

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 February 20, 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

Absent: John L. Dobberteen

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

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that a Remonumentation Contract with David Gariepy should be added under the Carr Remonumentation Contract.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the minutes for February 6, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, February 9, 2007.
2. Copy of letter to Governor Granholm from Tim Carls, Re: Procedure for public meetings.
3. Resolution from Lenawee County, Re: Urging the Michigan Legislature to freeze taxable values on residential properties.

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

PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENTS TO COUNTY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Executive Committee last Friday discussed a procedure that could be established to review applications for applicants that applied to Boards or Commissions that had a voted millage.

Commissioner Bordner stated that he would like the same procedure applied to those that have authority status as well.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the applications be reviewed by the Commissioners for only those applicants that applied for Boards and Commissions that receive a voted millage or have authority status. Motion carried.

AGREEMENT WITH MAXIMUS, INC. FOR THE FEDERAL STATE CRIMINAL ALIEN ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM GRANTS

Ms. West-Wing stated that this is a renewal of an agreement with Maximus, Inc. Maximus would collect the data and apply for grants for federal funds for housing aliens in our jail. We have received these funds since 2002. Fifteen per cent of federal funds collected are paid to Maximus.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the agreement with Maximus be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

CIRCUIT COURT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

Judge Paul Stutesman gave an overview of Circuit Court's Annual Report for 2006. He stated that this is the 2nd report that he has given and it is tailored to the trial division.

He thanked Kathy Griffin for putting together the statistics for the report.

Judge Stutesman stated that after attending meetings of the Circuit Court Judges' Association that our County is blessed with the great working relationship that the Circuit Court enjoys with the Commissioners, the Administrator and the County Clerk. It has not gone unnoticed.

Judge Stutesman further stated that collections are up, the County Clerk is still on the State Court Collections Advisory Sub-Committee and this County has been tapped to be a pilot program because of the elements that we already have in place.

Commissioner Bordner thanked the Judge for the report and he too appreciates the cooperation between the Judiciary and the Board of Commissioners. He stated that on March 7th the SMART meeting will be held here and he would like Judges Stutesman and Middleton to share their thoughts on what we have in place as alternative programs to housing people in jail.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that this was an excellent report and he appreciates the Courts' willingness to work with the County.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that he has noticed a lot of changes that have been made quickly.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the 2006 Circuit Court Annual Report be accepted. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Chairman Baker declared the public hearing opened on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

John Pence, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission, a month ago, recommended that the Plan come before the Board of Commissioners for approval.

A draft of the Plan has been available for public viewing in the libraries throughout the County, the State Department of Natural Resources, the Parks and Recreation Office and the County Clerk's Office.

All comments that he has heard have been positive and supportive.

The following planning procedures were followed in developing the plan:

- 1 - reviewed the goals and objective of previous Master Plan.
- 2 - reviewed the handicapped accessibility at our parks.
- 3 - a public input workshop was held.
- 4 - recreation standards were followed.

Mr. Pence stated that in order to get closer to the per capita recommendation the primary needs are to add an additional 200 acres to our parks system either at Rawson's King Mill, Cade Lake or Timm Park.

Multiple use trails for biking, hiking and horses should be developed so that we have multiple use parks. They would also like to develop indoor facilities at Meyer Broadway Park and also develop the mill at Rawson's for public use and the Feek property should be developed as well.

For the larger projects we could apply for grants.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that Mr. Pence did a nice job with the Plan and Jeff Knautz, Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, who was in attendance, did a lot of work on the Plan as well.

Chairman Baker declared the Public Hearing closed.

The following resolution was presented:

COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH  
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH  
RESOLUTION NO. 7-2007

WHEREAS, the BOARD of COMMISSIONERS of ST. JOSEPH COUNTY has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2007 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, a public comment session was held FEBRUARY 20, 2007, at the ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COURTHOUSE to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the BOARD of COMMISSIONERS of ST. JOSEPH COUNTY has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the ST. JOSEPH COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS voted to adopt said Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the COUNTY of ST. JOSEPH BOARD of COMMISSIONERS hereby adopts the ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the COUNTY of ST. JOSEPH.

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

Commissioner Bordner thanked Mr. Pence telling him that he did good work and applauds his efforts.

Commissioner Loudenslager thanked Mr. Pence and the Parks and Recreation Commission for the excellent Plan that is very comprehensive.

Chairman Baker echoed comments of his fellow Commissioners.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

#### AGREEMENT WITH MAXIMUS, INC. FOR COST ALLOCATION PLAN

Ms. West-Wing recommended approval of a renewal of an agreement with Maximus to gather data for a central services cost allocation plan which identifies the various costs incurred by the County to support and administer Federal and State programs in the Prosecuting Attorney and the Friend of the Court Offices.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Agreement with Maximus, Inc., for our Cost Allocation Plan be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

#### REMONUMENTATION CONTRACTS

Ms. West-Wing presented three remonumentation contracts for approval which include the fee schedule.

##### Mostrom and Associates, Inc.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the remonumentation contract with Mostrom and Associates, Inc. be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

##### Carr & Associates Land Surveying

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the remonumentation contract with Carr & Associates Land Surveying be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

David Gariepy

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the remonumentation contract with David Gariepy be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

RECYCLE BY MAIL PROGRAM

Ms. West-Wing stated that everyone had received a copy of the written proposal of the Recycle by Mail Program which is a revenue sharing program generated from the recycling of inkjet cartridges and cell phones by mail.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the Recycle by Mail Program be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Abstained: 1 - Commissioner Shafer due to a possible conflict of interest with his employment.

Motion carried.

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT – STATE BUDGET CUTS

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2007

WHEREAS, the St. Joseph County Soil Conservation District provides invaluable service to the County's landowners; and

WHEREAS, the programs served by the Conservation District contribute greatly to the conservation of the County's land, air and water resources for the betterment of all; and

WHEREAS, the staff of the Conservation District office utilizes programs that bring in thousands of Federal dollars in cost-share funds that are used to improve our County's environment and are spent into our local economy; and

WHEREAS, the funding for the local Conservation District has been proposed to be eliminated from the current budget.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor and the Legislature to fully restore the budgeted funding for the State's Conservation Districts.

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

Commissioner Bordner stated that he recently attended an agriculture appropriation sub-committee meeting in Lansing and is very disappointed in the budget cuts in the Governor's budget for this resolution and the one that follows. Agriculture is the 2nd largest industry in the State and currently the most vibrant and there are a lot of farmers that rely on the Soil Conservation District and Michigan State University Extension. This is the 4th cut in the last 4 years. MSUE is involved in rural development, the planning process, the Citizens' Planner, zoning issues and land preservation issues and he strongly supports these resolutions.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION – STATE BUDGET CUTS

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2007

Commissioner Shafer read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Michigan State University Extension Service has long served the citizens of St. Joseph County by providing a vital link to our State's only land grant university; and

WHEREAS, MSU Extension is in essence economic and community development for rural Michigan; and

WHEREAS, MSU Extension educators provide:

- Cutting edge research to our County's farmers
- Invaluable nutritional and family counseling to families
- Unique learning opportunities to our County's 4-H youth
- Support for community planning, zoning and land preservation efforts

WHEREAS, State funding for the MSU Extension Service has been significantly cut over the past several years greatly reducing its ability to provide service; and

WHEREAS, State funding for MSU Extension is leveraged with local and federal funds to provide this vital educational service; and

WHEREAS, there is a proposal currently before the Michigan Legislature to greatly reduce funding for MSU Extension in the middle of this budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor and the Legislature to fully fund MSU Extension at the level already approved in the current budget.

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

Commissioner Dunlap stated that both of these resolutions affect agriculture and that is an arena that has real world benefits and we can see those benefits.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Resolution adopted.

## NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### Veterans' Affairs Board

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that Carl Holsinger be nominated and appointed to the Veterans' Affairs Board for a 4 year term expiring March 1, 2011. Motion carried.

### Agricultural Preservation Board

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the following be nominated and appointed the Agricultural Preservation Board:

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Larry Rice – Agricultural Interest	March 6, 2010
John Fair – Real Estate/Development Interest	March 6, 2010
David Pueschel – County Commissioner	March 6, 2008

Motion carried.

### Economic Development Corporation

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the following be nominated and appointed to the Economic Development Corporation:

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Robert McDonough, representing Townships	August 1, 2009
Mark Honeysett, representing Municipalities	June 1, 2010

Motion carried.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no report.

### Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Judiciary Committee met on February 14th and he has not yet received the minutes.

### Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that they had not met.

### Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that the Executive Committee met on February 16th and the item not discussed tonight that they discussed was receiving the quarterly report on the Transportation Authority by the new Director, SuEllen Headley. He said that Ms. Headley has worked out some issues and they have some new ideas and he believes that she is the right person at the right time to be the Director.

### Planning Commission

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Planning Commission continues to work on updating the County's Master Plan. They will be receiving public comments at the ISD on February 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Work Session

Commissioner Bordner reminded everyone of the work session scheduled tomorrow from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

MISCELLANEOUS:

Nancy Pick, Community Corrections Coordinator, is on medical leave commencing February 8, 2007 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

Linda Baker, Victim Services Coordinator, is on intermittent family leave commencing February 12, 2007 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

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

REQUISITION

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

New 42" snow blower for John Deere 265 tractor for Building and Grounds \$ 1,412.00

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

<u>INCREASE BUILDING AND GROUNDS' BUDGET:</u>	
Line item 101-265-977.000 (Equipment)	\$ 1,412.00
<u>DECREASE BUILDING AND GROUNDS' BUDGET:</u>	
Line item 101-265-931.000 (Equipment Repair)	\$ 1,412.00
<u>INCREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REVENUES:</u>	
Line item 101-301-539.000 (Michigan State Police Highway Safety Grant)	\$ 5,000.00
<u>INCREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES:</u>	
Line item 101-301-977.000 (Equipment General)	\$ 5,000.00

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dan Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem and Expense Reports Not Available

From the Clerk: Even though these were not available at printing time the following motion was passed to approve the per diem and expenses.

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues		Expenditures
December	\$ 1,181,001	\$	1,291,426
Year to Date	13,711,598		13,210,385

Period Fund Balance (\$110,425.00)

Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	100.00%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	100.00%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	100.00%

Mr. Carey stated that the fund balance that was budgeted from 2005 for the 2006 budget was not used therefore leaving the County in better financial shape than predicted.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that almost all departments were under budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the finance statement for December be accepted. Motion carried.

	Revenues		Expenditures
January	\$ 1,077,150	\$	1,178,065
Year to Date	1,077,150		1,178,065

Period Fund Balance (\$100,914)

Total Unreserved Fund Balance - \$2,042,925

Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	8.33%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	7.72%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	8.45%

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the finance statement for January be accepted. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Baker stated that there was great attendance at the MAC conference that he attended and so did Commissioners Dobberteen, Bordner, Dunlap and Loudenslager.

He announced that the packets for the Executive Committee Meetings and the regular Board Meetings will now be sent by email to all Commissioners.

CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Board go into closed session to discuss property acquisition.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

OPEN SESSION

The Board resumed business in open session.

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Bordner that matters proceed as discussed in closed session. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. West-Wing stated that the Branch County Board of Commissioners is planning on hosting a meeting of Commissioners from St. Joseph, Branch and Hillsdale Counties on April 30th at 6:00 p.m. in Coldwater beginning with dinner. Each legislator from these counties will have 15 minutes to speak. Details will follow.

ADJOURNMENT

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

-----  
Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

-----  
Robin Baker, Chairman