

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 21, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Rick Shaffer called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Chairman Shaffer.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

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

Rick Shaffer	Gerald E. Loudenslager
Allen Balog	Robin Baker
Jerry Ware	Donald Eaton
John L. Dobberteen	

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

AGENDA

Ms. West-Wing stated that the update by Tim McGuire should be removed from the agenda due to a conflict that he had.

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the minutes for February 7, 2012 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Joseph Condon, DVM, Re: Animal Control Adoptions.
2. Letter from State Representative Matt Lori, Re: Thank you for resolution regarding House Bill 5223.
3. Resolution from Oakland County, Re: Opposition to the Early Release of Violent Offenders by the Michigan Department of Corrections.
4. Resolution from Huron County, Re: Support of House Bills 5278 and 5279.
5. Minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of January 18, 2012.

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

CITIZENS COMMENTS

John Bippus, Chairman of the Road Commission, introduced Christopher Bolt who was recently hired as an Engineer at the Road Commission and becomes a member of the management team.

Mr. Bolt stated that he is happy and pleased to be working at the Road Commission. He stated that he studied civil engineering at Iowa University and has 20 years of experience as an engineer. He is currently working on his master's degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. He lives in Kalamazoo with his wife and he has 6 children and 2 step-children.

Tim Carls, 63044 Klinger Lake Road, Centreville stated that he recently attended a Road Commission meeting. He said that he was disappointed when he read the minutes stating that apparently the complaints and citizens comments are not a part of the minutes and he thinks that that is a shame. He thanked Chairman Shaffer for talking to him on a recent Saturday as he gave him some ideas.

Mr. Carls stated that there was a tragedy in Iowa when a couple of people died because they came in contact with a pivot. The seed corn companies are concerned because of that and are now requiring farmers to have electricians to make sure that things are safe for the kids when they de-tassel. He mentioned that a couple of people died on slick roads here and nothing was ever said about the Road Commission because of that tragedy.

FRIEND OF THE COURT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

William Thistlethwaite, Friend of the Court, gave an overview of the 2011 Annual Report. He stated that this is his 21st annual report and he can spot trends that have happened in the last 21 years. Their client base continues to grow; in 1990 they had 3,000 clients and now they have 5,200 which is a 58% increase. In 1990 75% of the clients were from divorce cases and now that has been reduced to 40%. The majority of their clients are from paternity and non-support cases where there are children that are not the result of marriage.

Collections from 1990-2007 increased every year peaking in 2007 with over \$12 million being collected. Because of the economic downturn in 2008 their collections have been down every year with \$9.6 million collected in 2011.

Unemployment is up and if clients are employed their wages are less. There have been buyouts and buy downs and many clients have obstacles to overcome when looking for employment as they do not have high school diplomas and some have felony charges and since so many are unemployed when employers are hiring they can be selective.

He has also seen more substance abuse among their clients mostly marijuana and methamphetamine which creates a significant challenge.

There are also many more pro per cases where the clients represent themselves without benefit of an attorney. There are divorce packets that are available to them to make it more understandable for them which have made things go much more smoothly. When the cases are more complex it is much more difficult for clients to represent themselves.

Fortunately the funding for their office has always been sufficient as they always generate more revenue than they have expenditures. Most of their resources come from federal funds.

He has certainly noticed the development of technology as support collections are 99% done electronically.

Last month a new video recording system was installed in the referee room and said that it works well and is safer. He found a grant along with reimbursements from the Cooperative Reimbursement Program to pay for of the cost of the system.

In March he has an employee that is leaving his office and he intends to distribute her duties and not hire a new person at this time.

He is a member of a newly formed Tech Committee appointed by the Judicial Council. The Committee will research ways to unify the Court Systems and eventually hopefully go paperless.

Commissioner Eaton asked about fines and costs that the Friend of the Court Office collects. Mr. Thistlethwaite responded by saying that whenever a warrant officer arrests a client or they make a court appearance for non-payment of child support they are fined \$50 and they collected over \$40,000 in 2011. There is also a statutory fee that is charged which is \$39 per year per case.

Commissioner Dobberteen commended Mr. Thistlethwaite for not filling the position that will be open next month.

Chairman Shaffer thanked Mr. Thistlethwaite for giving a good report and asked him to thank his staff too.

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the 2011 Friend of the Court Annual Report be approved. Motion carried.

REQUEST TO FILL VACANT ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY POSITION

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dobberteen that the request to fill a vacant Assistant Prosecutor's position be approved. Motion carried.

CENTURY BANK AND TRUST

Ms. West-Wing stated that a request has been received from Century Bank and Trust for approval from the Board for specific people in the Treasurer's Office and the County Clerk's Office to be authorized to sign checks.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Ware that the requests from the County Treasurer and County Clerk authorizing check signers be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 7 - Commissioners Shaffer, Loudenslager, Balog, Baker, Ware, Eaton and Dobberteen.

Nay votes cast: 0

Motion carried.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Transportation Authority Board

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Eaton that Connie Stoppenbach be nominated and appointed to the Transportation Authority Board for a term to expire April 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Community Mental Health Board

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Balog that Donald Eaton, Robin Baker, John Dobberteen and Betty Massey be nominated and appointed to the Community Mental Health Board for 3 year terms expiring March 31, 2015. Motion carried.

County Agricultural Preservation Board

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Ware that Tim Peterson, Henry Miller and Donald Eaton be nominated and appointed to the Agricultural Preservation Board with the terms expiring as follows: Peterson and Miller - March 6, 2015; and Eaton - March 6, 2013. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Eaton stated they had a good meeting last week and everyone has a copy of the minutes.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Ware stated that he expects the 3rd bid on the hot water boiler replacement at the jail to be received soon.

Executive

The Executive Committee met February 17, 2012 and everyone has a copy of the minutes.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

RETIREMENT:

Jeanette Jackson, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, will retire effective March 30, 2012.

RESIGNATION:

Maria Ridenour, FOC Enforcement Clerk, has resigned effective March 2, 2012.

Jane Avery, COA In-home Services Aide, has resigned effective March 1, 2012.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Timothy R. Barnes changed from part-time Road Patrol to full-time Road Patrol at \$20.08/hr. effective February 14, 2012.

Gary LeTourneau, Deputy Central Dispatch Director, is on intermittent medical leave commencing February 3, 2012 under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

2011 BUDGET AMENDMENT:

DECREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET:

Line item 101-301-813.000 (Laundry Expense) \$ 119.00

INCREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET:

Line item 101-301-803.000 (Dues and Subscriptions) \$ 119.00

2012 BUDGET AMENDMENTS:

DECREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET:

Line item 101-301-813.000 (Laundry Expense) \$ 119.00

INCREASE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET:

Line item 101-301-803.000 (Dues and Subscriptions) \$ 119.00

DECREASE VICTIM RIGHTS' FUND #260:

Line item 260-229-860.000 (Travel Expense) \$ 271.00

INCREASE VICTIM RIGHTS' FUND#260:

Line item 260-229-729.000 (Postage) \$ 271.00

DECREASE HUMAN RESOURCE'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-226-727.000 (Supplies) \$ 110.00

INCREASE HUMAN RESOURCE'S BUDGET:

Line item 101-226-980 (Equipment) \$ 110.00

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Per Diem

Robin Baker - 8 half days 1/18, 1/19, 1/26, 2/2 x 2, 2/8, 2/15 & 2/16/2012	\$ 400.00
Allen Balog - 5 half days 1/18 x 2, 1/26, 2/8 & 2/14/2012	250.00
John Dobberteen - 6 half days 1/26, 1/30, 2/2, 2/3, 2/7 & 2/20/2012	300.00
Gerald Loudenslager - 12 half days 1/18, 1/19, 1/24 x 2, 2/2, 2/3, 2/13 x 2, 2/14 x 2, 2/16 & 2/17/2012 & 1 full day 1/26/2012	695.00
Rick Shaffer - 8 half days 12/21/2011, 1/4, 1/13, 1/18, 2/1, 2/3, 2/15 & 2/17/2012 & 1 full day 1/23/2012	495.00
Jerry Ware - 4 half days 2/1 x 2 & 2/3/2012 x 2	<u>200.00</u>
	\$2,340.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 246.42
Allen Balog	109.89
John Dobberteen	94.35
Gerald Loudenslager	200.55
Rick Shaffer	126.54
Jerry Ware	<u>33.30</u>
	\$ 811.05

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

Financial Statement - 2011

	Revenues	Expenditures
December	\$ 1,432,727	\$ 1,319,348
Year to Date	14,339,763	14,456,488
Period Fund Balance	\$113,379	
Year to Date	(\$116,725)	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.		100.00%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date		95.37%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date		96.15%

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Ware that the year end unaudited financial statement for 2011 be accepted. Motion carried.

Financial Statement - January 2012

	Revenues	Expenditures
January	\$ 1,107,890	\$ 1,350,269
Year to Date	1,107,890	1,350,269
Period Fund Balance	(\$242,379)	
Year to Date	(\$242,379)	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.		8.33%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date		7.47%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date		9.10%

It was moved by Commissioner Dobberteen and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the Financial Statement for January 2012 be accepted. Motion carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Community Health Committee

Chairman Shaffer stated that in order to continue with the direction from the last meeting regarding being proactive in the realm of access to future health care he would like to appoint John Dobberteen as Chairman, Gerald Loudenslager and Robin Baker to a Community Health Committee to look futuristically at health care in St. Joseph County. This will be the core group that will come back to the Board of Commissioners with a report.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the Community Health Committee be appointed consisting of John Dobberteen as Chairman, Gerald Loudenslager and Robin Baker. Motion carried.

United Way Plaque

Chairman Shaffer gave some background as to how the United Way was begun in St. Joseph County government and stated that he accepted a plaque on behalf of St. Joseph County Government at the United Way Victory Celebration last Thursday and would like to present it to Pattie Bender to keep in her office. The plaque is in honor of County Government being the 10th Top Employer in contributions to the United Way during this campaign. He commended the United Way for surpassing their goal for contributions for the 2012 Campaign by \$30,000.00. He thanked Ms. Bender for her efforts of being Honorary Chair for the campaign and working hard to get and surpass the goal that was set by the United Way Board.

Walk for Warmth

Chairman Shaffer reminded everyone of the Walk for Warmth that will take place this Saturday, February 25th at the fairgrounds in Centreville.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Ware that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until March 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Rick Shaffer, Chairman