

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 October 7, 2003, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman John L. Dobberteen called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Loudenslager.

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
Robin Baker	Monte Bordner
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Absent: John W. Bippus

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the minutes for September 16, 2003 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, September 19, September 26 and October 3, 2003.
2. Letter from the City of Three Rivers, Re: Notice of public hearing on October 21 regarding the Tax Increment Financing Plan and Development Plan for Dr. Haines Municipal Airport and the Airport Industrial Park.
3. Letter from Governor Jennifer Granholm, Re: Thank you for PILT resolution.
4. Letter from State Department of Corrections, Re: Copy of jail inspection report dated September 23, 2003.
5. Copy of Letter from Judge Shumaker to Parks and Recreation Commission, Re: Community service to Parks and Recreation Department.
6. Letter from Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety, Re: Sixth report to the Legislature on the activities and the progress of survey and remonumentation in the State of Michigan.
7. Resolution from Saginaw County, Re: Health care.
8. Minutes of Commission on Aging Board meeting of August 20, 2003.
9. Minutes of Family Independence Agency Board meeting of August 26, 2003.
10. Minutes of Community Mental Health Services Board meeting of July 29, 2003.
11. Animal Control's Monthly Report – July 2003.

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

Commissioner Bippus was present at this time.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Don Andrews, Land Surveyor, was present to express his concerns with access to public records in the Land Resource Centre. He believes that some records have been destroyed. Mr. Andrews said that he had a ruling from a Judge that says that all of these records are public. Mr. Andrews said that by not releasing these records that it causes financial harm to everyone in the County.

Mr. Andrews stated that he was told by someone in the LRC Office that if he asked for records under the Freedom of Information Act that he would regret making that request.

He has offered to pay for the employees in the office to create an index for viewing by the public. He said that there is a whole set of secret records being kept since 1993. He has gone to the Land Resource Centre to research records and they are not there.

Jeff Brazo from Sturgis stated that he had appeared before the Board almost a year ago regarding the issue of the Commissioners increasing their pay and getting health benefits. He said that the health benefit issue was dropped at that time and that the resolution was on the agenda tonight creating a Citizens Compensation Committee concerns him. He said that if it has something to do with the Commissioners receiving health benefits he still believes that that is not an appropriate expenditure of taxpayers money.

Mr. Brazo quoted Vice-Chairman Bordner from an article in the newspaper expressing displeasure of utilizing taxpayers' money for the defense of Judge Noecker. Mr. Brazo understands that the County's hands are tied on this issue.

Mr. Brazo stated that recently the Glen Oaks millage issue was put before the voters and defeated because taxpayers do not want their taxes raised and he is wondering why this issue is coming before the Board again.

On his way into the building tonight Mr. Brazo was asked if he was interested in serving on the Citizens Compensation Committee if one is going to be created. He said no and has now reconsidered because he believes that if he can speak before the Board regarding this issue then he should consider serving on this committee if it is created. He added that if the purpose of the committee is for utilizing taxpayer funds to benefit the Commissioners he would not serve.

Chairman Dobberteen stated that the purpose of the Committee is so that the Board of Commissioners does not have to set their own compensation rates.

Becky Shank of Three Rivers stated that she appeared before the Board on September 2nd regarding access to public records. She also, at that time, expressed concern over issues with the Road Commission regarding Serenity Shores in Fabius Township. She requested that the County Surveyor be an appointed position so that there is no conflict of interest.

Chairman Dobberteen stated that issues with the Road Commission need to be addressed to the Road Commission and not the County Board of Commissioners.

ANNUAL CHILD CARE PLAN AND BUDGET

Judge Thomas Shumaker, Probate Judge, presented the Child Care Fund Plan and Budget for October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004. This is an annual request. He said that it was tough to put together because Dennis DeVore is on medical leave but Mitchell Walker, Supervisor/Referee and Jo Larimer put it together and he is happy with the result.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Annual Child Care Plan and Budget be adopted in the amount of \$103,118.00.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT - FRIEND OF THE COURT

Ms. West-Wing stated that this is an annual contract between the County and the Michigan Family Independence Agency. The FIA reimburses the County at 66% of the cost. The contract is for \$486,959 and is from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for the Friend of the Court be approved in the amount of \$486,959.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT CONTRACT - PROSECUTOR'S CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION

Ms. West-Wing stated that this is an annual contract between the County and the Michigan Family Independence Agency. This contract also has the FIA reimbursing the County at 66% of the cost. The contract is for \$103,118 and is from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for the Prosecutor's Child Support Division be approved in the amount of \$103,118.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

ANNUAL CHILD CARE PLAN AND BUDGET

Commissioner Loudenslager asked if the Annual Child Care Plan and Budget could be revisited as he believes that the motion stated that the amount was for \$103,118 and he thinks that that is incorrect.

Ms. West-Wing stated that the amount should be \$812,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the motion to approve the Annual Child Care Plan and Budget be amended to approve it in the amount of \$812,000.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

COMMISSION ON AGING WAGES

Ms. West-Wing stated that according to the recent Commission on Aging bylaw changes that the Board of Commissioners approved, the Board now adopts the wage schedule and actual 2004 wages for the Commission on Aging employees.

They are proposed as follows:

Schedule

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>
Activities Coordinator	11.30	11.82	12.34	12.86	13.38	13.92
Administrative Secretary	8.38	8.79	9.20	9.61	10.02	10.43
Bulk Food Driver	7.33	7.57	7.81	8.05	8.29	8.55
Bus Driver*	7.07	7.62	8.17	8.41	8.66	8.91
Chore Worker	7.28	7.72	8.16	8.60	9.04	9.47
Data Specialist	8.28	8.57	8.88	9.19	9.50	9.81
Executive Director	16.20	16.77	17.36	17.97	18.50	
Finance Manager	10.91	11.52	12.13	12.73	13.34	13.95
Health Screen/HD Assessor	9.99	10.40	10.79	11.19	11.59	11.99
Home Del. Meal Driver	6.06	6.40	6.74	7.08	7.42	7.77
Homemaker	7.03	7.40	7.80	8.20	8.60	9.00
In-Home Assessor	10.90	11.29	11.68	12.06	12.45	12.84
In-Home Services Coord.*	12.70	13.35	14.00	14.66	15.31	15.96
Kitchen Aide	7.04	7.36	7.68	8.00	8.32	8.68
Kitchen Aide/Dishwasher	5.71	6.13	6.55	6.97	7.38	7.80
Kitchen Manager/Cook	7.98	8.58	9.19	9.79	10.40	11.00
Nutrition Director	13.32	13.77	14.25	14.69	15.15	15.61
Personal Care Aide	7.23	7.63	8.03	8.43	8.83	9.23
Receptionist	7.81	8.14	8.47	8.80	9.13	9.44
Salad Prep Cook	5.71	6.13	6.55	6.97	7.38	7.80
Senior Center Manager	6.83	7.05	7.25	7.46	7.67	7.89
Supportive Ser. Coordinator	10.89	11.44	12.02	12.59	13.17	13.76

*If there is difficulty hiring qualified people at the starting wage a higher wage can be adjusted at the Executive Director's discretion.

2004 Wages

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>04 Rate</u>
Avery, Jane	Aide	8.24
Bellaire, Mildred	General Assistant	9.78
Blair, Carla	Assessor	10.30
Bloom, Lucille	Aide	8.94
Brittingham, Deborah	Aide	7.23
Brittingham, Deborah	HD Driver	6.06
Bronkema, Mary	Aide	7.60
Burkett, Joan	Aide	9.78
Coe, Susan	Aide	9.78
Cook, Earl	HD Driver	6.55
Crane-Tackace, C	RN Assessor	11.22
Dowd, Curtis	Bus Driver	7.84
Dykstra, Joyce	Aide	7.60
Eash, Tim	HD Driver	6.74
Elder, Donna	Aide	9.56
Everett, Electa	Aide	7.46
Featherstone, Chris	HD Driver	6.74
Featherstone, Chris	Aide	7.75
Ford, Spencer	HD Driver	6.24
Garcia, Mildred	Aide	9.78

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>04 Rate</u>
Gillam, Donna	Aide	9.12
Iobe, Lucas	Bulk Driver	7.55
Kanuss, Fern	MS Manager	7.90
Kovac, Eric	Data Entry	9.50
Kurzawski, Kristy	Sub HD Driver	6.06
Logan, Norma	MS Manager	7.90
Logan, Norma	Kitchen	8.56
McCluskey, John	HD Driver	7.50
McNamara, Dawn	Aide W-S	9.78
Miller, Rhonda	Aide	7.60
Monroe, Earl	HD Driver	6.74
Moore, Stanley	Chore	7.28
Mootz, Gilbert	Chore	9.08
Muhammed, Bilal	Custodian	6.18
Pelfrey, Linda	Kitchen	7.29
Phenicie, Gertrude	MS Manager	7.90
Pomeroy, Brenda	Bookkeeper	11.03
Powell, Betty	Aide	8.24
Powell, Elizabeth	RN Assessor	12.88
Priest, Daisy	Aide	7.60
Rebert, Cecelia	HD Driver	6.24
Roberts, Debra	Aide	7.24
Sepulveda, Zelma	Aide	8.24
Shultz, Mary Ellen	Aide	7.03
Simonson, Carol	Transportation Director	13.82
Slade, Ruth	Sub MS Manager	7.90
Smagala, Cindy	Nutrition Director	15.71
Smith, Dustin	Cook	8.47
Swartz, Sherry	In Home Serv. Coordinator	14.72
Trevino, Vickie	Aide	7.24
Voorus-Pant, Donna	Aide W-S	7.60
Welch, Renee'	Activities Coordinator	13.61
Executive Diretor	Annual Salary	40,000.00
Willard, Norah	Receptionist	9.34
Wood, Christyann	HD Driver	6.24

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Commission on Aging wage schedule and actual 2004 wages be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

Chairman Dobberteen introduced Lynn Coursey the newly hired Executive Director of the Commission on Aging.

She said that she was thrilled and honored to be at the helm of the COA and told the Board that they are well represented by Commissioner Shafer who serves on the COA Board.

SHORT TERM TAX BOND BIDS

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Baker that the County Clerk advertise for bids for the Short Term Tax Bonds - 2003 Levy, with bids due on November 17, 2003 at 4:00 p.m. and they will be opened and awarded on November 18, 2003. Motion carried.

CREATION OF CITIZEN COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Commissioner Bippus read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners is required by statute to set the compensation for all elected officials of the County; and

WHEREAS, it is perceived as a self-serving situation to bring the commissioner compensation in line with the comparable counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a five-member citizen compensation committee be appointed to study the commissioner compensation issue and make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this committee be convened and deliver a recommendation to the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners in the subsequent odd-numbered years.

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the resolution be adopted.

After much discussion it was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that this matter be tabled.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 6 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 1 - Commissioner Bordner.

Motion carried.

ELECTION OF 2 MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

The Clerk distributed ballots to each Commissioner with the 3 names from the Republican and Democratic Parties that were nominated by the Chairs of each party. The Clerk explained that the first name listed under each party name was the recommendation of the Chairman of the respective party.

After tallying the votes Vicki Imgrund, Republican Party and Marcia Bennett, Democratic Party were elected to the St. Joseph County Board of Canvassers for 4 year terms that will expire November 1, 2007.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Bippus stated that there was no report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Bordner stated that the meeting scheduled for tomorrow has been rescheduled for November 5th at noon because Judge Schaefer is on vacation.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Bippus stated that the committee continues to discuss the jail renovation. Ms. West-Wing stated that the pre-bid walk-through would be on October 23rd. Before the walk-through the meeting will convene at the Central Dispatch Center Conference Room. Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on November 5th.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that everyone has a copy of the Executive Committee minutes of the meeting of October 3rd and he will answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

NEW HIRE:

Richard David Sadewasser has been hired as Parks and Recreation Ranger at \$10.18/hr. effective September 23, 2003.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Rhonda McGlothlen, Receptionist/Clerk, will be on medical leave commencing October 13, 2003 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

SEASONAL/TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT:

Debra Lynn Reed to work temporary, part-time for the Sheriff's Department at \$8.00/hr. commencing September 30, 2003.

Marilyn Richardson to work temporary, part-time for the Sheriff's Department at \$7.75/hr. commencing October 15, 2003.

RESIGNATION:

Debra Lynn Reed, temporary part-time, has resigned effective October 6, 2003.

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

REQUISITION

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

Norstar telephone switch with NAM voicemail system and six refurbished replacement phones for the Sheriff's Department. All existing telephones and wiring will be used. \$ 9,560.00

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the requisition be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$35,000.00 from Probate Child Care Appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

DECREASE:

Line item 265-229-941.000 (Contingency) \$ 2,045.00

INCREASE:

Line item 265-229-980.000 (Equipment) \$ 2,045.00

DECREASE:

Line item 101-301-706.130 (Wages – Deputies) \$ 9,560.00

INCREASE:

Line item 101-301-986.000 (Telephone Equipment) \$ 9,560.00

DECREASE REVENUES:

Line item 274-826-502.000 (Community Development Block Grant) \$59,175.00

DECREASE EXPENDITURES:

Line item 274-826-936.000 (Building Contractors Services) \$59,175.00

INCREASE REVENUES:

Line item 274-827-502.005 (HOME Grant) \$43,000.00

Line item 274-827-502.025 (PIP/MSHDA) 10,000.00

Line item 274-827-502.035 (Administration) 5,175.00

Line item 274-827-620.000 (Admin Fee – MSHDA) 900.00

Line item 274-827-627.000 (Services Provided to Public) 100.00

\$59,175.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES:

Line item 274-827-701.000 (Payroll Control) \$ 4,320.00

Line item 274-827-727.000 (Office Supplies) 30.00

Line item 274-827-728.000 (Printing) 30.00

Line item 274-827-729.000 (Postage) 105.00

Line item 274-827-743.000 (Other Supplies) 45.00

Line item 274-827-801.000 (Professional Fees) 3,000.00

Line item 274-827-850.000 (Telephone) 240.00

Line item 274-827-860.000 (Travel Expense) 105.00

Line item 274-827-900.000 (Advertising) 300.00

Line item 274-827-936.000 (Building Contractors Services) 40,000.00

Line item 274-827-936.025 (Building Contractors: PIP/MSHDA) 10,000.00

Line item 274-827-941.000 (Contingency) 1,000.00

\$59,175.00

DECREASE:

Line item 101-149-802.020 (Court Appointed Attorney) \$ 3,647.00

INCREASE:

Line item 101-149-706.060 (Wages – Clerical) \$ 3,205.00

Line item 101-149-715.000 (FICA) 246.00

Line item 101-149-716.100 (Workers' Compensation) 11.00

Line item 101-149-718.010 (Retirement) 185.00

\$ 3,647.00

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

BILLS

Mr. Carey presented the following report:

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Appropriations	\$ 30,500.16	\$
County Commission	492.45	6,045.46
Circuit Court	4,099.55	15,830.65
District Court	2,399.52	60,826.82
Friend of the Court	3,681.41	32,328.93
Jury Commission	99.48	

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Probate Court	\$ 1,388.78	\$ 17,515.25
Juvenile Branch	10,827.01	38,801.74
Appeals Court	731.72	778.47
Administration		7,988.22
Finance Department	1,154.77	10,285.81
County Clerk		20,052.84
Equalization Department	9,500.00	13,684.71
Human Resources	215.00	3,916.82
Geographic Information Systems		6,670.00
Prosecutor's Office	2,769.50	34,449.62
Central Services	8,941.66	4,769.27
Register of Deeds	359.98	10,506.92
Surveyor		107.65
County Treasurer		12,766.84
Cooperative Extension	13,724.77	10,197.96
Data Processing	4,031.65	6,968.76
Buildings & Grounds	3,789.89	13,927.60
Courts Building Security	43.00	4,312.05
Drain Commission		3,537.23
Sheriff Department	11,723.45	114,818.37
Sheriff Reserves	1,062.51	
Marine Patrol	77.68	1,718.62
Jail & Turnkey	21,993.15	93,072.58
Plat Board		161.49
Emergency Services	5,259.21	3,761.24
Animal Control	919.02	8,324.57
Board of Public Works		740.16
Medical Examiners	475.00	
Child Care - Probate	6,028.22	
Department of Veterans' Affairs	630.00	
Veterans Services	230.52	
Utilities & General Services	18,030.64	
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Totals	\$ 165,179.70	\$ 558,866.65
<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
County Road Commission	\$ 534,631.92	\$
Parks & Recreation	1,768.09	8,095.89
Emergency 911 Service	2,951.25	47,571.05
Central Dispatch - Wireless	26,325.00	1,446.82
Meyer Broadway/Coon Hollow Park	670.69	569.31
Friend of the Court	315.00	1,111.42
Family Counseling	1,217.50	
Cade Lake Park	329.25	
State Court - Caseflow Assistance	199.95	
Waste Management Fund		
County Commission	13,501.70	
Resource Recovery Program	19,963.35	731.21
Traffic Safety Program Fund	3,528.01	
Economic Development Fund	328.73	4,761.50
Survey & Remonumentation	437.50	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund		1,888.41

<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Victims' Rights Advocate Fund	\$	\$ 2,679.22
Community Corrections Advisory Board	5,836.67	2,391.61
Community Corrections Program	1,179.10	527.49
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	712.87	
Law Enforcement Fund	446.34	24,708.18
Secondary Road Patrol		8,192.14
Law Library Fund	1,700.05	
Commission on Aging	29,277.40	44,185.55
Family Independence Agency	103,736.93	
Child Care - Probate Court	21,005.63	2,799.41
Child Care - Family Independence Agency	34,655.02	
Veterans' Trust Fund	20.30	
BPW #14 Constantine Village Sewer Construction	4,947.86	
Tax Payment Fund	17,684.19	
Inmate Store	576.44	
Three Rivers Community Center	1,137.15	682.02
COA Gadabouts	674.42	
Long Lake Level Revolving Fund	7.80	
Flexible Benefits Insurance Fund	111,852.42	
Totals	_____	_____
	\$ 941,618.53	\$ 152,341.23
Grand Total		
	\$ 1,106,798.23	\$ 711,207.88
General Fund Operating Expenditures		
Pre-Authorized		
Accounts Payable	\$109,994.01	
	55,185.69	\$ 165,179.70
General Fund Payroll Expenditures		
	\$ 558,866.65	
Other Funds Operating Expenditures		
Pre-authorized		
Accounts Payable	\$886,469.28	
	55,149.25	\$ 941,618.53
Other Funds Payroll Expenditures		152,341.23
Total Recorded for the Month	_____	
	\$ 1,818,006.11	

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Dobberteen thanked Mr. Brazo for speaking tonight.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Loudenslager mentioned that he thought that the bids seemed rather close on the Cade Lake project.

Commissioner Bippus stated that the Executive Committee did discuss this issue at length. He was amazed at how far over the architect's estimate that the bids came in.

Ms. West-Wing stated that the architect stands by his estimates and he wants to talk to the contractors.

Commissioner Loudenslager thanked Mr. Brazo for his comments tonight.

Commissioner Bordner stated that the resolution that was tabled was brought forth because of a caveat that Chairman Dobberteen made in a motion last year about establishing this committee. He suggested that maybe this should be discussed at a work session.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he also noticed that the bids for the construction at Cade Lake were very similar and according to the Executive Committee minutes there was going to be a discussion between the architect and the low bidder to make sure that there was no misunderstanding. Commissioner Shafer stated that because the bids were so close he thought it only fair that the bids be discussed with both bidders to make sure that there was no misunderstanding.

Commissioner Loudenslager agreed that it would be fair to talk to both contractors.

Chairman Dobberteen polled the Commission and 6 agreed that a discussion should be held with both contractors and Commissioner Bordner stated that it is fine with him to talk to both of them as long as it is done with expedience.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he is looking forward to the employee appreciation picnic Friday and is looking forward to seeing the Commissioners there as well.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Brazo stated that according to the parliamentary procedure rules that he knows that the motion that was tabled tonight will be removed from the table at the next meeting.

Discussion followed and it was made clear that there could not be any adjustments in the Commissioners' compensation during their term of office so the next change could not take effect until January 1, 2005.

Dick Sweet asked what the proper protocol was for recalling or impeaching Judge Noecker.

Chairman Dobberteen responded by saying that a judge cannot be recalled or impeached in the State of Michigan. The Judicial Tenure Commission investigates any allegations that there may be.

Mr. Sweet stated that he owns 5 businesses in the County and is very appreciative of the tax base. He was wondering if new businesses are in areas where the property is zoned properly and whether or not the businesses are assessed appropriately.

Mark Clute, Deputy Equalization Director, stated that all properties and assessments are located on their web site for anyone to peruse. He stated that the local assessors have the responsibility to assess property correctly and the local unit of government also regulates zoning.

Mr. Clute further stated that the Equalization Department annually reviews and examines the rolls to see if new properties and businesses are assessed properly for real and personal property.

He wanted to emphasize that assessing and zoning are 2 separate local issues.

Chairman Dobberteen suggested that Mr. Sweet contact the local units of government with his specific questions.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until October 21, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

John L. Dobberteen, Chairman