

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 16, 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
Monte Bordner	David J. Pueschel
John Dobberteen	

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the minutes for October 2, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, October 5 and October 12, 2007.
2. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on October 10 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Lakeland Paper Corporation.
3. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on October 24 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Abbott Nutrition and Parma Tube Corp.
4. Letter from the Village of Constantine, Re: Notice of public hearing on October 15 to consider an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Vaupell Midwest Molding and Tooling.
5. Letter from Indiana Michigan Power Company, Re: Notice of hearing on October 23, to consider their application for approval of capacity charges associated with a power purchase agreement with Fowler Ridge Wind Farm, LLC.
6. Copy of letter from Community Health Agency to State of Michigan, Office of Long Term Care, Re: Changes to the Southwest Michigan Long-Term Care Connection project.
7. Resolution from Tuscola County, Re: Opposing cuts in State budget to Department of Human Services.
8. Resolution from Tuscola County, Re: Opposing House Bill 811 (elections).
9. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of September 17, 2007.
10. Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy's newsletter – Autumn 2007.

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION

Chairman Baker asked each Commissioner to come down and stand in front to greet each employee as their names are called. They will be presented with a pin recognizing them for their years of service:

The following persons were called and those with an asterisk (*) were present to receive their award:

<u>10 Years:</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>
*Chad Spence, Road Patrol Sergeant	1/07/97
Mason Stratton, Corrections Officer	5/27/97
*Gloria Tate, Accounting Clerk	7/15/97
*Alice Kielau, Family Division Caseworker	8/11/97
Karla Andaverde, District Court Deputy Clerk	9/02/97
Michael Pahl, Custodian	9/08/97
*Kathy Griffin, Circuit Court Caseflow Manager	9/23/97
Pat Ellis, District Court Deputy Clerk	10/06/97

<u>15 Years:</u>	
Sue Eickhoff, Judicial Secretary	1/06/92
Eric VanHeukelum, Corrections Sergeant	7/28/92
Martha Taylor, Shift Supervisor	8/05/92
Keli Bazant, Telecommunicator	8/11/92
Susan Cook, Shift Supervisor	8/11/92
Doug Kuhlman, Telecommunicator	8/11/92
Cynthia Labencki, Senior Probation Clerk	12/23/92

<u>20 Years:</u>	
Larry Diekman, Corrections Officer	1/06/87
Terry Hammond, Corrections Sergeant	1/06/87
Dan Kennedy, Road Patrol Officer	1/06/87
Tab Wedge, District Court Administrator	9/01/87
*Pat Kulikowski, Executive Secretary	9/08/87
*Tom Miller, Animal Control Director	10/13/87

<u>25 Years:</u>	
*Judy West-Wing, County Administrator	9/15/82
*Dennis Allen, Undersheriff	11/02/82

<u>30 Years:</u>	
*Jody Dobrowolski, Family Division Register	2/14/77

<u>35 Years:</u>	
*Margaret (Muggs) Davenport, Animal Control Secretary and Microfilm Operator	9/15/72

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Chairman Baker read the following statement:

“As Tracy Monroe has retained legal counsel, the County’s legal counsel has advised us to not discuss this matter. Therefore, we are unable to respond to any questions or comments pertaining to this matter. Thank you.”

Joni Kelley, 24080 E. M-86, Sturgis read a prepared statement regarding the Tracy Monroe employment issue. She stated that she was disappointed and embarrassed that the Board of Commissioners supported the administration’s decision to terminate Tracy Monroe.

Tracy Monroe, 103 Shirley Avenue, White Pigeon requested that the Board vote to reinstate her position with the same seniority and pay. She would appreciate their consideration.

Deb Shippey, 18464 S. Fisher Lake Road, Three Rivers stated that she supports the Monroe family’s request to reinstate Tracy. She believes that there is good in all of us and the Board should allow co-workers to donate their time. She stated that the co-workers of Mr. Monroe at Armstrong’s in Three Rivers have donated their time to him so that he may have time off.

Holly Gregory, 18136 M-86, Three Rivers and Kathy Hempel, 18030 M-86, Three Rivers presented petitions containing 608 signatures requesting that the Board of Commissioners put the Tracy Monroe issue on the agenda and vote to reinstate her position and insurance.

Mary Vargo, 11324 N. Horseshoe Drive, Three Rivers stated that she has been an attendance coordinator for 2,000 employees therefore has experience in employee issues. She knows Rondi Beckwith, a former County employee who was diagnosed with a brain tumor, and the Board of Commissioners allowed other employees to donate sick time to her. Mrs. Vargo stated that with that issue a precedent was set and the Board should reconsider their attendance policy in regards to Tracy Monroe.

SECTION FOUR DRAIN

David Hassenger, Drain Commissioner, stated that two weeks ago the Board tabled the Section Four Drain Resolution and some of the Commissioners' questions have been answered. Some visited the site. The resolution has been slightly modified from two weeks ago and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Commissioner Shafer read the following modified resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-2007

SECTION FOUR DRAIN
RESOLUTION TO REMOVE OBSTRUCTION
PURSUANT TO MCL 280.1 et seq

WHEREAS, the Section Four Drain is a legally established County Drain; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the Section Four Drain is located on property owned by 4YN, LLC (Monroe Learn and Vicki Learn); and

WHEREAS, the physical condition of the property has caused an obstruction of the Section Four Drain; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner, on behalf of the Section Four Drain, has a responsibility to ensure that the Drain is working properly as originally designed; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner also has a responsibility to protect the Drainage District from liabilities; and

WHEREAS, Section 421 of the Michigan Drain Code (MCL 280.421) provides that it is the duty of the Drain Commissioner to cause an obstruction of a legally established drain to be removed; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the authority of Section 421, the St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner has requested in writing that the property owner(s) remove the obstruction from the Section Four Drain; however, such obstruction has not been removed; and

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners understands it may become expedient to have the obstruction from the Section Four Drain removed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board of Commissioners hereby supports the Drain Commissioner's efforts to remedy the problem and/or to remove the obstruction from the Section Four Drain, should negotiations reach an impasse, as determined by the Drain Commissioner.
2. The Board of Commissioners has been informed and understands that should this be done the costs associated with this removal will be significant, and directs that the costs of the removal shall become a lien against the property owned by 4YN, LLC (Monroe Learn and Vicki Learn), as provided by MCL 280.421.
3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as the same may be in conflict herewith are hereby rescinded.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the resolution be adopted and 2nd reading waived.

Monroe Learn, 503 W. Michigan Avenue, Three Rivers stated that there is no obstruction to the drain and the pump is working. The Department of Environmental Quality is happy and they are working towards a resolution of the issue. He would like the resolution defeated. The drain has been in operation for over 30 years and there has never been a breach.

Vicki Learn, 503 W. Michigan Avenue, Three Rivers stated that there was no obstruction, everyone is happy, the pump is in place and the attorneys are working together. There were some issues with the 421 Agreement and she would like more than one person (the Drain Commissioner) in control of the situation.

Fred Shoup, 1115 Forest Drive, Portage, Attorney for the Learns, said that this resolution is premature because they are working on the agreement. There is no crisis and the pumps are running. There is currently no adverse impact on any property. He would like all Commissioners to view the site. He believes that the resolution is worded incorrectly by making the Learns financially responsible. There is misinformation on how this drain works. The level can go to 827' but it does not have to. The Commissioners need to be clear on who pays for this. He asked that the Learns receive notices and an opportunity to speak.

Joe Eichorn, 55919 Buckhorn Road, Park Township Supervisor, stated that there has not been much time spent on this issue and would like the Board to wait and resolve the 421 Agreement.

Lewis Mattheis, 19112 Mint Road, Three Rivers stated that the Board should consider the property owners that are affected by this drain.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he has spent several months on this issue. He has thought about it a lot and has been at the site. He said that everyone needs to be environmentally sensitive. If the water level is lowered the beauty of the area will be lost. He believes that it is important to maintain the drain at 833'. The impact on all constituents must be considered. The neighbors to the south are okay with maintaining the drain at 833'.

He further stated that in 2004 when the Learns were prospective buyers that they knew that they were liable. He has read the most recent 421 Agreement and maintaining wetlands should not be at a cost of other constituents.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that this matter be tabled.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 3 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager and Pueschel.

Nay votes cast: 4 - Commissioners Dunlap, Baker, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Motion defeated.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that he visited the site and this is a very complicated issue. The latest agreement doesn't require removal of the obstruction and the pumping will still occur. He believes it to be a reasonable agreement and the property owners may have to battle it out in court. This resolution gets the citizens of St. Joseph County off the hook.

Commissioner Bordner stated that the Learns have known about this issue for 3 years and that there was a deed restriction on the property when they purchased it and last week they finally hired an attorney. Commissioner Bordner is worried about their intent. They have a good attorney and this resolution, if adopted, does not prohibit them continuing to work on an agreement. Let's put this to bed and let the Drain Commissioner proceed.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that he talked to Mr. Eichorn, has visited the site and the agreement would answer all questions. He would hate to see the agreement be approved in a couple of weeks and then this resolution would not have been needed.

Commissioner Pueschel agrees with Commissioner Loudenslager's statement.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows to adopt the resolution and waive 2nd reading:

Aye votes cast: 4 - Commissioners Dunlap, Baker, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 3 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager and Pueschel.

Resolution adopted.

2007 APPORTIONMENT REPORT

Judy Nelson, Equalization Director, requested approval of the 2007 Apportionment Report.

Ms. West-Wing stated that she has been in a several week’s discussion with Judy Nelson, Phyllis Bainbridge and Doug Fisher concerning a levy for the Village of White Pigeon of .8023 for a 2006 shortage. Apparently the Village of White Pigeon has not been levying what was authorized for many years. An error was made several years ago and the Equalization Department agrees that an error was made.

Ms. West-Wing stated that Doug Fisher, the Prosecutor, said that it is unlawful to levy this shortage at this time. It can be levied at the next time that Village levies are made which would be in July of 2008. It is not this December which it would be if this report is adopted as presented.

Mr. Fisher advised that this correction could be made at Board of Review or through the Tax Tribunal.

Ms. West-Wing recommended that the Board of Commissioners adopt the 2007 Apportionment Report removing the .8023 shortage for the Village of White Pigeon.

Mrs. Nelson stated that the Apportionment Report can be amended if adopted as presented. She stated that the County has spent a lot of money in the past 10 years for her to learn the tax law and she believes that this is a lawful levy. She said that there is no set time for tax bills to be sent, they can go out all year long. She believes that the only limit is that they must be sent within the fiscal year. A copy of the State Tax Commission – Bulletin No. 1 of 2007 regarding millage requests and rollbacks was distributed to the Commissioners and she has talked to 3 members of the Tax Commission regarding this issue.

Following is the 2007 Apportionment Report:

UNIT	STATE	TAXABLE	MILLAGES	EXTRA VOTED		DOLLARS OF AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED
	EQUALIZED			ALLOCATED	OPERATING	
	VALUE	VALUE				
St. Joseph County	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341	4.5482			\$7,934,809.46
E-911	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341		0.7500		\$1,308,453.26
Comm. on Aging	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341		0.7500		\$1,308,453.26
Road Maintenance	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341		0.9932		\$1,732,741.03
Transportation Auth.	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341		0.3300		\$575,719.43
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,356,719,789	\$1,744,604,341	4.5482	2.8232		\$12,860,176.44

Sturgis District Lib.	\$550,292,120	\$459,011,764	1.1000			\$504,912.94
Fawn River, Sturgis, Sherman Townships, Sturgis City						
GRAND TOTAL	\$550,292,120	\$459,011,764	1.1000			\$504,912.94

UNIT	STATE	TAXABLE	MILLAGES	EXTRA VOTED		DOLLARS OF AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED
	EQUALIZED			ALLOCATED	OPERATING	
	VALUE	VALUE				
TOWNSHIPS						
Burr Oak	\$81,938,100	\$54,409,920	0.9218			\$50,155.06
Colon	\$132,964,400	\$87,617,920	0.9013	3.2928	0.8000	Lib/Fire Amb/FB \$437,572.65
Constantine	\$145,028,700	\$116,931,679	0.9452	0.9452		Library \$221,047.65
Fabius	\$232,944,500	\$143,876,227	0.0000			\$0.00
Fawn River	\$48,046,385	\$33,012,351	0.0000			\$0.00

UNIT	STATE	TAXABLE	MILLAGES			EXTRA VOTED	PURPOSE	DOLLARS OF AD VALOREM TAXES LEVIED
	EQUALIZED		VALUE	ALLOCATED	OPERATING			
TOWNSHIPS								
Florence	\$54,648,000	\$34,114,260	0.9357					\$31,920.71
Flowerfield	\$74,005,586	\$45,959,868	0.9221					\$42,379.59
Leonidas	\$55,195,200	\$32,055,239	0.9194	3.0511		Fire/Amb.		\$127,275.33
Lockport	\$129,551,600	\$97,143,741	0.9019					\$87,613.94
Mendon	\$109,192,683	\$78,274,191	0.9726	2.5300		Lib/Fire/Amb		\$274,163.18
Mottville	\$62,394,900	\$49,523,200	0.9521					\$47,151.04
Nottawa	\$170,142,200	\$111,599,526	0.8702	1.6351		Library		\$279,590.29
Park	\$135,413,100	\$98,108,773	0.9587					\$94,056.88
Sherman	\$147,156,035	\$107,972,941	0.5000					\$53,986.47
Sturgis	\$65,544,000	\$50,929,982	0.0000					\$0.00
White Pigeon	\$206,863,700	\$154,257,960	0.9203	1.8574		Library/Fire		\$428,482.34
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,851,029,089	\$1,295,787,778						\$2,175,395.13
CITIES								
Sturgis	\$289,545,700	\$267,096,490	10.0285	0.0000	0.0000			\$2,678,577.15
Three Rivers	\$216,145,000	\$181,720,073	11.4253	6.9809	0.0000	Lib/SW/Amb.		\$3,344,776.01
Three Rivers DDA*		\$5,662,102		1.9167	0.0000			\$10,852.55
*DDA Values are a part of the unit SEV/taxable and are not therefore part of the grand totals for SEV/taxable								
GRAND TOTAL	\$505,690,700	\$448,816,563						\$6,034,205.71
VILLAGES								
Burr Oak	\$12,464,600	\$9,604,420	11.2589	3.5000		Mun.Hwy.		\$141,750.67
Centreville	\$31,609,600	\$23,364,232	12.2461					\$286,120.72
Colon	\$35,554,700	\$26,813,091	11.1065	3.5120		Fire/Amb.		\$391,967.17
Constantine	\$59,990,100	\$53,103,527	10.5000		4.4500	Sewer/Water		\$793,897.73
Mendon	\$33,676,983	\$30,425,573	9.1643					\$278,829.08
White Pigeon	\$32,672,100	\$27,927,302	9.9484	0.8023		(2006 shortage)		\$300,238.05
TOTAL VILLAGES	\$205,968,083	\$171,238,145						\$2,192,803.42
GRAND TOTAL LEVY - ALL LOCAL UNITS								
								\$23,262,580.70

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	TOTAL NONHOME TAXABLE*	TOTAL TAXABLE DEBT	STATE OP MILLS	LOCAL	DEBT MILLS	TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	COMMENTS
					SCHOOL OP MILLS			
ATHENS AREA SCHOOLS								
Leonidas	\$231,772	\$6,900	\$231,772	6.0000	18.0000	4.2500	\$2,499.86	
TOTAL	\$231,772	\$6,900	\$231,772	6.0000	18.0000	4.2500	\$2,499.86	
MARCELLUS SCHOOLS								
Flowerfield	\$5,140,044	\$978,969	\$5,140,044	6.0000	18.0000	5.9900	\$79,250.57	
TOTAL	\$5,140,044	\$978,969	\$5,140,044	6.0000	18.0000	5.9900	\$79,250.57	
VICKSBURG SCHOOLS								
Leonidas	\$1,064,128	\$96,783	\$1,064,128	6.0000	17.7517	4.6700	\$13,072.31	
Mendon	\$4,367,480	\$1,614,378	\$4,367,480	6.0000	17.7517	4.6700	\$75,258.97	
Park	\$6,584,813	\$730,243	\$6,584,813	6.0000	17.7517	4.6700	\$83,223.01	
Park	\$89,611	\$10,100	\$0	6.0000	17.7517	0.0000	\$716.96	Vicks Op/ Men Debt
TOTAL	\$12,106,032	\$2,451,504	\$12,016,421	6.0000	17.7517	4.6700	\$172,271.25	
BRONSON SCHOOLS								
Burr Oak	\$50,939	\$3,823	\$50,939	6.0000	17.7264	0.0000	\$373.40	
TOTAL	\$50,939	\$3,823	\$50,939	6.0000	17.7264	0.0000	\$373.40	

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	TOTAL NONHOME TAXABLE*	TOTAL TAXABLE DEBT	STATE OP MILLS	LOCAL SCHOOL OP MILLS	DEBT MILLS	TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	COMMENTS
NOTTAWA SCHOOLS								
Burr Oak	\$380,147	\$43,000	\$380,147	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$3,054.88	
Colon	\$1,766,949	\$281,583	\$1,766,949	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$15,670.19	
Nottawa	\$43,713,242	\$15,875,091	\$43,713,242	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$548,031.09	
Sherman	\$6,793,125	\$2,391,271	\$6,793,125	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$83,801.63	
TOTAL	\$52,653,463	\$18,590,945	\$52,653,463	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$650,557.79	
STURGIS SCHOOLS								
Burr Oak	\$19,416,017	\$2,782,666	\$19,416,017	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$328,649.32	
Fawn River	\$33,012,351	\$6,256,167	\$33,012,351	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$585,674.70	
Sherman	\$54,130,896	\$11,150,056	\$54,130,896	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$976,061.50	
Sturgis Twp.	\$50,929,982	\$17,402,692	\$50,929,982	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$1,040,202.94	
Sturgis City	\$267,096,490	\$171,471,228	\$267,096,490	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$6,869,244.35	
TOTAL	\$424,585,736	\$209,062,809	\$424,585,736	6.0000	17.6301	8.4000	\$9,799,832.81	
BURR OAK SCHOOLS								
Burr Oak	\$31,370,347	\$7,291,593	\$31,370,347	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$319,470.76	
Colon	\$1,995,264	\$799,235	\$1,995,264	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$26,357.81	
Sherman	\$3,900	\$3,900	\$3,900	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$93.60	
TOTAL	\$33,369,511	\$8,094,728	\$33,369,511	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$345,922.17	
CENTREVILLE SCHOOLS								
Florence	\$14,007,129	\$1,642,803	\$14,007,129	6.0000	18.0000	4.3000	\$173,843.88	
Lockport	\$22,378,513	\$4,198,160	\$22,378,513	6.0000	18.0000	4.3000	\$306,065.56	
Nottawa	\$55,172,708	\$17,777,839	\$55,172,708	6.0000	18.0000	4.3000	\$888,279.99	
Sherman	\$46,904,003	\$13,643,326	\$46,904,003	6.0000	18.0000	4.3000	\$728,691.10	
TOTAL	\$138,462,353	\$37,262,128	\$138,462,353	6.0000	18.0000	4.3000	\$2,096,880.53	
COLON SCHOOLS								
Burr Oak	\$3,192,470	\$650,489	\$3,192,470	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$30,863.62	
Colon	\$83,503,528	\$32,883,328	\$83,503,528	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$1,092,921.07	
Leonidas	\$29,123,373	\$4,503,589	\$29,123,373	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$255,804.84	
Nottawa	\$2,642,572	\$315,900	\$2,642,572	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$21,541.63	
TOTAL	\$118,461,943	\$38,353,306	\$118,461,943	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$1,401,131.16	
CONSTANTINE SCHOOLS								
Constantine	\$112,304,540	\$58,239,392	\$112,304,540	6.0000	17.2302	6.7500	\$2,435,359.26	
Fabius	\$152,853	\$104,580	\$152,853	6.0000	17.2302	6.7500	\$3,750.81	
Florence	\$10,844,630	\$1,523,840	\$10,844,630	6.0000	17.2302	6.7500	\$164,525.10	
Mottville	\$9,587,649	\$1,756,848	\$9,587,649	6.0000	17.2302	6.7500	\$152,513.37	
TOTAL	\$132,889,672	\$61,624,660	\$132,889,672	6.0000	17.2302	6.7500	\$2,756,148.54	
MENDON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS								
Colon	\$352,179	\$100	\$352,179	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$4,580.13	
Leonidas	\$1,635,966	\$119,743	\$1,635,966	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$23,422.93	
Lockport	\$934,217	\$118,771	\$934,217	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$14,282.70	
Mendon	\$73,906,711	\$32,076,527	\$73,906,711	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$1,538,164.73	
Nottawa	\$10,071,004	\$2,021,239	\$10,071,004	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$167,305.35	
Park	\$28,526,636	\$11,483,475	\$28,526,636	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$577,548.82	
Park	\$0	\$0	\$89,611	0.0000	0.0000	7.0000	\$627.28	Vicks-Op Men-Debt
TOTAL	\$115,426,713	\$45,819,855	\$115,516,324	6.0000	18.0000	7.0000	\$2,325,931.94	

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	TOTAL NONHOME TAXABLE*	TOTAL TAXABLE DEBT	STATE OP MILLS	LOCAL SCHOOL OP MILLS	DEBT MILLS	TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	COMMENTS
WHITE PIGEON SCHOOLS								
Constantine	\$878,347	\$246,381	\$878,347	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$9,704.94	
Florence	\$5,286,126	\$747,345	\$5,286,126	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$45,168.97	
Mottville	\$39,935,551	\$18,446,037	\$39,935,551	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$571,641.97	
Sherman	\$141,017	\$0	\$141,017	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$846.10	
White Pigeon	\$154,257,960	\$75,737,604	\$154,257,960	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$2,288,824.63	
TOTAL	\$200,499,001	\$95,177,367	\$200,499,001	6.0000	18.0000	0.0000	\$2,916,186.61	
THREE RIVERS SCHOOLS								
Constantine	\$3,748,792	\$449,543	\$3,748,792	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$53,621.39	
Fabius	\$143,723,374	\$59,310,440	\$143,723,374	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$2,811,424.84	
Florence	\$3,976,375	\$844,501	\$3,976,375	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$63,479.77	
Flowerfield	\$40,819,824	\$9,318,650	\$40,819,824	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$663,319.16	
Lockport	\$73,831,011	\$17,898,679	\$73,831,011	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$1,218,498.11	
Park	\$62,907,713	\$22,070,707	\$62,907,713	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$1,160,707.58	
Three Rivers	\$181,720,073	\$126,857,777	\$181,720,073	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$4,486,201.13	
TOTAL	\$510,727,162	\$236,750,297	\$510,727,162	6.0000	17.9595	6.1500	\$10,457,251.98	
SCHOOLS GRAND TOTAL								
	\$1,744,604,341	\$754,177,291	\$1,744,604,341				\$33,004,238.61	

>Cities of Three Rivers and Sturgis for Three Rivers School and Sturgis School only, levy 50% summer and 50% winter millage rates, report indicates the total authorized.

* Homestead/non-homestead taxable values are as reported on or before May 5, 2007

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	ISD OP MILLS	ISD OP LEVY	SPEC ED MILLS	SPEC ED LEVY	TOTAL ISD LEVY
BRANCH COUNTY INTERMEDIATE						
Burr Oak	\$50,939	0.1716	\$8.74	8.0345	\$409.27	\$418.01
GRAND TOTAL	\$50,939	0.1716	\$8.74	8.0345	\$409.27	\$418.01
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY INTERMEDIATE						
Burr Oak	\$54,358,981	0.2283	\$12,410.16	2.4554	\$133,473.04	\$145,883.20
Colon	\$87,617,920	0.2283	\$20,003.17	2.4554	\$215,137.04	\$235,140.21
Constantine	\$116,931,679	0.2283	\$26,695.50	2.4554	\$287,114.04	\$313,809.54
Fabius	\$143,876,227	0.2283	\$32,846.94	2.4554	\$353,273.69	\$386,120.63
Fawn River	\$33,012,351	0.2283	\$7,536.72	2.4554	\$81,058.53	\$88,595.25
Florence	\$34,114,260	0.2283	\$7,788.29	2.4554	\$83,764.15	\$91,552.44
Flowerfield	\$40,819,824	0.2283	\$9,319.17	2.4554	\$100,229.00	\$109,548.17
Leonidas	\$30,759,339	0.2283	\$7,022.36	2.4554	\$75,526.48	\$82,548.84
Lockport	\$97,143,741	0.2283	\$22,177.92	2.4554	\$238,526.74	\$260,704.66
Mendon	\$73,906,711	0.2283	\$16,872.90	2.4554	\$181,470.54	\$198,343.44
Mottville	\$49,523,200	0.2283	\$11,306.15	2.4554	\$121,599.27	\$132,905.42
Nottawa	\$111,599,526	0.2283	\$25,478.17	2.4554	\$274,021.48	\$299,499.65
Park	\$91,434,349	0.2283	\$20,874.46	2.4554	\$224,507.90	\$245,382.36
Sherman	\$107,972,941	0.2283	\$24,650.22	2.4554	\$265,116.76	\$289,766.98
Sturgis	\$50,929,982	0.2283	\$11,627.31	2.4554	\$125,053.48	\$136,680.79
White Pigeon	\$154,257,960	0.2283	\$35,217.09	2.4554	\$378,764.99	\$413,982.08
Sturgis City	\$267,096,490	0.2283	\$60,978.13	2.4554	\$655,828.72	\$716,806.85
Three Rivers	\$181,720,073	0.2283	\$41,486.69	2.4554	\$446,195.47	\$487,682.16
GRAND TOTAL	\$1,727,075,554	0.2283	\$394,291.35	2.4554	\$4,240,661.32	\$4,634,952.67

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	ISD OP MILLS	ISD OP LEVY	SPEC ED MILLS	SPEC ED LEVY	TOTAL ISD LEVY
LEWIS-CASS INTERMEDIATE						
Flowerfield	\$5,140,044	0.2040	\$1,048.57	2.0429	\$10,500.60	\$11,549.17
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,140,044	0.2040	\$1,048.57	2.0429	\$10,500.60	\$11,549.17
CALHOUN COUNTY INTERMEDIATE						
Leonidas	\$231,772	0.2519	\$58.38	5.9555	\$1,380.32	\$1,438.70
GRAND TOTAL	\$231,772	0.2519	\$58.38	5.9555	\$1,380.32	\$1,438.70
KALAMAZOO VALLEY INTERMEDIATE						
Leonidas	\$1,064,128	0.1446	\$153.87	4.3970	\$4,678.97	\$4,832.84
Mendon	\$4,367,480	0.1446	\$631.54	4.3970	\$19,203.81	\$19,835.35
Park	\$6,674,424	0.1446	\$965.12	4.3970	\$29,347.44	\$30,312.56
GRAND TOTAL	\$12,106,032	0.1446	\$1,750.53	4.3970	53,230.22	54,980.75
GRAND TOTAL INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS						
	\$1,744,604,341		\$397,157.57		\$4,306,181.73	\$4,703,339.30

UNIT	TOTAL TAXABLE	OP MILLS	OPERATING LEVY	DEBT MILLS	DEBT LEVY	TOTAL COLLEGE LEVY
GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE						
Burr Oak	\$54,358,981	2.7249	\$148,122.79	0.0000	\$0.00	\$148,122.79
Colon	\$87,617,920	2.7249	\$238,750.07	0.0000	\$0.00	\$238,750.07
Constantine	\$116,931,679	2.7249	\$318,627.13	0.0000	\$0.00	\$318,627.13
Fabius	\$143,876,227	2.7249	\$392,048.33	0.0000	\$0.00	\$392,048.33
Fawn River	\$33,012,351	2.7249	\$89,955.36	0.0000	\$0.00	\$89,955.36
Florence	\$34,114,260	2.7249	\$92,957.95	0.0000	\$0.00	\$92,957.95
Flowerfield	\$40,819,824	2.7249	\$111,229.94	0.0000	\$0.00	\$111,229.94
Leonidas	\$30,759,339	2.7249	\$83,816.12	0.0000	\$0.00	\$83,816.12
Lockport	\$97,143,741	2.7249	\$264,706.98	0.0000	\$0.00	\$264,706.98
Mendon	\$73,906,711	2.7249	\$201,388.40	0.0000	\$0.00	\$201,388.40
Mottville	\$49,523,200	2.7249	\$134,945.77	0.0000	\$0.00	\$134,945.77
Nottawa	\$111,599,526	2.7249	\$304,097.55	0.0000	\$0.00	\$304,097.55
Park	\$91,434,349	2.7249	\$249,149.46	0.0000	\$0.00	\$249,149.46
Sherman	\$107,972,941	2.7249	\$294,215.47	0.0000	\$0.00	\$294,215.47
Sturgis	\$50,929,982	2.7249	\$138,779.11	0.0000	\$0.00	\$138,779.11
White Pigeon	\$154,257,960	2.7249	\$420,337.52	0.0000	\$0.00	\$420,337.52
Sturgis City	\$267,096,490	2.7249	\$727,811.23	0.0000	\$0.00	\$727,811.23
Three Rivers	\$181,720,073	2.7249	\$495,169.03	0.0000	\$0.00	\$495,169.03
TOTAL	\$1,727,075,554	2.7249	\$4,706,108.21	0.0000	\$0.00	\$4,706,108.21
KELLOGG COMMUNITY COLLEGE						
Leonidas	\$231,772	3.7106	\$860.01	0.0000	\$0.00	\$860.01
GRAND TOTAL	\$231,772	3.7106	\$860.01	0.0000	\$0.00	\$860.01
KALAMAZOO VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE						
Leonidas	\$1,064,128	2.8135	\$2,993.92	0.0000	\$0.00	\$2,993.92
Mendon	\$4,367,480	2.8135	\$12,287.90	0.0000	\$0.00	\$12,287.90
Park	\$6,674,424	2.8135	\$18,778.49	0.0000	\$0.00	\$18,778.49
GRAND TOTAL	\$12,106,032	2.8135	\$34,060.31	0.0000	\$0.00	\$34,060.31
GRAND TOTAL COMMUNITY COLLEGES						
	\$1,739,413,358		\$4,741,028.53		\$0.00	\$4,741,028.53

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that he does not appreciate getting information at the last minute and made a motion to approve the Apportionment Report removing the .8023 from the Village of White Pigeon, Commissioner Shafer supported the motion.

Ms. West-Wing asked Mrs. Nelson if the Apportionment Report could be amended. Mrs. Nelson responded in the affirmative.

Commissioners Dobberteen and Shafer amended their motion to state that the 2007 Apportionment Report be adopted as presented; the Administrator is to get a legal opinion from a tax expert; and that the report may be amended at the next meeting.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Report adopted.

Mrs. Nelson apologized for bringing supporting information to the Board tonight.

ANNUAL CHILD CARE FUND PLAN AND BUDGET

Probate Judge Thomas Shumaker and Terry Evans and Cisco Ortiz from the Juvenile Branch along with Chris Kadulski from the Department of Human Services were present to present the Annual Child Care Fund Plan and Budget.

Judge Shumaker stated that it is pretty much the same as last year's plan and budget. They are also trying to get some grant funding for trainings. There was a shortfall this year, but the Board approved a budget amendment.

Mr. Kadulski stated that they try to stay within their budget and he thanked the Board of Commissioners for their support.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the Annual Child Care Fund Plan and Budget be adopted.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Plan and Budget adopted.

MSHDA GRANT AMENDMENT

Ms. West-Wing stated that we are requesting that the time period to spend the Community Development Block Grant monies be extended to December 2008.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the MSHDA Grant Amendment be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR 2008 BUDGET

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Public Hearing for the 2008 Budget be set for November 6, 2007 at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried.

2008 SALARIES FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Ms. West-Wing stated that 2008 Salaries for Elected Officials have to be set by November 1st. They may be raised but not lowered. The following recommended salaries for 2008 are the same as 2007:

SALARIES FOR ELECTED POSITIONS
2007 Wages - Subject to Change for 2008

County Clerk	\$55,190.00
Prosecuting Attorney	\$83,986.00
Register of Deeds	\$51,113.00
County Treasurer	\$52,791.00
Sheriff	\$66,286.00

It is expected that those occupying the above positions will work a 40-hour week.

Drain Commissioner (28 hours/week)	\$32,942.00
County Commissioners	\$ 7,200.00*
*Includes regular and special Board meetings Per Diem - \$50/half day and \$95/full day	

Effective January 1, 2007 all regular and part-time employees scheduled 20 hours/week or more and that receive other specified benefits on a prorate basis, and county commissioners, have access to the County provided health, dental, and optical insurance program provided they pay 100% of the premium cost.

NOTE:
Compensation (wages & fringes) for the members of the Board of Commissioners must be set prior to December 31st for the new term beginning January 1st. Once set, compensation cannot be decreased or increased during the 2 year term of office (January 1st through December 31st). (MCL 46.415, Sec 15(3); PA 261 of 1966 as amended.)

All other elected official salaries must be set by the Board no later than November 1st of each year. They can be increased after this point, but not decreased. The only time elected officials' wages can be decreased is by November 1st before the new term begins. Terms are 4 years (January 1st through December 31st). (MCL 45.421, Sec 1(1); PA 154 of 1879 as amended.)

Elected officials' annual wages are paid by dividing the annual salary by the number of pay periods in that year.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the 2008 Salaries for Elected Officials be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

INCREASE UNINSURED MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT CAP

Ms. West-Wing explained that the Uninsured Medical Reimbursement Cap has always been at \$2,000 and she is recommending that the cap be increased to \$2,500.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Uninsured Medical Reimbursement Cap be increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Dunlap, Baker, Bordner, Pueschel and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Department of Human Services Board

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that Betty Taylor be nominated and appointed to the Department of Human Services Board for a 3 year term which will expire October 31, 2010. Motion carried.

Workforce Development Board

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Shafer that David Allen, Cathi Annis, Barry Visel and Casey Putnam be nominated and appointed to the Workforce Development Board for a 2 year term which will expire December 31, 2009. Motion carried.

Human Services Commission

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that SuEllen Headley be nominated and appointed to the Human Services Commission. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

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

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Judiciary Committee met on October 10th and everyone has a copy of the minutes and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that everyone has a copy of the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 12th and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Investment Advisory Committee

Commissioner Dunlap stated that the Investment Advisory Committee met today and there is a touch of a drop in interest yield on CDs. The County Treasurer is doing a good job and everything is in order.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Stacey Bower will change from part-time to full-time Telecommunicator at \$13.99/hr. effective October 17, 2007.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

INCREASE GENERAL FUND REVENUES:

Line item 101-716-403.000 (Current Property Tax – Real Estate) \$ 480,868.00

DECREASE GENERAL FUND REVENUES:

Line item 101-390-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance) \$ 480,868.00

INCREASE JUVENILE DIVISION’S BUDGET:

Line item 101-149-862.000 (Employee Training) \$ 1,000.00

DECREASE JUVENILE DIVISION’S BUDGET:

Line item 101-149-718.010 (Retirement) \$ 1,000.00

INCREASE JUVENILE DIVISION’S BUDGET:

Line item 101-149-805.000 (Transcripts) \$ 6,047.00

DECREASE JUVENILE DIVISION’S BUDGET:

Line item 101-149-718.010 (Retirement) \$ 6,047.00

INCREASE REVENUES EDC FUND #244:

Line item 244-728-580.900 (Contributions from Local Units) \$ 2,500.00

Line item 244-728-699.000 (Operating Transfers In) 7,500.00

\$ 10,000.00

DECREASE EXPENDITURES EDC FUND #244:

Line item 244-728-941.000 (Contingency) \$ 4,766.00

INCREASE EXPENDITURES EDC FUND #244:

Line item 244-728-706.100 (Wages – Assistants) \$ 12,978.00

Line item 244-728-715.000 (FICA) 993.00

Line item 244-728-716.020 (Sick & Accident) 72.00

Line item 244-728-716.100 (Workers’ Compensation) 65.00

Line item 244-728-717.000 (Life Insurance) 10.00

Line item 244-728-718.010 (Retirement – Employer) 298.00

Line item 244-728-721.010 (Opt Out Waiver) 350.00

\$ 14,766.00

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 – 6 half days 9/19, 9/27, 9/28, 10/10 x 2, 10/12/07 & 2 full days 9/26 & 9/27/07 \$ 490.00

Monte Bordner – 16 half days 8/22, 8/28, 8/29, 8/31, 9/11 x 2, 9/13 x 2, 9/21, 9/27, 9/28, 10/4, 1,275.00

10/9 x 2, 10/12, 10/15/07 & 5 full day 8/27, 9/14, 9/24, 9/26 & 10/15/07

John Dobberteen – 12 half days 9/25, 9/26, 9/28, 10/2, 10/9 x 2, 10/10, 10/11, 10/12 x 2 & 10/15/07 x 2	\$ 600.00
Michael Dunlap – 6 half days 9/14 10/2, 10/3, 10/9, 10/10 & 10/16/07	300.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 5 half days 9/25, 10/2, 10/10/07 x 3	250.00
David Pueschel – 5 half days 9/20, 9/26, 9/27, 9/28 & 10/9/07 & 1 full day 10/11/07	345.00
Eric Shafer – 8 half days 9/18, 9/19, 9/26, 9/27, 9/28, 10/9, 10/10 & 10/12/07	<u>400.00</u>
	\$3,660.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 232.32
Monte Bordner	385.09
John Dobberteen	50.44
Michael Dunlap	77.12
Gerald Loudenslager	38.32
David Pueschel	<u>88.27</u>
	\$ 871.56

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
September	\$ 1,383,692	\$ 1,017,622
Year to Date	10,579,867	10,118,048
Period Fund Balance	\$366,070.00	
Year to Date	(\$16,636.00)	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	75.00%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	73.13%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	72.33%	

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the Financial Statements be accepted. Motion carried.

BUDGET WORK SESSIONS SET

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the budget work sessions be set for October 26th at 10:00 a.m. and October 29th at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Dunlap stated that last Saturday was the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet and it was very nice.

Commissioner Bordner stated that there was a town hall meeting held concerning teen pregnancy. It was well attended and had good speakers. St. Joseph County leads the state in teen pregnancies.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until November 6, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman