

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 March 18, 2003, at 5:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Bordner 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	

Absent: John W. Bippus and John L. Dobberteen.

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

Commissioner Bippus was present at this time.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

Commissioner Shafer stated that on page 48 of the minutes of March 4, 2003 in the fourth paragraph under MISCELLANEOUS it should be corrected as follows:

As stated:

"Commissioner Shafer stated that he missed the last Commission on Aging Meeting due to a conflict at work and also the last Community Mental Health Meeting because of a family emergency. He has heard comments that he does not want to serve on these boards and he says that that is not true. He wants to serve and is interested in both of these boards."

As corrected:

"Commissioner Shafer stated that he missed the last Commission on Aging Meeting due to a conflict at work and also the last District Health Meeting because of a family emergency. He has heard comments that he does not want to serve on these boards and he says that that is not true. He wants to serve and is interested in both of these boards."

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Baker that the minutes for March 4, 2003 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the City of Sturgis, Re: Notice of public hearing on March 12 to consider issuing an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to Vulcan Industries, Inc.
2. Letter from Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, March 6 and 7, 2003.
3. Letter from Area Agency on Aging (III-C), Re: Notice of two community forums to be held March 20 and March 21, 2003.
4. Letter from Community Health Agency, Re: Notice of West Nile Virus seminar for local governmental officials to be held on April 29, 2003.
5. Minutes of Community Action Agency Board of Director's meeting of February 24, 2003.
6. Minutes of Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of February 10, 2003.

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

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2002

Sheriff Matt Lori presented the 2002 Annual Report for the Sheriff's Department. He stated that complaints were up and the locations, times and dates were typical, however February was the busiest month followed by January and July. He stated that July was typical but January and February were not.

Forgery and retail fraud were up and in his opinion this is economy related. Controlled substance arrests were up due to the fact that there are now two narcotics officers. Drunk driving and OUIL were down and he attributes that to awareness in the community.

Accidents were up 97 and fatal accidents went up to 16 with 17 fatalities. The car/deer collisions were the highest in 7 years.

The jail population was up considerably over 2001 resulting in a substantial increase in revenue. Two employees worked on recovering bad debts to the Sheriff's Department. They collected \$3,539 on medical bills and \$17,121 on room and board.

Peter VanCamp and Bruce Morse were honored as Road Patrol Officers of the Year and Andy Stienbarger as Corrections Officer of the Year.

Sheriff Lori reported that Harrison/Landmark completed the jail study during 2002.

His short term goals for 2003 are to build the Explorer Program, work on hand gun uniformity, keep a close eye on the building renovations and to continue to monitor the housing market and get contracts from other entities to house their prisoners. His long term goals are to have a different drive for the entrance to the Animal Control Office, develop a ticket writing package so more tickets can be written faster by getting an automated ticket writing system and to further develop in-roads in townships.

Commissioner Bippus stated that it was an excellent report and that last year the Board challenged the Sheriff to increase out-of-County housing and he exceeded expectations.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Sheriff presented an excellent report and complimented him on the increase in housing and asked where the prisoners were coming from. Sheriff Lori responded by stating that mainly from Oakland, Monroe and Kent Counties and also the Department of Corrections.

Commissioner Pueschel asked if our County was worse than most as far as methamphetamine laboratories. Sheriff Lori stated that we are about the same as other counties in our area.

Commissioner Shafer asked why the controlled substance complaints have doubled and Sheriff Lori responded by saying that that is the result of having 2 narcotics officers.

Vice-Chairman Bordner asked if the drug complaints listed in the report were just from the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff responded in the affirmative.

Sheriff Lori stated that Central Dispatch compiles the figures for the entire County.

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Baker that the Sheriff's Annual Report for 2002 be accepted. Motion carried.

E-9-1-1 CENTRAL DISPATCH ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2002

Andy Goldberger, Central Dispatch Director presented the Annual Report for 2002. He thanked the Central Dispatch Policy Board for their dedicated service by attending quarterly meetings to oversee the operation. He thanked the professional and well-trained staff and stated that without them none of the system works. The statistical information reflects just how busy they are and stated that 87% of their business is law enforcement with the remaining 13% in fire and emergency medical.

Mr. Goldberger stated that their 2002 goals were met and they are already working very hard to meet their goals for 2003. He listed, in the report, the many activities that he participated in or attended during 2002.

He also stated that in December of 2002 the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of updated Computer Aided Dispatch hardware and software, which has been installed. This includes the most recent word product for the records management system. The hardware has also been installed for the mapping system and they will be working with the G.I.S. Department to implement the system. This will allow for the wireless and wireline 9-1-1 calls to appear in the CAD system but will also soon appear on a map to allow tracking of the calls.

Mr. Goldberger stated that it is his understanding that St. Joseph County will be the first county in the State to be in Phase II which is being able to locate the cell caller within about 100 yards. Outstanding cooperation was also received from Verizon on this project.

With the help of the Administrator this project came in under budget. Provided to each Commissioner is a printout of the combined activities for each of the communities each of them represent.

He thanked all the Chiefs of all of the agencies, the Sheriff, the Post Commander and other department agencies (over 28 of them) that they work with for their understanding and assistance as he and his staff learn, grow and provide the very best service possible.

Commissioner Bippus stated that it was an excellent report. He further stated that he is serving as Chairman of the Policy Board, which meets quarterly, and their job is easy because Mr. Goldberger does all of the heavy lifting.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that it was an excellent report.

Commissioner Baker commented on the wonderful report and that Mr. Goldberger does an excellent job.

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the E-9-1-1 Central Dispatch Annual Report for 2002 be accepted.

Vice-Chairman Bordner stated that it was a nice report.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 8-2003

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS PARENTING AWARENESS MONTH IN ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

Commissioner Bippus read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the most precious and valuable asset of our County is all our children, and the future of our society depends largely on the emotional, physical, and intellectual growth of these most vulnerable individuals; and

WHEREAS, March is declared Parenting Awareness Month in the State of Michigan, and it is to draw public attention to the critical importance of parenting in helping children to become healthy, caring and contributing children; and

WHEREAS, Parenting Awareness Month seeks to promote education and resources for developing parenting skills throughout the year, and especially locally through parenting networking; and

WHEREAS, successful parenting can add stability and strength to our children's lives and help reduce social problems such as substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, violence, unemployment, poverty and crime; and

WHEREAS, providing and promoting parenting education and resources for developing parenting skills will contribute greatly to the improved quality of life for our children and will benefit all the residents of St. Joseph County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Joseph County declares March 2003, as Parenting Awareness Month in St. Joseph County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Joseph County supports all efforts, and resources, particularly local, that promote, encourage, support and educate the community on parenting issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Joseph County upholds the vision that every person, everywhere, every day understands their responsibility in raising our children.

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

Jay Newman, Intermediate School Superintendent, stated that this was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role of parenting. He stated that all of us know from our experiences that if we had a cadre of quality parents the Sheriff's job would be easier. We can do everything that we possibly can. One of the real positive things that he has had the opportunity to do as Chairman of the Human Services Commission is to look at some of the programs that the HSC is involved in to improve the quality of parenting within the County. Healthy Family Programs, as part of its endeavor, teaches parenting classes in every community in the County. He has assisted and taught some of these classes. He also has had the opportunity to work with the Child Abuse and Neglect Council in some of the parenting classes that they teach. Parenting classes are also being taught by some churches and various other organizations in the County including Michigan State University Extension.

It would be nice if we had a safety net for every child so that they have the quality of parenting that they deserve.

Just the fact that the County Commission is aware of this issue and supports good parenting is very much appreciated and he thanked the Board.

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.

NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Community Mental Health

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that Robin Baker and David Pueschel be nominated and appointed to the Community Mental Health Board for a 3 year term to expire March 31, 2006. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Bippus stated that the Law Enforcement Committee met on March 6th and the minutes from that meeting are in the packets.

Vice-Chairman Bordner asked the Sheriff if he was still having a hard time getting persons to fill the Marine Patrol Division. The Sheriff responded by saying that it should be better this year.

Judiciary

Commissioner Bordner stated that he would be out of town for the next Judiciary Meeting scheduled for April 9th.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Bippus stated that there was nothing new to report and Ms. West-Wing added that the next Physical Resources Meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 2:00 p.m.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bippus stated that everyone had a copy of the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held March 12th and had nothing to add.

Retirement Board

Commissioner Bippus apologized for missing the Special Retirement Board Meeting today and asked Ms. West-Wing to give a report. She responded by saying that the Board is working with a hired consultant who has developed an RFP and since there was not a quorum present today that a special meeting was scheduled for April 1st at 3:30 p.m.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

RESIGNATION:

Dawn Criswell, Friend of the Court Enforcement Caseworker, has resigned effective March 28, 2003.

NEW HIRE:

Christina Marie Wolf has been hired as part-time (20 hours per week) Victim Services Clerk at \$8.53/hr. effective March 11, 2003.

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

REQUISITION

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

One Reader/Printer, One Dell PC, Two Desks and Associated Components,	\$18,100.00
One Secretarial Chair for Register of Deeds	

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the requisition be approved. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$30,000.00 from County Road Bridge Appropriation to County Road Bridge Fund.

\$25,000.00 from Probate Child Care Appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund.

ESTABLISH REGISTER OF DEEDS TECHNOLOGY FUND 2003 BUDGET:

REVENUE:

Line item 256-236.616.020 (Recording Fees) \$75,000.00

EXPENDITURES (for 9 Months of 2003)

Line item 256-236-706.130 (Wages – Deputies)	\$16,795.00
Line item 256-236-715.000 (FICA)	\$ 1,285.00
Line item 256-236-716.000 (Health Insurance)	\$ 5,226.00
Line item 256-236-716.010 (Dental Insurance)	\$ 291.00
Line item 256-236-716.020 (S & A Insurance)	\$ 124.00
Line item 256-236-716.100 (Workers Compensation)	\$ 57.00
Line item 256-236-717.000 (Life Insurance)	\$ 39.00
Line item 256-236-718.010 (Retirement)	\$ 968.00

Line item 256-236-727.000 (Office Supplies)	\$ 5,500.00
Line item 256-236-978.000 (Furniture/Fixtures)	\$ 1,600.00
Line item 256-236-980.000 (Equipment)	\$15,000.00
Line item 256-236-984.000 (Computer Hardware)	\$ 1,500.00
Line item 256-236-941.000 (Contingency)	<u>\$26,615.00</u>
Total Budgeted Expense:	\$75,000.00

LOAN:

\$40,000.00 loan from the General Fund fund balance to the Register of Deeds Technology Fund, to be paid back by the end of August 2003.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dan Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker - 8 half days 2/19, 2/25, 3/3, 3/5, 3/11 & 3/12 x 2, 3/13 & 3/17/03	\$ 520.00
John Bippus - 6 half days 2/14, 2/26, 2/27, 2/28, 3/6 & 3/12/03	300.00
Monte Bordner - 4 half days 2/28 x 2, 3/5 & 3/12/03, 2 full days 3/5 & 3/17/03	390.00
John Dobberteen - 9 half days 2/26, 2/28, 3/1, 3/6 x 2, 3/8 x 2, 3/11 & 3/12/03	450.00
Gerald Loudenslager - 3 half days 2/19, 2/21 & 2/27/03	150.00
David Pueschel - 5 half days 2/20, 2/27, 2/28, 3/6 & 3/17/03	250.00
Eric Shafer - 4 half days 2/26 x 2, 3/4 & 3/19/03	<u>200.00</u>
Total	\$2,260.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 52.92
John Bippus	28.08
Monte Bordner	97.20
John Dobberteen	69.12
Gerald Loudenslager	269.64
David Pueschel	50.40
Eric Shafer	<u>23.04</u>
Total	\$ 590.40

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
February	\$ 1,202,276.00	\$ 849,338.00
Year to Date	2,047,000.00	2,053,925.00

Period Fund Balance - \$352,939

Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	16.67%
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	16.90%
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	16.96%

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

Independent Contractor's Agreement

Mr. Carey recommended approval of an Independent Contractor's Agreement with Mary E. Corfman to provide family counseling services for the Friend of the Court. A portion of the financing of this agreement comes from fees collected on marriage license applications in the County Clerk's Office.

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Independent Contractor's Agreement with Mary Corfman 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.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman Bordner thanked everyone for bearing with him on his first meeting in the Chair. He also reminded everyone of the meeting at the Senior Center in Coldwater on Thursday, March 20th.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Baker stated that we are on the threshold of war and his support is with the President and his prayers are with our soldiers and our country.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that he has received a facsimile from the Michigan Association of Counties requesting that he be the liaison from this Board to MAC. He realizes that this is an appointment of Chairman Dobberteen but he will forward any issues that the Commissioners may have to MAC. This is happening because of some issues that arose in some other counties. If there are any questions he will forward them to MAC.

He also stated that he supports the President and his prayers are for the country, these are pretty dark hours.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he is unable to attend the employee appreciation luncheon tomorrow and he is praying for our troops and hopes that it is over quick.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that the President has thought about his decision a lot and he is behind him 100% and hopes it is over quickly.

Vice-Chairman Bordner stated that the Commissioners have stated the mood of the country, it is a grave situation but we will deal with it.

Ms. West-Wing stated that there were 112 employees registered for the seminar tomorrow. We have an excellent speaker coming to talk on customer service and benefits should be able to be seen immediately.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Bippus and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until April 1, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Monte Bordner, Vice-Chairman