

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 December 20, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Monte 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
John W. Bippus	Robin Baker
Monte Bordner	David J. Pueschel

Absent: John L. Dobberteen

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

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that a Kalamazoo County Detention Contract should be added under New Business.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the minutes for December 6, 2005 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Update, December 9, 2005.
2. Letter from Park Township, Re: Notice of public hearing on December 14, 2005 to consider an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption request from American Metal Fab.
3. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Conference to be held February 13 – February 14, 2006.
4. Minutes of the Community Mental Health Board meeting of November 29, 2005.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

State Representative Rick Shaffer stated that he has fond memories of serving on the Board of Commissioners. He is still in awe of the beauties of the renovation of the Courthouse. He appreciated serving with Commissioner Bippus.

Representative Shaffer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season and stated that it was a privilege to serve in Lansing. It is a tight economic time for the state and he has been working on welfare reform. He would like to bring back a 48 month program for welfare recipients instead of an open ended program. He said that there are certainly budget challenges as Michigan is in the economic doldrums.

He said that it is an honor to serve and he looks forward to continued input from the Board.

RETIREMENT BOARD 2004 ANNUAL REPORT

Marty Chiddister, Chairman of the Retirement Board, introduced Mark R. Brown, former Chairman who gave an overview of the 2004 Annual Report. He thanked everyone involved in the system, Commissioners Bordner and Bippus, Ron Reece, Marty Chiddister, Dena Wyckoff and Andy Goldberger and mentioned that Scott Ryder will become a member in 2006. He also thanked those that work with the Board, Judy West-Wing, Pattie Bender, Phyllis Bainbridge, Dan Carey and Charlie Cleaver. Additionally, he thanked Chris Ruppel and Sturgis Bank and Trust.

Mr. Brown stated that the Retirement Board has difficult tasks but ended 2004 in good shape. We were funded at 98% at the end of 2003 and 102.4% at the end of 2004.

Our portfolio was worth \$14.5 million at the end of 2004 and in the fall of 2005 it is over \$15 million.

The Retirement Board makes sure that we get the good value for the dollars invested.

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the 2004 Retirement Board Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO CHANGE RETIREMENT RESOLUTION

Ms. West-Wing gave some background information on the Retirement Board's request to modify the Retirement Resolution.

When Fairview Medical Facility was sold the employees were automatically vested even if they did not have 8 years service. At that time the multiplier for retirement benefits was 1.4%/1.7%, the same as it was for the County.

Since that time the County's multiplier has been increased and is now at 2%. According to our actuary the Retirement Resolution says that if there are any employees (we currently have one) that worked at Fairview when it was sold and now works for the County the FAC would have to be figured at 1.4%/1.7% for the years worked at Fairview and 2% for years worked for the County. The amounts would then be added together to pay the monthly pension. This employee has asked that all years be paid at 2%.

The actuary estimates that this will cost \$60,000 over the years that the employee will still be working with \$4,000 being paid in the 1st year with an increase of 4.25% for the succeeding years.

It is possible that there would be 2 other people that could someday work for the County that worked at Fairview when it was sold, but it is highly unlikely.

Ms. West-Wing responded to a question by Commissioner Shafer by stating that this would be general fund money.

Chairman Bordner stated that the benefits for the people at Fairview paralleled those that the County employees had so it is likely that if Fairview was still owned by the County that the benefits would be the same as the County's.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Baker that the request from the Retirement Board be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker and Bordner.

Nay votes cast: 1 - Commissioner Pueschel.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

LABOR AGREEMENT WITH DISTRICT COURT

Ms. West-Wing gave the following highlights to the District Court Association Labor Agreement stating that it was similar to the recently approved AFSCME contracts:

1. CONTRACT DURATION: 3 years – January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2008.
2. WAGES: January 1, 2006 3% increase applied to each step
 January 1, 2007 2½% increase applied to each step
 January 1, 2008 2% increase applied to each step
3. HEALTH/DENTAL INSURANCE: Employee premium co-pays via pretax payroll deduction:
 Effective January 1, 2006 - 7% of the annual premium cost
 Effective January 1, 2007 - 10% of the annual premium cost
 Effective January 1, 2008 - 12% of the annual premium cost

 Effective January 1, 2006 – drug rider increased to \$10 generic/\$40 brand
 (mail order is \$20/\$80 for 3 month supply); Community Blue office visit increased to \$20;
 Wellness increased to \$500 year.
4. SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE:
 Effective January 1, 2006 - 65% weekly maximum increased from \$400 to \$500
 Effective January 1, 2008 - 65% weekly maximum increased from \$500 to \$600
5. Miscellaneous language changes:
 Changed use of vacation leave for first year employees until after first 12 months;
 Changed use of sick and personal leave for new hires to after 30 days of employment;
 Changed layoff language;

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Labor Agreement with the District Court Association be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

MEAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY AMENDMENT

Ms. West-Wing presented an amendment to the Meal Reimbursement Policy in accordance with discussion at the last work session.

This should be added to the paragraph following the amounts allowed for each meal:

Tips will not be reimbursed.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Meal Reimbursement Policy Amendment be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Loudenslager, Bippus, Baker, Bordner and Pueschel.

Nay votes cast: 1 - Commissioner Shafer.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURANCE CARRIER RCOMMENDATION

Mr. Cleaver stated that our current carrier for Life and Disability Insurance wanted to raise our rates so RFPs were sent out with good responses.

He is recommending that we change to Prudential Insurance at a cost savings of almost \$19,000 over the next 2 years.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Life and Disability Insurance be purchased from Prudential Insurance.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

FIRST MEETING IN 2006

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the first meeting in 2006 be held on January 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

JUVENILE DETENTION CONTRACT

Ms. West-Wing recommended approval of a contract between Kalamazoo County and St. Joseph County for juvenile detention beds in the Kalamazoo facility.

Currently we pay for 3 beds and Kalamazoo County is raising the rates. We negotiated with them and will now pay for 2 beds at \$150 per day per bed.

Judge Shumaker stated that he wanted a 90 day-out clause and he checked with corporate counsel and they said that that was fine so it has been inserted into the contract.

Judge Shumaker said goodbye to Commissioner Bippus stating that he will be missed and that he has done a good job.

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Bippus that the Juvenile Detention Contract be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2005
PROCLAMATION HONORING JOHN W. BIPPUS

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, John Bippus has effectively served as County Commissioner for District No. 3 since 1993; and

WHEREAS, John Bippus has served the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners with distinction and honor having been elected by his peers as Chairman of the Board for two years (2000 and 2001); and

WHEREAS, John Bippus has served on numerous committees with tireless dedication, most notably Executive, Physical Resources, Law Enforcement, Central Dispatch, Judiciary, Investment Advisory, and Retirement Board; and

WHEREAS, John Bippus has generously volunteered his talents as an auctioneer at various County fundraising events; and

WHEREAS, John Bippus has resigned as County Commissioner effective January 2, 2006 as he has moved from the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners recognizes and expresses grateful appreciation for the many years of devoted service that Commissioner Bippus has given to the citizens of St. Joseph County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution is presented to Commissioner John Bippus with sincere best wishes for the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of December, 2005.

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

Commissioner Bippus stated that he appreciated the comments, but in all reality the privilege has been his. He said that it has been a pleasure to serve the constituents but the best part was working with all of the Commissioners.

Commissioner Bippus mentioned that even when he disagrees with the decision that the majority makes it usually turns out to be the right decision. He stated that the staff is great.

He warned the Board to continue to look out for the “unintended outcomes” of their decisions. He stated that Commissioner Loudenslager is the lone old timer now.

Commissioner Bippus stated that he would be abstaining from voting on the resolution.

Commissioner Shafer stated that one thing that was left out of the resolution was Commissioner Bippus’ service on the Three Rivers City Commission. Commissioner Shafer stated that Commissioner Bippus has a lot of years of public service and he personally appreciates it and also appreciates his guidance.

Chairman Bordner said that there should be a plaque on the wall in the History Room dedicated to Commissioner Bippus that says “unintended outcomes.”

He appreciates his service and wishes him the best.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 - Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Baker, Bordner and Pueschel.

Nay votes cast: 0

Abstention: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-2005
PROCLAMATION HONORING WILLIAM H. SMITH

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, William H. Smith has served on the Board of Directors of Community Healing Centers since 1975; and

WHEREAS, William Smith has served several times as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Board; and

WHEREAS, William Smith has shown unyielding support and dedication to the mission of the agency which is to ensure that quality, compassionate care is available to all in need of addiction treatment services; and

WHEREAS, William Smith is retiring from the Board in December and during his tenure, the board has seen many advancements and changes such as:

- Previously called the Substance Abuse Council of St. Joseph County (SACSJC), the organization operated the Myrtle Recovery House in Sturgis which was the first licensed substance abuse detox and residential program in the State of Michigan.
- SACSJC expanded its outpatient treatment services to both Sturgis and Three Rivers, and developed one of the first intensive outpatient programs in the region.
- SACSJC was instrumental in the development of insurance legislation enacted by the State to assure that health insurance companies would cover substance abuse services.
- SACSJC changed its name to Michiana Addictions and Prevention Services (MAPS).
- MAPS began operating a Women's Specialty Program and William Smith worked tirelessly to help open H.O.P.E. Resource Center in Sturgis which welcomes women (and their children) who need a transitional home and supporting program while in recovery.
- In July 2004 MAPS acquired the Guidance Clinic of Southwest Michigan and to better reflect the new organization, a new name was selected – Community Healing Centers.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners expresses their grateful appreciation for the many years of devoted service that William Smith has given to the citizens of St. Joseph County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be presented to William H. Smith and be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of December, 2005.

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

Commissioner Loudenslager congratulated Mr. Smith for all of his years of service.

Commissioner Baker presented the resolution to Mr. Smith.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

STATE TIMELY PAYMENTS
RESOLUTION NO. 27-2005

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is required and mandated to adopt a balanced budget each year; and

WHEREAS, as part of complying with balanced budget rules and regulations, the state is bound to adhere to sound accounting and financial practices including the timely payment of bills and invoices; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has chronically violated generally accepted accounting practices by withholding authorized reimbursements to county governments for several months covering child care, transportation, payments in lieu of taxes, remonumentation, and several other program areas; and

WHEREAS, these continued tardy payments by the State have placed an undue hardship and burden on county governments in Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby strongly recommends that state legislation be adopted requiring that the State of Michigan pay all of its approved invoices and obligations in a timely manner according to sound financial practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Cameron Brown, Representative Rick Shaffer, the Michigan Association of Counties and all the other 82 counties.

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

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

U.S. 131
RESOLUTION 28-2005

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County has a history of quality manufacturing assets along with a strong diverse agriculture base; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County has been aggressively funding the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation and Michigan State University Extension to foster job retention and attract new business ventures; and

WHEREAS, I-80/90 a major east-west interstate highway “The Main Street of the Midwest” lies just south of our border with Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has economic incentives to attract and keep industry and business south of the border.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that Governor Jennifer Granholm and the State Legislature develop tax incentives to keep St. Joseph County and the State of Michigan competitive in the global economy of the 21st century; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we respectfully request Governor Jennifer Granholm and the State of Michigan partner in our vision of a four-lane U.S. 131 highway that allows for unabated traffic flow from “The Main Street of the Midwest (I-80/90)” to the “Main Streets of West Michigan” and north to the benefit of industry, tourism, agriculture and all of the citizens of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Jennifer Granholm, State Senator Cameron Brown, State Representative Rick Shaffer, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Fred Upton and all the other 82 counties.

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

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

U.S. 131 LETTER

A letter has been drafted by Brad Newmann, MSUE Educator, requesting that all concerned parties along the U.S. 131 corridor sign a letter of support to be forwarded to the appropriate people at MDOT.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the U.S. 131 Letter be approved for signature by the Chairman.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Board of Public Works

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that James Bippus and Lola Gross be appointed to the Board of Public Works for terms to expire January 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Planning Commission

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that William Chase, Robert Horton, Paul Scheetz and Eric Shafer be appointed to the Planning Commission for terms to expire January 1, 2009. Motion carried.

Economic Development Corporation

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that Maury Kaercher be appointed to the Economic Development Corporation as an Ex-Officio member. Motion carried.

Community Mental Health

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Shafer that Veronica Atkins be appointed to the Community Mental Health Board for a term to expire March 31, 2007. Motion carried.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the following be nominated and appointed to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for terms to expire December 31, 2006:

Jeffrey C. Middleton, District Court Judge
Harry Eberhard, Twin County Community Probation Center
Henry VanGemert, St. Joseph County District Court
Tom Koenig, Michigan Department of Corrections
Paul Stutesman, Circuit Court Judge
Thomas Shumaker, Circuit Court/Family Division Judge
Lt. Mark Books, St. Joseph County Sheriff Department
Gerald Loudenslager, St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners
Douglas Fisher, Prosecuting Attorney
Pat Hillman, St. Joseph County Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition
Howard Bush, Attorney at Law
Eddie MacKay, Citizen at Large
Industrial Representative - Currently unfilled
Chief of Police - Currently unfilled

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no Law Enforcement Committee report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Baker stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2006 at noon.

Physical Resources

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

Executive Committee

Commissioner Baker stated that most items discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting held on December 16th were discussed tonight except a recommendation from the Classification and Compensation Committee and the possible formation of a committee or the Commission as a whole to work on long range financial planning.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Todd Bohm, Road Patrol Officer, is on medical leave commencing November 30, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Karla Andaverde, Deputy District Court Clerk, will be on medical leave commencing December 27, 2005 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

NEW POSITION:

Establish the position of District Court Attorney Magistrate as a pay grade 9 under the Rye system.

Establish the position of Friend of the Court Customer Service Supervisor as a pay grade 9 under the Rye system.

SEASONAL, TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT:

Kyle Murk to work for Central Dispatch at \$7.50/hr. effective December 16, 2005 to January 8, 2006.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Authorization to the Finance Director to make any line item transfers necessary after the final payroll of 2005 to ensure a balanced budget.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

INCREASE EXPENDITURES – GENERAL FUND

County Commission

101-708.000	Wages - Per Diem	\$ 2,000
101-715.000	FICA	<u>100</u>
		\$ 2,100

Circuit Court

131-721.010	Opt Out Waiver	\$ 500
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District Court

136-706.051	Wages – Magistrate PT	\$ 3,000
136-725.000	Longevity	<u>420</u>
		\$ 3,420

Jury Commission

147-708.000	Wages – Per Diem	\$ 35
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Probate Court

148-715.000	FICA	\$ 100
148-718.010	Retirement	<u>200</u>
		\$ 300

Elections

191-708.010	Wages - Per Diem	\$ 7,800
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County Clerk

215-716.000	Health Insurance	\$ 720
215-716.010	Dental Insurance	25
215-852.000	Lein Services	<u>500</u>
		\$ 1,245

Prosecutor’s Office

229-982.000	Library	\$ 300
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DECREASE EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND

County Commission

101.802.000	Legal Attorney	\$ 2,100
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Circuit Court

131-704.000	Judge	\$ 500
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District Court

136-716.000	Health Insurance	\$ 3,420
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Jury Commission

147-860.000	Travel	\$ 35
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Probate Court

148-816.100	Contractual – Guardianship	\$ 300
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Elections

191-728.000	Printing	\$ 7,800
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County Clerk

890-941.000	Contingency	\$ 1,245
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Prosecutor’s Office

229-862.000	Seminar	\$ 300
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Central Services

233-715.000 FICA	\$ 150
233-721.010 Opt Out Waiver	<u>2,000</u>
	\$ 2,150

Register of Deeds

236-725.000 Longevity	\$ 330
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County Treasurer

253-706.130 Wages - Deputies	\$ 6,700
253-715.000 FICA	600
253-718.010 Retirement	<u>900</u>
	\$ 8,200

Information Technology

258-716.000 Health Insurance	\$ 500
258-716.010 Dental Insurance	25
258-716.020 S & A Insurance	<u>50</u>
	\$ 575

Jail & Turkey

351-706.470 Wages - Corporal	\$ 2,000
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Planning Commission

400-708.000 Wages - Per Diem	\$ 325
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Animal Control

430-725.000 Longevity	\$ 330
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Board of Public Works

441-712.000 Wages - Overtime	\$ 10
441-715.000 FICA	50
441-716.010 Dental Insurance	105
441-718.010 Retirement	25
441-860.000 Travel	<u>100</u>
	\$ 290

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$ 29,900

Park and Recreation

INCREASE EXPENDITURE

751-712.000 Wages - Overtime	\$ 15
751-716.000 Health Insurance	50
751.977.000 Equipment General	<u>135</u>
	\$ 200

Central Services

233-933.000 Equipment Maintenance	\$ 2,150
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Register of Deeds

236-716.000 Health Insurance	\$ 330
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County Treasurer

890-941.000 Contingency	\$ 8,200
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Information Technology

258-862.000 Seminar	\$ 575
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Jail & Turnkey

351-716.000 Health Insurance	\$ 2,000
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Planning Commission

400-816.000 Contractual Services	\$ 125
400-862.000 Seminar	135
890-941.000 Contingency	<u>65</u>
	\$ 325

Animal Control

430-932.000 Vehicle Repair	\$ 330
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Board of Public Works

441-721.010 Opt Out Waiver	\$ 25
890-941.000 Contingency	<u>265</u>
	\$ 290

TOTAL GENERAL FUND \$ 29,900

Park and Recreation

DECREASE EXPENDITURE

751-705.010 Wages - Department Head	\$ 200
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Central Dispatch
INCREASE EXPENDITURE
911-725.000 Longevity \$ 75
911-984.000 Computer Hardware 325,000
911-985.000 Computer Software 39,000
\$364,075

Central Dispatch
DECREASE EXPENDITURE
911-716.000 Health Insurance \$ 75
INCREASE REVENUE
911-672.000 Misc. Reimbursement 8,100
911-676.000 Budgeted Use of Fund Bal. 355,900
\$364,075

Meyer Broadway Park
INCREASE EXPENDITURE
751-716.000 Health Insurance \$ 615
751-716.010 Dental Insurance 35
\$ 650

Meyer Broadway Park
DECREASE EXPENDITURE
751-743.000 Other Supplies \$ 650

Victim Rights Advocate Fund
INCREASE EXPENDITURE
229-707.010 Wages - VRA Secretary \$ 1,900
229-984.000 Computer Hardware 140
\$ 2,040

Victim Rights Advocate Fund
DECREASE EXPENDITURE
229-715.000 FICA \$ 190
229-716.000 Health Insurance 350
229-716.010 Dental Insurance 40
229-718.010 Retirement 540
229-725.000 Longevity 40
INCREASE REVENUE
229-676.000 Budgeted Use of Fund Bal. 880
\$ 2,040

Homeland Security Grant Fund
INCREASE EXPENDITURE
426-816.000 Contractual Services \$ 10,000
426-977.045 Equipment – '05 Grant 10,000
426-999.000 Operating Transfers Out 24,000
\$ 44,000

Homeland Security Grant Fund
INCREASE REVENUE
426-506.090 '05 Homeland Sec. Grant \$ 44,000

TOTAL OTHER FUNDS \$410,965

\$410,965

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Per Diem

Robin Baker -10 half days 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/2, 12/5, 12/8 x 2, 12/13, 12/15 & 12/16/05 & 1 full day 11/17/05 \$ 595.00
Monte Bordner - 8 half days 11/17, 11/18, 12/5, 12/7, 12/8, 12/13, 12/15 & 12/16/05 & 3 full days 11/28, 12/5 & 12/19/05 685.00
Gerald Loudenslager - 2 half days 11/16 & 11/22/05 & 1 full day 12/20/05 195.00
David Pueschel - 10 half days 11/17 x 2, 11/18, 11/22, 12/5, 12/8 x 2, 12/15 x 2 & 12/16/05 500.00
Eric Shafer - 8 half days 11/15, 11/16, 12/5 x 2, 12/7, 12/8 & 12/13/05 x 2 400.00
\$2,375.00

Expenses

Robin Baker \$ 183.33
Monte Bordner 264.33
Gerald Loudenslager 47.38
David Pueschel 96.03
\$ 591.07

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

Financial Statements

Mr. Carey presented the following report:

	Revenues	Expenditures
November	\$ 1,148,162.00	\$ 1,018,006.00
Year to Date	11,600,595.00	11,764,039.00
 Period Fund Balance	 \$130,156.00	
 Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	 91.67%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	85.12%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	86.32%	

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Bordner thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to serve as Chairman this year. The Board has accomplished a lot and they had several work sessions some of them for long range planning and strategic issues.

Many new staff came on board in 2005 and several labor contracts were settled for which he thanked Mr. Cleaver. The County accepted property of Eston Rawson at Rawson's King Mill Park which is a gem of a park.

Several grants were accepted and laptops are being installed in patrol cars.

The Branch, Hillsdale, St. Joseph County District Health Department put together a plan that benefits low income citizens. He thanked Duke Anderson, Director of the Health Department, for this as well as Representative Caswell.

The 11th annual employee service recognition was held. He thanked the employees as it truly is a team effort.

He assured Commissioner Bippus that the Board will keep an eye on "unintended outcomes."

The Commissioner Awards Program was enacted thanks to the idea of Commissioner Bippus.

During the Strategic Planning Sessions, 8 items were identified with 5 accomplished:

- 1 - Land Use. MSUE successfully secured a Kellogg Grant so that Brad Newmann was hired as the Land Use Educator.
- 2 - U.S. 131 Development. Not gone as well as we would like but there is still plenty of determination.
- 3 - Court Reorganization. This summer the Judges met with some Commissioners and the Administrator and functions were streamlined before the appointment of Judge Stutesman.
- 4 - Information Technology. Training was held for 75 employees at Glen Oaks Community College.
- 5 - Curbside Recycling is being discussed.

Chairman Bordner stated that he is pleased with things and appreciates Commissioner Bippus' input. He thanked the Board again for allowing him to serve as Chairman this year.

He suggested that everyone take the next two weeks to pause, reflect and refresh and get ready for the new year.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Following is a list of 2005 Highlights:

- Elected Monte Bordner as Chairman and John Bippus as Vice-Chairman.
- Accepted (with regret) the resignation of John Bippus as Vice-Chairman.
- Elected Robin Baker as Vice-Chairman.
- Welcomed Phyllis E. Bainbridge as the new County Treasurer
- Welcomed Maury Kaercher as the new County MSU Extension Director.
- Welcomed John Pence as the new Parks and Recreation Director.
- Welcomed new Circuit Court Judge Paul Stutesman, appointed by Governor Granholm.
- Adopted and implemented a smoke-free facilities and grounds policy.
- Adopted a Farmland Preservation Ordinance.
- Approved 3-year labor agreements with P.O.A.M. Law Enforcement and Command Officers.
- Approved 3-year labor agreements with A.F.S.C.M.E. (4 units).
- Approved 4-year labor agreement with Telecommunicators' Association.
- Approved 3-year labor agreement with District Court Association.
- Accepted the transfer of Rawson's King Mill and house to the County as part of the park.
- Awarded a Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$268,357.
- With a cooperative effort between MSU Extension and the County, created the position of Land Policy Educator.
- Approved the Laptops in Patrol Cars/E-Citation project with a total cost of \$551,198.
- Accepted the renewal of a \$52,700 Crime Victims Rights grant.
- Endorsed a Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph County Health Plan which will provide benefits for the very low income citizens.
- Held eleventh annual employee service recognition.
- Awarded a Secure Our Schools Grant for \$260,000 for the installation of cameras in all the schools. (St. Joseph County must be the fiduciary.)
- Awarded an Enforcement Grant for \$34,919 for enforcement activity such as child seat safety, speed and seat belts.
- Approved renewal of a Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for Prosecuting Attorney for \$82,316; a Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for Friend of the Court for \$516,561; and a FOC Medical Support Enforcement Contract for \$21,332.
- Approved renewal of Community Corrections Grant for \$109,100.
- Enacted a "Commissioner Awards" Program.
- Established a Social Security Number Privacy Policy.
- Approved ballot language for E-911 millage renewal.
- Amended the St. Joseph County Address Ordinance.
- Continued to pursue the development of U.S. 131.
- Participated with the Courts in making some staff position changes.
- Provided computer training through Glen Oaks Community College to improve employee productivity (Approximately 75 employees attended.)

- In conjunction with the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee, began to pursue changes to the County-wide recycling program.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tim Carls, Klinger Lake Road, Centreville asked for a copy of the resolution regarding Timely Payments from the State. He complained of a 3% increase in taxes with sometimes a 4% increase in employee wages. He also mentioned the cut in revenue sharing. Ms. West-Wing stated that in place of the revenue sharing cuts is the early collection of property taxes. This will all end in 2010.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Bippus thanked everyone for the kind comments and wished everyone a Happy New Year and a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that he would miss Commissioner Bippus and stated that Chairman Bordner did a good job this year.

Commissioner Loudenslager congratulated Chairman Bordner on his year as Chairman. He said that it was sad to see Commissioner Bippus leave and he would try to keep an eye on the “unintended outcome.”

He also mentioned that Mark Clute passed away yesterday and he has been cremated, there is no visitation or memorial service.

Commissioner Loudenslager encouraged Commissioners Dobberteen, Baker and Pueschel, who are on the Community Mental Health Board that since the Executive Director, Kristine Kirsch has resigned, that possibly the CMH should be placed under the auspices of the District Health Department.

Commissioner Shafer expressed his sorrow on the passing of Mark Clute who was a friend of his. He told Chairman Bordner that he appreciated his guidance in this year of him being chair.

Commissioner Baker wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He believes that the Board shows a good team effort and he thanked the employees for their service.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until January 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Chairman