

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 21, 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	Gerald E. Loudenslager
Michael D. Dunlap	Robin Baker
Monte Bordner	David J. Pueschel
John L. Dobberteen	

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Baker stated that on page 187 of the November 6th minutes in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs under Citizens Comments the "Community Health Center" should be changed to the "Community Healing Center."

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the minutes for November 6, 2006 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, November 10 and November 17, 2006.
2. Letter from Community Mental Health, Re: Consideration of adopting resolution declaring 2007 as the Year of the Child in Michigan.
3. Letter from the Village of Colon, Re: Notice of public hearing on November 20 to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate to Maxitrol Company.
4. Letter from Michigan State University, Re: Citizen Planner online program.
5. Resolution from Oceana County, Re: Support of stronger enforcement of Michigan's Casino Gaming Compacts.
6. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of October 16, 2006.
7. Notice of Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting schedule for 2007.
8. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of October 18, 2006.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jeff Brazo, 67775 N. Big Hill Road, Sturgis stated that he appeared before the Board 4 years ago when the Commissioners were considering a health insurance benefit for themselves.

In the proposed 2007 budget there is a provision for Commissioners to purchase health insurance for themselves paying 100% of the cost.

He stated that if the Commissioners believe that this is zero cost to the County then they have not thought about the administrative costs of sign up, taking the premiums and receipting them in, etc.

If there were a catastrophic event then it is likely that the health insurance premiums would increase for all employees.

Mr. Brazo said that even if other counties in our comparable group provide this benefit, it does not mean that it is acceptable in this County.

He also stated that he wonders how many of the Commissioners' constituents are part time employees without benefits.

Mr. Brazo encouraged the Board to not allow this benefit.

2007 ANNUAL BUDGET

Ms. West-Wing provided the 2007 Budget Documents including the General Appropriations Act Resolution. She stated that the entire budget including all funds is \$42,842,000 with the County General Fund budget being \$13,947,620 which is \$300,000 over the 2006 budget or an increase of 2.2%. To balance the budget \$421,000 from the fund balance was transferred in comparison to \$607,000 that was transferred to balance this year's budget.

The pie charts within the budget documents show that 30% of the budget is for law enforcement; 25% for judiciary; 9% for human services and 18% for general administration.

64% of revenues come from property taxes with 17% derived from license fees and fines.

66% of the expenditures are for personnel costs and 19% for general operating.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Baker that the General Appropriations Act Resolution and all budget documents be adopted.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated he will be voting no on the budget because of the health insurance benefit offered to the Commissioners. He said that other than that it is a good budget and commended the Administrator and staff for their hard work in putting the document together.

He fears that if the Board provides the option of the Commissioners purchasing 100% of their health insurance that they would be opening a big can of worms. He further stated that the Commissioners are elected part time employees and this would be unfair to other part time employees. He voted no 4 years ago and he is voting no now.

Commissioner Pueschel believes that if this benefit is offered then other part time employees may try to purchase the insurance as well.

Commissioner Shafer stated that when this was discussed during the budget work sessions it seemed to be a no cost item. He stated that the Commissioners primary responsibility is to the taxpayers. He is not interested in costing taxpayers money as a result of this decision.

He further stated that 4 years ago he was in the audience when this item was turned down.

Commissioner Dobberteen asked the Administrator for Blue Cross/Blue Shield rates for all part time employees. Ms. West-Wing responded that BC/BS rates would be the same for part time employees as it is for full time employees. Each year's rates are based on the previous year's experience.

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that he would like more information and would also want all part time employees to be offered the same benefit.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that decisions cannot be based on possible catastrophic events.

Commissioner Baker stated that this benefit would apply to Commissioners as long as they are still holding office and he would also like to see it offered to all part time employees.

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the motion be amended and the budget be adopted without the option of offering health insurance to Commissioners.

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.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows on the original motion:

Aye votes cast: 3 - Commissioners Dunlap, Bordner and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 4 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Baker and Pueschel.

Motion defeated.

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF STURGIS FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Ms. West-Wing stated that the curbside recycling will begin in the City of Sturgis in February at a cost of \$2.33/month/household for 2 pickups/month for 1 year. Identifying which days of the week that the items will be picked up will be worked out between the City and Republic Waste Services. It is also clear in the Letter of Understanding that the County will bear the cost for 12 months only for an estimated cost of \$86,480.00. She also stated that this Letter of Understanding was approved by the City Commission last night.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Letter of Understanding with the City of Sturgis 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.

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CITY OF THREE RIVERS FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Ms. West-Wing stated that the curbside recycling will begin in the City of Three Rivers in February at a cost of \$2.21/month/household for 2 pickups/month for 1 year. Identifying which days of the week that the items will be picked up will also be worked out between the City and Republic Waste Services. It is clear in the Letter of Understanding that the County will bear the cost for 12 months only for an estimated cost of \$59,325.00. She also stated that this Letter of Understanding has been approved by the City Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the Letter of Understanding with the City of Three Rivers 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.

CONTRACT WITH REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES FOR
CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN THE CITY OF STURGIS

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the contract with Republic Waste Services for Curbside Recycling in the City of Sturgis 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.

CONTRACT WITH REPUBLIC WASTE SERVICES FOR
CURBSIDE RECYCLING IN THE CITY OF THREE RIVERS

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the contract with Republic Waste Services for Curbside Recycling in the City of Three Rivers 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.

REMONUMENTATION FEES – REVISED SCHEDULE

Ms. West-Wing presented the proposed revised schedule for Remonumentation Fees for 2007:

<u>Standard:</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007 % Increase</u>
Research	\$210.00	\$225.00	7%
Field Investigation	\$475.00	\$500.00	5%
Setting Monument	\$360.00	\$380.00	5%
 <u>Exceptions:</u>			
Road/Open Field Traverse	\$.11/FT	\$.12/FT	9%
Woodlot/Westland Traverse	\$.19/FT	\$.20/FT	5%
Set Monument Box (in gravel or asphalt rdwy.)	\$ 80.00	\$ 90.00	12%
Set Mon. box in conc. rdwy.	\$625.00	\$650.00	4%
Rental Equipment for Excavation	Cost	Cost	
Std. Mon. on Private Survey	\$510.00	\$530.00	4%
Corner Maintenance	\$330.00	\$350.00	6%
Global Positioning (GPS)	\$300.00	\$300.00	0%
Control Station Recovery		\$500.00	
Per Diem for Meetings	\$ 60.00	\$ 75.00	25%
Administration – County Rep.	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	0%
Coordination of Program	\$3,175/YR	\$3,200/YR	1%

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Remonumentation Fees for 2007 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.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANT ROAD PATROL POSITION

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the vacant road patrol position be filled. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK BIDS FOR SHORT TERM TAX BOND – 2006 LEVY

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Clerk be authorized to advertise for bids for the Short Term Tax Bond – 2006 Levy to be due at 4:00 p.m. on December 4, 2006 and opened at the regular Board meeting on December 5, 2006. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Dobberteen stated that there was no report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Baker stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2007 at noon.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that there was no report.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Baker stated that the Executive Committee met on November 17th and the only item not discussed here tonight was the request from the Retirement Board to the Board of Commissioners to transfer our Retirement System to the Municipal Retirement Employees System.

Website

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Website Committee met today and he has provided a list to all Commissioners of items remaining from the Tech Study that have not been completed by the Information Technology Department. He asked each Commissioner to let him know if they had any priorities on the list that they would like to see completed sooner rather than later.

He also mentioned that Boards and Commissions information will soon be on the website.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Cynthia Custard, District Court Deputy Clerk, will be on medical leave commencing November 20, 2006 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

NEW HIRE:

Debra Steinman has been hired as Part-time Corrections Officer at \$14.35/hr. and Part-time Transport Officer at \$12.60/hr. effective November 21, 2006.

Julia Pond has been hired as Child Support Investigator at \$30,763.00 (Rye system, grade 6, minimum) effective November 28, 2006.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

INCREASE MARINE PATROL'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-331-706.130 (Wages – Deputies)	\$ 4,525.00
Line item 101-331-715.000 (FICA)	<u>300.00</u>
	\$ 4,825.00

DECREASE:

Line item 101-331-712.000 (Wages – Overtime)	\$ 600.00
Line item 101-331-803.000 (Vehicle License Plates)	100.00
Line item 101-331-862.000 (Travel Expense)	200.00
Line item 101-890-941.000 (Contingency)	<u>3,925.00</u>
	\$ 4,825.00

FROM GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY:

\$25,000.00 to Secondary Road Patrol Appropriation, line item 101-001-965.160.

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$25,000.00 from Secondary Road Patrol Appropriation to Secondary Road Patrol Fund.

2006 SECONDARY ROAD PATROL BUDGET

INCREASE REVENUES – SECONDARY ROAD FUND 267:

Line item 267-333-699.000 (Operating Transfers In)	\$ 3,000.00
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DECREASE SECONDARY ROAD'S BUDGET:

Line item 267-333-706.130 (Wages – Deputies)	800.00
Line item 267-333-711.000 (Wages – Holiday Pay Extra)	750.00
Line item 267-333-712.000 (Wages – Overtime)	<u>1,700.00</u>
	\$ 6,250.00

INCREASE SECONDARY ROAD'S BUDGET:

Line item 267-333-716.000 (Health Insurance)	\$ 1,825.00
Line item 267-333-716.010 (Dental Insurance)	425.00
Line item 267-333-721.010 (Opt Out Waiver)	1,000.00
Line item 267-333-725.010 (Salary – Accum. Sick & Vac)	<u>3,000.00</u>
	\$ 6,250.00

2007 SECONDARY ROAD PATROL BUDGET

INCREASE REVENUES – SECONDARY ROAD FUND 267:

Line item 267-333-699.000 (Operating Transfers In)	\$22,000.00
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INCREASE SECONDARY ROAD'S BUDGET:

Line item 267-333-706.130 (Wages – Deputies)	\$ 8,800.00
Line item 267-333-711.000 (Wages – Holiday Pay Extra)	1,000.00
Line item 267-333-712.000 (Wages – Overtime)	1,000.00
Line item 267-333-715.000 (Wages – FICA)	1,000.00
Line item 267-333-716.000 (Health Insurance)	2,000.00
Line item 267-333-716.010 (Dental Insurance)	200.00
Line item 267-333-718.050 (MERS)	2,000.00
Line item 267-333-725.010 (Salary – Accum. Sick & Vac)	<u>6,000.00</u>
	\$22,000.00

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker – 13 half days 10/26 x 3, 10/30, 11/1 x 2, 11/2, 11/6, 11/15, 11/16, 11/17, 11/20 & 11/21/06	\$ 650.00
Monte Bordner – 5 half days 10/30, 11/1, 11/6, 11/14 & 11/17/06 & 4 full days 10/26, 11/9, 11/13 & 11/20/06	630.00
John Dobberteen – 9 half days 10/31, 11/1, 11/2, 11/9, 11/14, 11/17, 11/20 x 2 & 11/21/06 & 2 full days 10/26 & 11/23/06	640.00
Michael D. Dunlap – 6 half days 10/26, 10/30, 11/8, 11/9, 11/14 & 11/20/06 & 1 full day 10/26/06	395.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 7 half days 10/18, 10/27, 10/30, 11/8 x 2, 11/15 & 11/16/06 & 3 full days 10/26, 11/3 & 11/20-21/06	635.00
David Pueschel – 8 half days 10/26 x 2, 10/30, 11/1, 11/9, 11/16, 11/20 & 11/21/06	400.00
Eric Shafer – 17 half days 9/20, 10/3, 10/4, 10/5 x 2, 10/17, 10/18, 10/25, 10/26, 10/30, 11/1 x 2, 11/8, 11/9, 11/15, 11/20 & 11/21/06 & 1 full day 11/10/06	<u>945.00</u> \$4,295.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 174.44
Monte Bordner	236.79
John Dobberteen	61.41
Michael D. Dunlap	71.20
Gerald Loudenslager	237.63
David Pueschel	<u>71.65</u> \$ 853.12

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
October	\$ 1,262,873	\$ 1,044,679
Year to Date	11,453,983	10,961,563
Period Fund Balance \$218,194.00		
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	83.33%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	82.99%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	79.42%	

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bordner wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and if anyone would be traveling to travel safely.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the Board go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

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.

OPEN SESSION

The Board resumed business in open session

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Shafer congratulated Chairman Bordner for the award recently presented to him by Michigan State University Extension.

Commissioner Pueschel drew everyone's attention to the invitation to the Christmas luncheon sponsored by the Courthouse Girls' Club.

Commissioner Loudenslager congratulated Chairman Bordner on the award and encouraged Commissioners to attend the Christmas luncheon.

Commissioner Dobberteen wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Dunlap wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Baker wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and congratulated Chairman Bordner on the award.

Chairman Bordner reminded the Commissioners of the New Commissioner Workshop to be held in Kalamazoo on December 11th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Chairman