

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 July 18, 2006, 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.

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

Eric Shafer	Michael D. Dunlap
Robin Baker	Monte Bordner
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Absent: Gerald E. Loudenslager

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the minutes for July 5, 2006 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, July 7 and July 14, 2006.
2. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: Thank you for resolution opposing House Bill 5924.
3. Letter from Governor Jennifer Granholm, Re: Thank you for resolution opposing House Bill 5924.
4. Letter from the Village of Constantine, Re: Notice of public hearing on July 17 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from Jackson International.
5. Letter from the Village of Constantine, Re: Notice of public hearing on July 17 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate from Michigan Milk Producers Association.
6. Letter from McCartney & Company, P.C., Re: Copy of annual audit for 9-1-1 Service District.
7. Minutes of the Department of Human Services Board meeting of May 23, 2006.

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

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Dale Hutson, 60450 Farrand Road, Colon stated that he was an assessor acting as a private contractor. He has been doing this for 8 years and enjoys his work very much. He works with the Treasurer, Information Technology and Land Resource Centre and said that each department head works well with others and they are given the tools and opportunity to do their jobs. He further stated that Ms. West-Wing encourages each department to work with others and he believes that all departments are running well.

Chairman Bordner thanked Mr. Hutson for his comments and stated that often negative comments are heard and complimentary comments are not.

Diane McKelvey, 58775 Lakeshore Drive, Colon and Colon Township Clerk stated that Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, was requested to do an investigation by the State Assessors Board into complaints filed against Marie Fisher, Colon Township Assessor. Mrs. Nelson made some egregious comments in the report and has since rescinded the comments and apologized.

Mrs. McKelvey stated that the current Colon Township Board (except herself who was appointed after the election) won by quite a margin in the last election in November of 2004 and Mrs. Nelson said that the Township Board was fighting and referred to their win as ousting the former Board members. Mrs. McKelvey does not believe that she should malign the County and Townships.

Mrs. McKelvey stated that Mrs. Nelson was asked by the State Assessors Board to conduct this investigation into Marie Fisher and Mrs. McKelvey questions whether the investigation was fair and unbiased.

Frank Fisher, 31705 Decker Road, Colon and Colon Township Supervisor stated that he is appalled with Mrs. Nelson. He accused Mrs. Nelson of giving Marie Fisher a bad time.

He asked the Board of Commissioners if they support the attacking of Townships.

Chairman Bordner stated that no, the Board of Commissioners is not in the business of attacking anyone.

Mr. Fisher asked that the Board discharge Mrs. Nelson for wanton and willful misconduct.

2005 ANNUAL AUDIT

Steve Kirinovic from Abraham and Gaffney stated that the audit went relatively smooth. He stated that the County can meet their current obligations with current assets. He stated that the County should have 15%-20% of the budget in fund balance and we have \$2.6 million which is 20%.

Fifty four percent of revenues are generated by taxes and 60% of expenses are in general government.

Their management letter suggested some improvements.

Abraham and Gaffney also conducted a Federal Compliance Audit which is necessary because of the federal dollars that we receive through various grants.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that the audit was very complete and any suggestions that they made in the management letter have been addressed.

Mr. Kirinovic stated that every department was very willing to assist them in conducting the audit and he appreciates everyone's willingness to help.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the 2005 Audit be accepted and placed on file.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioner Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Pueschel, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

SINGLE COMPLIANCE AUDIT

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Single Compliance Audit be accepted.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioner Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Pueschel, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

ENGAGEMENT LETTER

Ms. West-Wing recommended that we contract with Abraham and Gaffney for the audit year 2006 for a fee not to exceed \$28,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Engagement Letter (Agreement) with Abraham and Gaffney to conduct the audit for year ending December 31, 2006 for a cost not exceed \$28,000 be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioner Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Pueschel, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

UPDATE COUNTY MASTER PLAN

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Planning Commission appointed a sub-committee to review proposals for the updating of the County's Master Plan. The committee asked for 2 different bids, 1 – just update the plan for the agriculture preservation component or; 2 – to update the entire plan including the ag component.

The sub-committee is recommending an update of the entire Master Plan and that the bid from Public Consulting Team (PCT) be approved for \$38,000.

Commissioner Shafer stated that after reviewing the bids and interviewing the firms that PCT had a lot of experience in the agriculture area.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that Public Consulting Team's bid for \$38,000 be approved for the updating of the entire County Master Plan.

Commissioner Shafer stated that they will be monitoring PCT's work and public surveys and public meetings will also be conducted.

Chairman Bordner stated that he sat in on the interviews and concurs with the Committee's recommendation. He believes that it is a solid proposal.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioner Shafer, Dunlap, Baker, Pueschel, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Loudenslager.

Motion carried.

HEAD START GRANT APPLICATION

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Community Action Agency is requesting from the Board of Commissioners a letter of support for a grant request for 3 years.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the letter of support for CAA’s grant request be approved. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that Tabitha Wedge be nominated and appointed to the Comprehensive Traffic Safety Commission. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that the Law Enforcement Committee will meet on July 19th at 4:00 p.m.

Judiciary

Commissioner Baker stated that the Judiciary Committee Meeting was rescheduled to August 30th.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Baker stated that the Executive Committee met on July 14th and everyone has a copy of the minutes and he will answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

TEMPORARY/SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT:

Vicky Klopfenstein has been hired as Cade Lake Park Attendant at \$7.25/hr. effective July 14, 2006.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

INCREASE REVENUES – REVENUE SHARING RESERVE FUND #284:

Line item 284-716-402.000 (Revenue Sharing Tax Revenues) \$ 1,245,190.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES – REVENUE SHARING RESERVE FUND #284:

Line item 284-716-999.000 (Operating Transfers Out) \$ 1,245,190.00

INCREASE HOMELAND SECURITY FUND #268:

Line item 268-426-862.000 (Seminar & Employee Training) \$ 6,000.00

DECREASE HOMELAND SECURITY FUND#268:

Line item 268-426-977.055 (Equipment – 2005 Federal Grant) \$ 6,000.00

It was moved by Commissioner Baker 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 – 8 half days 6/22 x 2, 6/28, 6/30, 7/7, 7/12, 7/12 & 7/18/06	\$ 400.00
Monte Bordner – 5 half days 6/22, 6/27 x 2, 6/30 & 7/6/06 & 4 full days 6/26 x 2, 7/5 & 7/17/06	630.00
John Dobberteen – 8 half days 6/28, 6/30, 7/3, 7/7, 7/11, 7/13, 7/14 & 7/18/06 & 1 full day 7/12/06	495.00
Michael Dunlap – 5 half days 6/22, 7/5, 7/7, 7/11 & 7/14/06	250.00
Gerald Loudenslager - half days 6/27, 6/30, 7/8, 7/17 & 7/18/06 & 1 full day 7/13/06	345.00
David Pueschel – 4 half days 6/21, 6/27, 7/7 & 7/17/06 & 1 full day 6/22/06	295.00
Eric Shafer – 7 half days 6/20, 6/27, 7/5, 7/6, 7/12 x 2 & 7/18/06	<u>350.00</u>
	\$2,765.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 149.52
Monte Bordner	271.90
John Dobberteen	79.21
Michael Dunlap	85.44
Gerald Loudenslager	66.31
David Pueschel	<u>51.18</u>
	\$ 703.56

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
June	\$ 1,016,906	\$ 1,020,194
Year to Date	6,679,234	6,714,817
Period Fund Balance		(\$3,288.00)
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.		50.00%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date		48.79%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date		49.05%

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bordner stated that we have been blessed with enough water this summer for our crops. He noticed that the detasslers are hard at work and he is beginning to see beans and cucumbers being harvested.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ms. West-Wing introduced Andrew Hartwick who has been hired as the new G.I.S. Director. Mr. Hartwick stated that he is wading through a ton of papers. He stated that the previous director and staff have created and maintained an excellent G.I.S. system.

He stated that it is a pleasure to work in St. Joseph County and Centreville and stated that he and his wife are used to a rural area. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to work here.

Chairman Bordner welcomed him and stated that he looks forward to good things.

Frank Fisher thanked the County for the curbside recycling grant and they will not be placing any recycle containers at the Fire Station as they believe that it would be dangerous for kids. They are looking into possibly putting some small dumpsters at the Township Hall.

Chairman Bordner stated that the curbside recycling issue is a cooperative effort.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Shafer welcomed Mr. Hartwick.

Commissioner Pueschel also welcomed Mr. Hartwick and stated that it was good to see irrigation systems just sitting.

Commissioner Dunlap welcomed Mr. Hartwick and appreciated the feedback that they are getting on recycling in Colon.

Mr. Fisher stated that all the feedback has been good.

The Clerk thanked everyone for their cards, emails, coming to visitation and funeral and words of condolence that the Commissioners extended to her and her family during the recent passing of her father.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until August 1, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Chairman