

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 January 20, 2004, at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman John L. Dobberteen called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Loudenslager.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

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

Eric Shafer	Gerald E. Loudenslager
Robin Baker	Monte Bordner
David J. Pueschel	John L. Dobberteen

Absent: John W. Bippus

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

The Clerk stated that on page 2 under Lease Agreement that the word "rental" needed to be added in the third line between "the" and "value."

The Clerk further stated that on page 5 that Central Dispatch Advisory Board should be changed to Central Dispatch Policy Board in the heading and in the first line under the heading.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the minutes for January 6, 2004 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Update, January 9 and January 16, 2004.
2. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on January 28, 2004 to consider issuing Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificates to Michiana Corrugated Products Company, Precision Speed Equipment, and Unique Truck Accessories, Inc.
3. Minutes of Family Independence Agency Board meeting of November 25, 2003.

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

REMONUMENTATION FEES - REVISED SCHEDULE

Ms. West-Wing stated that she has received a request from County Surveyor, Wayne Mostrom, increasing some of the remonumentation fees that have not been increased since 2002. Mr. Mostrom stated that our fees still remain considerably lower than the surrounding counties' fees.

Commissioner Pueschel asked which counties' fees Mr. Mostrom checked and Ms. West-Wing responded by saying that she did not know which counties were studied, but she would find out and advise him.

The following is the proposed schedule:

<u>Standard:</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Research	\$160.00	\$172.00	9
Field Investigation	\$380.00	\$420.00	9
Setting Monument	\$300.00	\$320.00	6

Exceptions:

Road/Open Field Traverse	\$.08/FT	\$.09/FT	11
Woodlot/Westland Traverse	\$.13/FT	\$.15/FT	13
Set Monument Box (in gravel or asphalt rdwy.)	\$ 50.00	\$ 55.00	9
Set Mon. Box in Conc. Rdwy.	\$440.00	\$470.00	6
Rental Equipment for Excavation Std. Mon. on Private Survey	Cost \$350.00	Cost \$375.00	7
Corner Maintenance	\$275.00	\$285.00	4
Global Positioning (GPS)	\$240.00	\$240.00	0

Administration - Co. Rep:

Co-Ord. of Program	\$2,040/YR	\$2,200/YR	7
--------------------	------------	------------	---

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Baker that the revised schedule for the remonumentation fees be approved.

Commissioner Bordner asked if a grant pays for the program. Ms. West-Wing stated that yes it did.

Commissioner Shafer stated that the letter requesting the increase was received by Lotta Jarnefelt, G.I.S. Director, so apparently she supports the increase so he is fine with the request.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 1 - Commissioner Pueschel.

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Motion carried.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT/SOLUTION AREA PLANNER

Jim Barnes, Emergency Services Coordinator, requested that the Board accept a Solution Area Planner (SAP) Grant Agreement under Part II of the 2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program. He stated that the grant is for \$34,000 and he would like to use it for a Solution Area Planner. This person would ease some of his load and work hand in hand with the school personnel and our first responders. He stated that the planner would help in the threat risk assessment and determine whether or not there are any deficiencies. He/she would also help to enhance the County's efforts in training and planning.

Mr. Barnes suggested that this be an independent contractor rather than a County employee.

Commissioner Baker asked if Mr. Barnes had someone in mind to take this position and Mr. Barnes responded that he had a couple of names but would rather not divulge them at this time. Mr. Barnes added that he would want them to have a background in public speaking and be able to work well with elected officials.

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Board accept the Homeland Security Grant/Solution Area Planner in the amount of \$34,000.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Motion carried.

LAND USE POLICY TASK FORCE

David Girton, Chairman of the Land Use Policy Task Force, recommended that the Board pass 5 resolutions and he explained what each resolution would accomplish. He further stated that there were several members of the task force in attendance and he thanked them for all of their hard work. Mr. Girton went on to say that land use issues are complex, they transcend jurisdictional boundaries and that there are no easy solutions. These resolutions are a start, a building block and a vision for the future.

The following resolutions were presented:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2004
PROCLAMATION

Clarifying Home Builder and Developer Responsibilities to County and Multi-County Organizations

WHEREAS, Many governmental units have jurisdiction over activities developing property or building homes in St. Joseph County; and

WHEREAS, The new home owner or occasional developer may be unaware of all of their responsibilities to these countywide or multi-county governmental units; and

WHEREAS, There is no one resource that would help citizens understand their obligations or the associated timeline during the building or developing process.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that Steve Todd of the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Department coordinate the development of a resource that will help citizens fully understand when and what they are responsible for when developing a property or building a home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, St. Joseph County Office of MSU Extension provide support for this project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the resolution be adopted and second reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 04-2004
PROCLAMATION

Establishing Baseline Water Testing Standards

WHEREAS, Lakes and Rivers are the key factor that makes St. Joseph County a unique natural resource in the nation; and

WHEREAS, High quality surface waters provide for improved quality of life, recreation, sport and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, The understanding of the impact of human and natural processes on the quality of these surface waters is foundational to making appropriate, science based, policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, Many governmental and civic- and natural resource-minded organizations have and will in the future expend resources to test the quality of the surface waters of St. Joseph County.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Soil Conservation District of St. Joseph County develop a protocol or series of protocols that establish minimum surface water testing standards for organizations to consider when conducting surface water quality testing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Soil Conservation District of St. Joseph County seek assistance in establishing these protocols from the United States Geologic Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, Michigan Departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture and MSU Extension as is needed to establish these minimum standards protocols; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the resolution be adopted and second reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 05-2004
PROCLAMATION

Establishment of a Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County stands unique in the nation with its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph County is home to a robust farming and agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, All the townships, cities and many villages are planning for the future use of land resources as zoned communities; and

WHEREAS, Well planned development of land is less expensive to local governments; and

WHEREAS, The citizen members of the St. Joseph County Land Use Policy Task Force have recommended that a Farmland Preservation Committee be formed to develop a proposed St. Joseph County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance and/or policy recommendations for the Board of Commissioners to consider.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee be formed to develop a proposed St. Joseph County Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance and other appropriate policy recommendations for the Board of Commissioners to consider. The task force shall consist of citizens representing agriculture(3), real estate(1), townships(1), natural resources(1), urban(1) and the County Commissioners(1); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners shall accept recommendations for the membership of committee and appoint the committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that David Girton is charged to identify willing citizens to serve on the committee and recommend a person to chair the committee to the Board of Commissioners as soon as is possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Task Force shall meet as frequently as needed to accomplish their charge and report progress to the Board of Commissioners on a quarterly basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the St. Joseph County Office of MSU Extension assist the chairman; providing educational, technical, facilitative and logistical support to the committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the resolution be adopted and second reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2004
PROCLAMATION

Expanding the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Rehabilitation Program to Include Multi-unit Rental Housing.

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners feel it is imperative to provide housing opportunities to its citizens wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has historically participated with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority in providing financing alternatives to citizens of St. Joseph County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners feel the existing single unit dwelling housing rehabilitation program has been successful for the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners feel that housing stock is an important quality of life issue along with being an important integral point of economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners feel that downtown apartments throughout the County are an untapped resource for housing stock, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners feel that an improved downtown housing stock will not only help create housing opportunities, but also be a asset in revitalizing our downtowns; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has successfully partnered in MSHDA programs in the past:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners hereby declare its intention to expand the housing rehabilitation program with MSHDA to include downtown apartments, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners hereby invite various community organizations to open a discussion of how best to proceed with expanding the MSHDA housing rehabilitation program to include downtown apartments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Don Beavers convene this group and bring recommendations for a new agreement to the Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the resolution be adopted and second reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-2004
PROCLAMATION

Advancing the Economic Development Corporation Efforts for Collaborative Economic Development in St. Joseph County

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners feel that the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation is an integral part of economic development throughout southwest Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believe there is a need for collaboration of all private and public agencies throughout the region to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believe the St. Joseph County EDC should be the lead agency in economic development in the County:

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Economic Development Corporation should bring together all private and public agencies in the region to discover ways to collaborate in economic development efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners encourage all private and public agencies in the area to give assistance to the St. Joseph County EDC in creating a collaborative effort towards economic development throughout the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the proceedings of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners this 20th day of January 2004.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the resolution be adopted and second reading waived.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Bippus.

Resolution adopted.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that Mr. Girton worked very hard on this Task Force, it took a lot of time and it did not come easily.

Commissioner Loudenslager thanked Mr. Siegelin and Mr. Girton for their leadership and Michigan State University Extension and staff. Dave Allen also expressed his support of this effort.

Mr. Girton stated that the Task Force met with the County's Township Supervisors and explained the report and resolutions to them. He stated that it takes everyone working together when it comes to land use issues.

Chairman Dobberteen thanked Mr. Girton and the Task Force members.

Mr. Girton stated that he enjoyed working on this Task Force as he is very interested in land use issues. He thanked Steve Siegelin and the Extension staff for all of their input and support.

Commissioner Bordner stated that land preservation issues and the Economic Development Corporation can now move forward.

Commissioner Loudenslager mentioned that out of this work came the Citizen Planner that MSUE sponsored last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Ms. West-Wing stated that there was a meeting held on January 15th and they talked about a number of topics. She will have the minutes for everyone at the next meeting.

Chairman Dobberteen stated that they talked about the Sheriff's Department buying tazers or stun guns.

Judiciary

Commissioner Bordner stated that the next meeting is scheduled for February 11th at noon.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that the next meeting is scheduled for January 27th for continuing discussions on the Sheriff's Department renovation.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on January 16th:

- * there is a snag in the jail renovation because of the HVAC. The equipment bid did not meet the specifications and a different supplier will have to be identified.
- * gas bid was awarded to Murphy Oil.
- * they now have an outline of the work session scheduled on February 5th.

PERSONNAL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Martin Mullendore, Corrections Officer, is on medical leave commencing January 11, 2004 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

RESIGNATION:

Mark Clute, Deputy Equalization Director, has resigned effective January 30, 2004.

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

REQUISITIONS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

One Minolta Digital Scanner-Printer with high speed video laser printer for Register of Deeds	\$ 5,827.00
One Refrigerator for Courts Building Lower Level Break Room	\$ 600.00

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

2003 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

<u>INCREASE:</u>	
Line item 406-253-999.000 (Operating Transfers Out Designated Fairview)	\$48,649.00
<u>INCREASE REVENUE:</u>	
Line item 217-751-699.000 (Operating Transfers In)	\$48,649.00
<u>INCREASE EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Line item 217-751-974.000 (Land Improvement)	\$48,649.00

2004 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS:

<u>DECREASE:</u>	
Line item 406-253-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance)	\$ 9,851.00
<u>DECREASE:</u>	
Line item 406-253-999.000 (Operating Transfers Out Designated Fairview)	\$ 9,851.00
<u>DECREASE REVENUE:</u>	
Line item 217-751-699.000 (Operating Transfers In)	\$ 9,851.00
<u>DECREASE EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Line item 217-751-974.000 (Land Improvement)	\$ 9,851.00
<u>INCREASE:</u>	
Line item 218-136-980.000 (Equipment)	\$ 235.00
<u>INCREASE:</u>	
Line item 218-136-676.000 (Use of Fund Balance)	\$ 235.00
<u>INCREASE:</u>	
Line item 256-236-980.000 (Equipment)	\$ 5,827.00
<u>INCREASE:</u>	
Line item 256-236-941.000 (Contingency)	\$ 5,827.00

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$30,000.00 from Probate Child Care Appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker - 2 half days 11/18/03 & 1/14/04 & 1 full day 1/14/04	\$ 170.00
John Bippus - 8 half days 10/27, 10/28, 10/29, 10/31, 11/3, 11/24 & 11/26/03 & 1/6/04	400.00
Monte Bordner - 5 half days 1/7, 1/15, 1/16, 1/17 & 1/19/04	250.00
Gerald Loudenslager - 2 half days 1/6 & 1/12/04	100.00
David Pueschel - 6 half days 12/17 x 2, 12/18 & 12/22/03 & 1/15 & 1/16/04	300.00
Eric Shafer - 3 half days 11/24, 12/3 & 12/5/03	<u>150.00</u>
	\$1,370.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 13.55
John Bippus	37.64
Monte Bordner	57.00

Gerald Loudenslager	\$ 12.75
David Pueschel	29.28
Eric Shafer	<u>18.36</u>
	\$ 168.58

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

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Dobberteen stated that he would be making the committee assignments at the next meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Nancy Percival stated that the Walk for Warmth would take place in Three Rivers and Sturgis on February 28th and is collecting if anyone would like to give.

Steve Siegelin introduced Bruce McKeller as the new Agriculture and Natural Resource Agent who began employment on January 1st. He has had 8 years in Extension in VanBuren County doing similar work and worked for many years in research at Michigan State University. Mr. Siegelin stated that they are very glad to have Bruce here, he has a lot of experience and he is a hard worker and is tireless. He will spend a lot of time helping producers become more profitable making it easier for them to pay taxes and hire other people to pay taxes.

Mr. McKeller stated that he has been the transit agent through the County for the last several years as the District Integrated Pest Management Agent. He worked with Rod King and Lyndon Kelley when they were the primary agriculture forces in the County. He stated that it is an opportunity and a pleasure to be able to serve in St. Joseph County. It is one of the most impressive agricultural counties in the State and certainly the one that is the highest priority as far as MSUE in southwest Michigan.

Chairman Dobberteen welcomed Mr. McKeller to the County.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Shafer thanked all who helped with the Land Use Task Force.

He also stated that he attended the Martin Luther King, Jr., celebration in Three Rivers on Sunday and the offering of around \$1,175 was collected for the Keystone Place.

Commissioner Baker stated that he attended the Fabius Township Meeting on January 14th and Dave Allen, Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, gave a presentation and the Township unanimously came on Board financially with the EDC.

Commissioner Bordner stated that the EDC Board met last Thursday and there is now a cooperative arrangement between the County EDC, Sturgis EDC and LaGrange County on a study of the growing area between State Road 9 in Indiana and the Toll Road south of Sturgis. He believes that this is a wise move to become involved in this study and the County's EDC has been providing some funding for this. He believes that this ties well together with the Land Use Task Force in this area. This builds good communication which results in good cooperation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until February 3, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

John L. Dobberteen, Chairman