

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 April 2, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman John Dobberteen, called the meeting to order.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Shaffer.

The Pledge to the American Flag was given.

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

Allen Balog	Donald Eaton
Rick Shaffer	Robin Baker
John Dobberteen	

Also present were Pat Yoder, Administrator/Controller and Joni Smith, Finance Director.

#### AGENDA

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

#### MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Shaffer that the minutes for March 19, 2013 be approved. Motion carried.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from Michael Hughes, City of Sturgis, Re: In support of St. Joseph County's marketing project and further exploration of same.
2. Letter from Michael Hughes, City of Sturgis, Re: The Sturgis City Commission approved a Letter of Intent for the Sturgis Senior Center.
3. Resolution from Gratiot County, Re: Rescinding Resolution #171 regarding appealing to the Legislature to revoke ACT 88 of 1913 (PA 88).
4. Resolution from Oceana County, Re: Requesting Legislature to implement a plan to improve Michigan roads and highways.
5. Minutes of the Community Action Board meeting of February 25, 2013.

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

#### NOMINATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

##### Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

It was moved by Commissioner Baker and supported by Commissioner Balog that Larry Walton be nominated and appointed to the Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to fill a vacancy for a term to expire March 31, 2015. Motion carried.

##### Solid Waste Management Planning Committee

It was moved by Commissioner Eaton and supported by Commissioner Shaffer that Mark Ripplinger be nominated and appointed to the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee representing Townships to fill a vacancy for a term that will expire September 1, 2013. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Baker stated that the committee had not met.

Judiciary

Commissioner Eaton stated that the committee had not met.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Balog stated that the committee had not met.

Executive Committee

Chairman Dobberteen stated that the Executive Committee did not meet.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Mr. Yoder presented the following report:

RESIGNATION:

Brenda Babcock, Deputy Equalization Director, has resigned effective April 30, 2013.

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Yoder presented the following report:

FROM APPROPRIATION:

\$64,317.00 from General Fund Appropriation (line item 101-001-965.060) to Community Mental Health Fund.

\$22,500.00 from General Fund Appropriation (line item 101-001-965.065) to Community Mental Health Fund.

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Smith presented the following bills for payment:

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Due from State	\$ 2,244.19	\$
Appropriations	14,052.83	
County Commission	688.11	9,755.13
Circuit Court	2,426.58	22,212.15
District Court	5,838.80	84,591.51
Friend of the Court	2,680.36	60,226.27
Probate Court	50.95	27,342.56
Juvenile Branch	11,563.41	40,604.39
Department of Corrections	261.08	
Appeals Court	444.25	

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
Public Defender	\$ 38,750.00	\$
Administration	26.00	4,278.91
Elections	2,490.75	
Finance Department	2,688.62	14,411.45
County Clerk	583.80	39,370.20
Equalization Department	333.50	21,250.53
Human Resources	13,350.21	14,127.26
Geographic Information Systems	182.08	11,846.38
Prosecutor's Office	10,530.76	51,146.61
Register of Deeds	52.37	12,924.93
County Treasurer	8.54	24,297.67
Cooperative Extension	32,572.25	7,985.47
Information Technology	22,557.85	19,415.64
Buildings & Grounds	14,890.73	17,823.05
Courts Building Security		10,519.39
Drain Commission	227.95	7,477.75
Soil Erosion		3,240.28
Sheriff Department	44,773.40	162,040.47
Sheriff Reserves	408.50	
Marine Safety Patrol	604.00	
Jail & Turnkey	31,474.96	161,604.40
Planning Commission	250.00	
Emergency Services	917.17	6,358.03
Animal Control	1,761.23	13,606.89
Board of Public Works		844.92
Medical Examiners	975.00	
Child Care - Juvenile	1,755.82	
Department of Veterans' Affairs	4,500.00	
Veterans' Services		4013.25
Grant Writer	22.00	6,549.17
Utilities & General Services	<u>37,555.15</u>	<u></u>
 Total	 \$ 304,493.20	 \$ 859,864.66
 <u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	 <u>EXPENDITURES</u>	 <u>PAYROLL</u>
County Road Commission	\$ 425,826.47	\$
Parks & Recreation	1,440.06	7,755.80
Emergency 911 Service	199,791.99	84,056.13
Central Dispatch - Wireless	1,215.86	7,300.40
Meyer Broadway/Coon Hollow Park	897.76	4,200.09
Family Counseling	740.00	
Cade Lake Park	98.86	
Animal Shelter Donation Fund	77.21	
Register of Deeds Automation Fund	38,207.50	
Victims' Rights Advocate Fund	-161.25	5,043.54
Community Corrections Advisory Bd.	6,376.00	4,602.38
Community Corrections Program	1,148.19	
Local Corrections Officers Train. Fund	550.00	
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	5,841.77	
Law Enforcement Fund	1,267.19	30,674.19
Secondary Road Patrol	33.00	16,755.61
Homeland Security Grant Fund	12,846.65	5,907.04

<u>OTHER FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>PAYROLL</u>
County Law Library	\$ 1,608.33	\$
Principal Residence Denial Fund		844.92
Commission on Aging	55,778.43	106,493.78
Child Care: Probate Court & DHS	29,035.35	17,313.33
Veterans' Trust Fund	4,477.72	
Forfeiture & Foreclosure Fund	2,762.85	
Inmate Store Fund	5,568.28	
Three Rivers Community Center	8,412.53	1,523.80
Long Lake Revolving Fund	24.54	
Information Tech. Improvement Fund	955.85	
Flexible Benefits Insurance Fund	<u>190,731.81</u>	
 Total	 \$ 995,552.95	 \$ 292,471.01
 Grand Total	 \$ 1,300,046.15	 \$ 1,152,335.67

General Fund Operating Expenditures	\$299,054.32
Pre-Authorized	<u>5,438.88</u>
Accounts Payable	\$304,493.20

General Fund Payroll Expenditures	<u>\$859,864.66</u>
	\$1,164,357.86

Other Funds Operating Expenditures	\$948,162.05
Pre-Authorized	<u>47,390.90</u>
Accounts Payable	\$995,552.95

Other Funds Payroll Expenditures	<u>\$292,471.01</u>
	\$1,288,023.96

Total Recorded for the Month \$2,452,381.82

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and supported by Commissioner Eaton that the bills be approved for payment. Motion carried.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

##### Chairman's Report

Chairman Dobberteen stated that they would forego setting the work session at this time.

#### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Tim Carls, 63044 Klinger Lake Road, Centreville thanked the Clerk for providing him with a recording of the March 5th Commission Meeting. He is asking for help from the Farm Bureau to help remove Commissioner Eaton from the Ag Committee as he said that Commissioner Eaton does not represent any type of agriculture. He is asking again that there should be some repercussions to Commissioner Eaton for his comments at the March 5th meeting. He asked how to get on a Commission agenda and Chairman Dobberteen told him to contact the Administrator.

Scott Hopkins, Emergency Services Coordinator, welcomed Mr. Yoder back as Administrator and announced that next week starting on April 7th it is Michigan Severe Weather Awareness Week. He will be doing a media release suggesting that the public be aware and prepared in case there is severe weather. He said that June and July are historically the most active weather months but it is never too early to prepare.

Lois Ware, 403 Apt. A Gateway Village, Sturgis read a letter addressed to Lynn Coursey, Executive Director of the Commission on Aging, that contained a total of 19 questions regarding the proposed Senior Center in Sturgis. She asked for the answers to be in writing and she will keep the Board of Commissioners informed of any answers that she receives.

Dan Lucas, 67608 Maple Road, Constantine believes that the \$500,000 that the Commissioners are considering spending in advertising to try to get senior citizens to retire to this County could better be spent focusing on bringing jobs to the area. He encouraged the Board to wait and see how the investment that the Board has made with Southwest Michigan First works out. He also said that our roads are bad and that money could be spent in infrastructure. He believes that the money should be spent wisely and in this State not on the company, 2 Fish, which is based in Wisconsin.

Rebecca Shank, 12302 Corey Lake Road, Three Rivers gave a synopsis of her ancestors' Chicago roots. She also referenced a letter to the editor written by Mr. Fox and does not disagree with his statement that Chicago people have contributed greatly to St. Joseph County in the last 125 years. Investing in new strategies will allow us to move forward. She did disagree with his statement that if the County had invested their resources as the Sturgis Foundation does then we would have gained a tremendous amount of additional money. Mrs. Shank remarked that when public money is invested taking risks is prohibited. She believes that it should be a goal to attract young families to the County and that no County money should be spent in private education. She suggests that a team be formed to discuss these and other issues and believes that we should look at resources that are on our doorstep.

Andy Brandt, Fabius Township, stated that he is opposed to anything that takes government money to create more government. He stated that the Commissioners profess to be Republicans which he always thought meant being conservative and astute. He believes that the Commissioners may be embarking on a parasitiful adventure. If there is a Senior Center to be built he believes that it should be built with private funds. He quickly polled the audience to see if anyone is in favor of the Senior Center being built and no one raised their hand. He stated that the administrative fees that are collected making the Delinquent Tax Fund so large are on the backs of the taxpayers. He said that the county is taking money and misappropriating it. He wants less services not more.

Dennis Bohm, Centreville asked why Judy Nelson is being overlooked for the Equalization Director's position that will be shared with Cass County. He also wants to know why Mr. Yoder was hired over other people and he wants to know why there are now 5 Commissioners instead of 7 and would like time limits on service for the Commissioners too.

#### COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Balog welcomed Mr. Yoder to the County.

Commissioner Shaffer thanked Chairman Dobberteen for resolving an issue with a constituent earlier today.

Commissioner Baker welcomed Mr. Yoder to the County.

#### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Shaffer and supported by Commissioner Baker that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until April 16, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

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

-----  
John Dobberteen, Chairman