

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 July 17, 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
David J. Pueschel	Monte Bordner

Absent: John Dobberteen

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

AGENDA

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

MINUTES APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Pueschel and supported by Commissioner Bordner that the minutes for July 3, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Letter from the Michigan Association of Counties, Re: MAC Legislative Updates, July 6 and July 13, 2007.
2. Letter from McCartney & Company, P.C., Re: Copy of annual audit for 9-1-1 service district.
3. Resolution from Livingston County, Re: Supporting Senate Bills 410 and 411 (9-1-1 funding.)
4. Minutes of the Southwest Michigan Substance Abuse Advisory Council meeting of June 18, 2007.
5. Minutes of the Commission on Aging Board meeting of June 20, 2007.

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

G.I.S. DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Andrew Hartwick, G.I.S. Director, presented the department's annual report for 2006. He thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to present the report.

He introduced Erin Langworthy the Cartographer, whom he says is the main force in the maintenance and updating of the G.I.S. System.

Projects for 2006:

- 538 changes were made to the parcel layer. They work real closely with the Equalization Department, Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Assessors.
- there were 164 new addresses assigned through the Rural ID system in 2006 along with a few new roads. There are 27,000 addresses in the County and 55,000 road segments. Communication is key for those affected by the address changes.
- they have sold many pre-made custom County maps.

- they administer the Remonumentation Program and he is fortunate to work with a good group of surveyors.

Mrs. Jarnefelt attended a conference before her resignation last year and he attended one as well.

The revenues were the highest in the past 8 years and the expenses were the lowest. There were no large purchases during 2006.

In early October there will be a new aerial flight of the County. This is being done in conjunction with the City of Three Rivers.

They work with the FEMA FIRM Modification Program regarding flood insurance maps in order for rates to be established.

The online mapping that they provide has had many positive responses.

He stated that he has been here almost 1 year and at that time he thought that this was one of the best G.I.S. Department's in the State and he still thinks that.

They continue to work well with others to deliver their products.

Chairman Baker stated that it was an excellent report and that staff is doing a good job.

Commissioner Dunlap stated that he is amazed at the information that you can get from the G.I.S. Department.

Commissioner Pueschel stated that he used the department just last week and he received his information and the staff gave good service.

Commissioner Shafer stated that Mr. Hartwick is doing a great job and that there is a history with the address ordinance.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he received a statistical report at the Website Meeting today and that the Land Resource Centre has the 2 largest hits on the list for the month of June.

Commissioner Bordner thanked Mr. Hartwick for the enthusiastic report. He stated that he is pleased about the services that they provide and that they are aware of the customer service that they provide. The investment in technology is working.

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that it was an excellent report and he appreciates the remark that we have the best department in the State. He believes that Mr. Hartwick is doing a fantastic job.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the G.I.S. Annual Report for 2006 be accepted. Motion carried.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006

Douglas Fisher, Prosecuting Attorney, stated that all activity in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office was up slightly. They are up in felony convictions by almost 10%. And, it was a fantastic year for guilty pleas. Great investigations result in lots of guilty pleas.

He stated that we are one of the busiest and most effective of Counties our size in the State regarding jury trial convictions.

Investigations are a result of a team effort and often during a major crime there may be 20-25 officers from various departments on scene the day that the crime was committed.

Commissioner Shafer stated that he does a nice job and is pleased with the Victims' Rights portion of the office.

Mr. Fisher introduced Linda Baker, Victims' Rights Coordinator who listens to complaints from victims all day long.

Commissioner Shafer thanked Mr. Fisher for doing work for the Commission. Mr. Fisher responded by saying that he does not hesitate calling other Prosecutors that may have more expertise than he might have in some subjects.

Chairman Baker thanked him for providing the document that gave comparisons to other activities of the Prosecutor's Offices in the State.

Commissioner Bordner thanked Mr. Fisher for the report and for the work that he does and he appreciates the inter-agency collaboration as we do not always have a lot of resources therefore we must use what we have well.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Prosecuting Attorney's Annual Report for 2006 be accepted. Motion carried.

NOTTAWA PARK VENDOR AGREEMENT WITH JOHN AND CINDY KING

Ms. West-Wing stated that John and Cindy King would like to place their "Weenie Kings" wagon at Nottawa Park for the remainder of the summer.

It was moved by Commissioner Dunlap and supported by Commissioner Shafer that the Nottawa Park Vendor Agreement with John and Cindy King be approved.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

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

Nay votes cast: 0

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

ADDENDUM TO EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CATHY ANNIS

Ms. West-Wing stated that at the request of the Economic Development Corporation Board she is presenting an addendum to the employment agreement with Cathy Annis, EDC Director.

It was moved by Commissioner Bordner and supported by Commissioner Loudenslager that the addendum to the employment agreement with Cathy Annis, EDC Director, be approved.

Commissioner Dunlap asked what the percentage of increase was and is it in line with other increases for employees and Ms. West-Wing responded by saying that it was 10% and that was more than other increases.

Ms. West-Wing stated that the EDC is supported one-half by County funds and the other half is paid for by township, cities and villages that participate.

Commissioner Dunlap feels that the increase is excessive and we need conformancy.

Commissioner Bordner stated that he appreciates Commissioner Dunlap's concern and he had the same concerns. He pointed out that when Mrs. Annis was appointed to this position that her salary was considerably less than the previous two directors. They saw potential with her and now have documented performance. She is also paid less than her peers. He is comfortable with this proposed increase.

Commissioner Shafer supports the increase and remarked that it is still less than her peers.

The aye and nay vote was called as follows:

Aye votes cast: 5 – Commissioners Shafer, Loudenslager, Baker, Pueschel and Bordner.

Nay votes cast: 1 – Commissioner Dunlap.

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Dobberteen.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that there was no report.

Judiciary

Commissioner Loudenslager stated that the Judiciary Committee met on July 11th at noon. The Clerk stated that everyone should have been emailed the minutes. Commissioner Loudenslager stated that he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

Physical Resources

Commissioner Shafer stated that there was no report.

Executive Committee

Commissioner Bordner stated that the minutes of the Executive Committee on July 13th have been distributed and he would answer any questions that anyone may have.

EDC Regional Meeting

Commissioner Dunlap stated that he attended an EDC Regional meeting today with Chairman Baker and Commissioner Pueschel in Lawrence. Counties from Indiana were also invited. It was a fact finding meeting and was well attended.

Website

Commissioner Shafer stated that the Website Committee met today and we are still waiting on 2 photos of the Commissioners before they are placed on the webpage. Genealogists will soon be able to view the County Clerk's death index from 1867-2006. And, the Transportation Millage Language is also on the webpage.

Parks and Recreation

Commissioner Shafer stated that they intend to winterize the mill at Rawson's King Mill Park. Eston Rawson will be moving from the mill in September and the Greiders would like to move in and pay rent. Commissioner Shafer stated that the building is really in rough shape and it would be hard to bring up to code. There are a lot of liability issues there and the Parks and Recreation Commission feels that it is best to take this one step at a time.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

NEW HIRE:

Joanna Schrock has been hired as part-time (20 hours/week) Parks and Recreation Secretary at \$9.55/hr. (Soltysiak system, grade 1, minimum) effective July 17, 2007.

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

REQUISITION

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

Two Patriot desk chairs (\$89.99 each) for Department of Corrections \$ 179.98

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

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Ms. West-Wing presented the following report:

BUDGET AMENDMENT:

<u>INCREASE REVENUE CENTRAL DISPATCH FUND #211:</u>	
Line item 211-911-676.000 (Budgeted Use of Fund Balance)	\$ 17,650.00
<u>INCREASE EXPENDITURE CENTRAL DISPATCH FUND #211:</u>	
Line item 211-911-985.000 (Computer Software)	\$ 17,650.00

FROM GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY:

\$200.00 from General Fund Contingency (line item 101-890-941.000) to Department of Corrections (line item 101-151-978.000).

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

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Mr. Carey presented the following reports:

Per Diem

Robin Baker – 12 half days 6/21 x 2, 6/27, 6/28 x 2, 6/29, 7/9 x 2, 7/11 x 2, 7/13 & 7/17/07	\$ 600.00
Monte Bordner – 9 half days 6/26, 6/28, 6/29, 7/2, 7/9, 7 /10 x 2, 7/12 & 7/13/07 & 1 full day 7/16/07	545.00
Michael Dunlap – 5 half days 6/28, 7/10 x 2, 7/11 & 7/12/07 & 1 full day 7/17/07	345.00
Gerald Loudenslager – 6 half days 6/20, 6/26 x 2, 7/11, 7/14 & 7/16/07 & 1 full day 6/21/07	395.00
David Pueschel – 5 half days 6/27, 6/28, 7/12, 7/16 & 7/17/07	250.00
Eric Shafer – 7 half days – 6/20, 6/29, 7/2, 7 /11 x 2, 7/13 & 7/17/07	350.00
	\$ 2,485.00

Expenses

Robin Baker	\$ 203.22
Monte Bordner	222.13
Michael Dunlap	129.98
Gerald Loudenslager	69.36
David Pueschel	48.99
	\$ 673.68

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

Financial Statements

	Revenues	Expenditures
June	\$ 1,101,546	\$ 1,362,317
Year to Date	6,747,853	6,919,424
Transfers Out	\$ 478,456	\$ 478,456
Period Fund Balance	(\$739,226.00)	
Year to Date	(\$650,027.00)	
Percent of budget year elapsed year to date.	50.00%	
Percent of total budgeted funds earned year to date	46.77%	
Percent of total budgeted funds expended year to date	49.61%	

Mr. Carey stated that the “transfers out” moved approximately \$425,000 into the budget stabilization fund and approximately \$53,000 into the Information Technology Fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Loudenslager and supported by Commissioner Dunlap that the financial statements be accepted.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

Chairman Baker stated that the Covered Bridge will likely be closed fair week because of work that will be done on the bridge. Commissioner Loudenslager added that the water will be lowered 4 feet and work on the Sturgis Dam will be done at the same time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Bordner introduced his wife, Robin, 2 daughters, Rebecca and Hope and grandson, Derek, who were in attendance and then proceeded to make an announcement that he intends to seek the 59th State Representative Seat in the 2008 Primary Election.

He stated that he will have served 8 years on the County Commission; the Commission has tried to allocate the County’s resources fairly; the Judiciary portion of government was revamped.

He further stated that Michigan faces many economic challenges and it cannot be fixed with the Band-Aid approach. He would like to “right the ship.” He has been a life-long resident of St. Joseph County, he understands the issues and he wants to be the voice of St. Joseph and Cass Counties.

He said that he had a prepared press release.

Chairman Baker wished him the very best.

Commissioner Shafer congratulated him.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Shafer and supported by Commissioner Pueschel that the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners adjourn until August 7, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Pattie S. Bender, County Clerk

Robin Baker, Chairman