

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 November 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Rick Shaffer called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Chairman Shaffer.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

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

Rick Shaffer	Larry Walton
Allen Balog	Robin Baker
Jerry Ware	Donald Eaton

Absent: John L. Dobberteen

Also present were Judy West-Wing, Administrator/Controller; Joni Smith, Finance Director; and Elishia Arver, Human Resources Director.

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that Health Agency's Intergovernmental Agreement Amendment should be removed from the agenda.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Ware that the minutes for November 5, 2012 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the City of Three Rivers, Re: Notice of public hearing on November 20 to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate to W E Slitt Company.
2. Resolution from Bay County, Re: Efforts to address and prevent the continuing loss of water from the St. Clair River which impacts Lakes Michigan and Huron.
3. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board Meeting of October 17, 2012.

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

MOTION TO RECONSIDER - SENIOR CENTER

It was moved by Commissioner Walton and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the Board reconsider the motion put forth by this body on November 5, 2012 regarding the new Sturgis Senior Center and any funding for preliminary work attached to that motion.

After discussion regarding the importance of milestones and timeframes the motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Balog and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the motion passed at the meeting on November 5, 2012 regarding \$10,000 to be taken out of the Fairview account to pay for preliminary work on the Sturgis Senior Center be rescinded. Motion carried.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Walton that the County advertise for interested citizens to serve on a Study Committee regarding the Sturgis Senior Center with Commissioner Balog as Chair so that due diligence can be done before any decisions are made.

After discussion including a statement by Chairman Shaffer that a list of interested parties be reviewed by the Executive Committee for a recommendation to the full Board on the appointments the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2013 BUDGET

Chairman Shaffer declared the public hearing on the 2013 budget open.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANT DEPUTY DISTRICT COURT CLERK POSITION

It was moved by Commissioner Balog and supported by Commissioner Ware that the request to fill a vacant Deputy District Court Clerk position due to a retirement be approved. Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENT

Board of Public Works

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Ware that Eric Shafer be nominated and appointed to the Board of Public Works for a 3 year term to expire January 1, 2016. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Baker stated that the committee had not met.

Judiciary

Commissioner Eaton stated that the committee met last week and everyone has a copy of the minutes and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Ware stated that the committee had not met.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on November 16, 2012 and Commissioner Balog stated that everyone has a copy of the minutes and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

RESIGNATION:

Sharon Hay, COA Escort Driver, has resigned effective October 31, 2012.

RETIREMENT:

Linda Jones, Deputy District Court Clerk, will retire effective December 14, 2012.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Stacey Bower, Telecommunicator, change to Central Dispatch Shift Supervisor at \$19.20/hr. (Rye system, grade 6, step 4) effective December 4, 2012.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$83,935.00 from Juvenile Child Care Appropriation to Juvenile Child Care Fund.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

DECREASE GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY:

Line item 101-890-941.000 (Contingency) \$ 385.00

DECREASE PROBATE COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-148-861.000 (Convention Expense) 870.00

Line item 101-148-931.020 (Computer Maintenance) 1,295.00

Line item 101-148-806.000 (Jury Fees and Mileage) 400.00

Line item 101-148-852.000 (Lein Services) 800.00

\$ 3,750.00

INCREASE PROBATE COURT'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-148-802.020 (Court Appointed Attorneys) \$ 3,370.00

Line item 101-148-804.000 (Medical) 350.00

Line item 101-148-803.000 (Dues and Subscriptions) 30.00

\$ 3,750.00

DECREASE EXTENSION'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-257-816.050 (Ag Agent) \$ 292.00

INCREASE EXTENSION'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-257-707.000 (Wages – Part time) \$ 271.00

Line item 101-257-715.000 (FICA) 21.00

\$ 292.00

TRANSFER FROM GENERAL FUND:

Line item 101-000-368.000 (Fund Reserved for Inventory) \$ 37,797.74

Line item 101-000-386.000 (Fund Reserved for Prepaid Expenditures) 85,062.51

\$122,860.25

TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND:

Line item 101-000-390.000 (General Fund Fund Balance) \$122,860.25

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Smith presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker -12 half days 10/18, 10/22, 10/24, 10/25 x 2, 11/5, 11/14 x 2, 11/15 x 2,
11/16 x 2 and 3 full days 10/17, 10/22 & 10/26/12 \$ 885.00

Allen Balog - 13 half days 10/17, 10/25 X 2, 10/30, 11/2, 11/5, 11/7, 11/8, 11/13, 11/14 &
11/16/12 x 2 600.00

Jerry Ware -5 half days – 10/25, 11/5, 11/7 & 11/16/12 x 2 250.00

\$ 1,735.00

Expenses

Robin Baker \$ 392.94

Allen Balog 165.95

Jerry Ware 66.60

\$ 625.49

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

Finance Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
October	\$ 1,604,749	\$ 1,499,893
Year to Date	12,473,480	11,876,891
Rev over Exp (Exp over Rev)	\$104,856	
Year to Date	\$596,589	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	83.33%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	83.39%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	79.40%	

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Commissioner Shaffer thanked Commissioner Eaton for all his work on the Senior Center concept. He also thanked all who called him or sent emails to him regarding this issue.

He further stated that he believes that the public deserves input into this process and that tonight Commissioners have charted a due diligence process.

He appreciates the Commissioners input and suggestions.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2013 BUDGET

Commissioner Shaffer stated that a lot of work was done on the budget this year and the Commissioners held several work sessions and all thoughts are being taken into consideration.

Commissioner Shaffer asked if there were any comments on the 2013 Budget.

Thomas Miller, Animal Control Officer, stated that they have a worker that comes in on weekends to the shelter to oversee the jail trustees. In the 2013 Budget he requested a kennel staff person that would have flexible hours. He stated that fees have been raised to help offset the expense of a new staff person and he believes that they are providing more service to the public.

Chairman Shaffer declared the public hearing on the 2013 Budget closed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jim Barnes, Retiring Emergency Services Coordinator, thanked the Board for their support through the years and introduced Scott Hopkins who will be replacing him. He commended the Board on the process that they took in hiring Mr. Hopkins and believes that they have hired a good quality individual.

Mr. Hopkins stated that he worked for the City of Sturgis for over 20 years and is looking forward to his new position and working with the entire county.

Chairman Shaffer thanked Mr. Barnes for the stellar job that he has done for the County.

Ken Malone, Mayor of the City of Sturgis, stated that the County's gain is Sturgis' loss but he was here tonight as a private citizen.

Mr. Malone stated that he is in support of the County moving forward with the Senior Center in the Sturgis area and is disappointed that the Board tonight is slowing the pace of this becoming a reality. He said that the Three Rivers area has done really well in the services to senior citizens but the rest of the County has not. He said that there is a real shortcoming in the rest of the County and would like to see those services throughout the County.

Commissioner Balog thanked Mr. Barnes for his years of service to the County.

He asked Chairman Shaffer if Linda Baker could speak to the dog issue that he thought would be on the agenda tonight.

Mrs. Baker stated that having a dog as a part of the Victim Advocate Program was begun in Oakland County. The purpose is to provide a calming presence to anxious witnesses and victims. A dog is a non-threatening diversion to arguments. She is interested in owning the dog and taking care of it at her home.

The dogs are highly trained and are often from a Leader Dog or other program that did not make the final cut with them.

She does not know when the dog will be available but they do have money in the budget this year. The cost is \$500.00. It could take days or months for a dog to become available after the Board gives approval.

Ms. West-Wing stated that at the Executive Committee meeting last week it was the consensus that Prosecutor McDonough draft an agreement between Mrs. Baker and the County stating the terms and conditions and that the County could terminate at any time.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Balog that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until December 4, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Rick Shaffer, Chairman