27, 6/9 x 2, 6/10, 6/14, 6/16 & 2 full days 5/22 & 6/11/08	\$ 490.00
David Pueschel - 4 half days 5/21, 5/22, 5/30 & 6/13/08	200.00
Eric Shafer - 5 half days 5/21 x 2, 5/28, 6/4, 6/9 & 1 full day 6/13/08	<u>345.00</u>
	\$2,220.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 248.46
Monte Bordner	188.87
Michael Dunlap	157.56
Gerald Loudenslager	228.26
David Pueschel	<u>57.07</u>
	\$ 880.22

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the per diem and expenses be approved subject to review by the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
May	\$ 1,090,925	\$ 1,121,520
Year to Date	5,912,104	5,568,545
Period Fund Balance	(\$30,595.00)	
Year to Date	\$343,559.00	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	41.67%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	40.31%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	37.97%	

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Baker reminded everyone of the Legislative Conference in Coldwater on Friday.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Loudenslager reported that the power line route that was scheduled to go through Colon Village has been changed and will now just barely nick the northeast corner of Colon Township. And, now the people in Leonidas Township are not happy about the lines going through their township.

He also reminded everyone of the Covered Bridge Days to be held this Friday and Saturday as well as the Relay for Life on Friday and Saturday.

Commissioner Dunlap remarked that Three Rivers had a nice Water Festival this year.

Commissioner Bordner reminded everyone of the Economic Development Corporation's Annual Meeting this Friday.

Ms. West-Wing stated that she has been in discussions with Liz O'Dell, Executive Director of the Community Mental Health, and CMH will be taking advantage of the County's pledge of our full faith and credit for the construction of a CMH Building. They tried to take care of the loan without us, but could not get a very good deal without the County's pledge. The pledge will be for \$2.8 million.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Board go into Closed Session to discuss property acquisition.

The aye and nay vote was called 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

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Administrator/Controller be authorized to proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until July 1, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman