

**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

November 16, 2006

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 16, 2006 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, Michigan.

Roll Call: Present: Comrs. Bolger, Miller, Moore, Segal, Solis, Strowbridge and Todd.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

A Moment of Personal Prayer was observed; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Comr. Bolger.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM:**

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the November 16, 2006 agenda and addendum as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the October 19, 2006 minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

**CITIZENS' TIME:**

Environmental Health Sanitarian Bob Overley addressed the proposed amendment of County Policy No. 415, advising that the Sanitarians currently take the vehicles home and have since 1988 because of the special work that the Sanitarians do and their travel to the outlying areas of the county. Mr. Overley stated that he believes for the Sanitarians to continue to provide that service, they should be allowed to continue to take the vehicles home.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

2006 Corporate Cup Plaque Presentation

Comr. Moore stated that it is with mixed emotions that he comes before the Board to make the presentation, as he had hoped this year the volleyball team could finish in first place; however, sadly could not. Comr. Moore advised that this is the sixth year in a row that the team has placed in the top three. Comr. Moore presented the plaque to Team Captain Melissa Jaconette and thanked her for leading the team to victory and for teaching him how to spike.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 180-2006

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Segal, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following November 16, 2006 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

- (1) Resolutions received from Cheboygan, Allegan and Benzie Counties opposing House Bill No. 6391 {Amendment of the General Property Tax Act}. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons, with copies remitted to Equalization Director David Lee)
- (2) Communication received Mr. William Black Jr., Battle Creek resident, addressing concerns regarding road conditions. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Road Commission Managing Director Dennis Randolph)
- (3) Resolution received from Iron County supporting Board Resolution 146-2006 {Legislation Opposing Mortgage Fraud}. (Received and placed on file)
- (4) Communication received from the Michigan Department of Transportation requesting input on MDOT’s proposed 2007-2011 Five Year Transportation Program. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Road Commission Managing Director Dennis Randolph)
- (5) Third Quarter 2006 Hiring Freeze Waiver Report”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller's Report

2007 County Budget Recommendation

County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell advised that the budget presented is a result of an extensive process, and thanked the departments and the Budget Committee. Mr. Purcell advised that the Budget Committee and the administrative team started with a budget reflecting a \$4.8 Million shortfall of departmental requests which exceeded revenue projections. Mr. Purcell stated that the total budget for 2007 is \$38,890,128 which is a 3.4 percent increase over the 2006 amended General Fund budget.

Mr. Purcell addressed highlights of the 2007 budget; i.e., Medical Care Facility bond issuance in the amount of \$8 Million and millage renewal, senior millage renewal, funding for a centralized law enforcement information system, payment in lieu of taxes from the Kellogg/Keebler Renaissance Zone, Federal detainees per diem increase, Corporation Counsel savings, replacement of the jail security system, direct property management for the Toeller Building and the Albion Human Services Building, and Energy Conservation Plan savings. Mr. Purcell advised regarding the renaissance zone, that the county contributed over \$500,000 per year for years 2004 and 2005 by way of the agricultural renaissance zone created for Kellogg's U.S. Snacks Project in Battle Creek. The agreement establishing the Zone provides that the Kellogg Company make a payment in lieu of taxes for the next three years of the five-year period based on the base tax year of 2004 which will restore the county revenue previously contributed.

Mr. Purcell advised regarding jail revenue, that ten percent of all of the additional revenue shall be set aside for a capital reserve dedicated to meeting the ongoing and future needs for capital improvements for the jail. Mr. Purcell addressed salary increases, advising that the Board of Commissioners declined a salary increase for 2007 and 2008 and that elected officials and their deputies will receive no increase. Mr. Purcell advised that an increase of 1.5 percent is recommended for county non-union employees, in line with what union employees received. Mr. Purcell advised that the jail security system is being replaced with a majority of the funding obtained through a loan from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund that will be repaid over a ten year period.

Mr. Purcell stated that over the last few years the fund balance has slipped below the Board's policy of retaining 8 to 12 percent of the previous fiscal year's General Fund. Mr. Purcell advised that this year the fund balance will increase to approximately \$2.6 Million or an approximate 7 percent increase. Mr. Purcell advised that there is the potential that the state may not honor its commitment to restore county revenue sharing.

Mr. Purcell advised that the public hearing regarding the budget shall be conducted at the December 7 Board Meeting and that copies of the recommended budget are available within the offices of the Clerk, the Administrator/Controller and the Board of Commissioners, and shall be available on the county's website

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starting on Monday.

Comr. Bolger addressed the county's five-year financial plan, and requested an updated plan to compare with the recommended 2007 budget. Interim Finance Director Pam Kline advised that the five-year plan has not been updated yet and that she shall need to input the 2006 and 2007 information, however, that she shall attempt to have it ready prior to the public hearing.

Amendment of County Policy No. 415 - Use of County-Owned Vehicles

Mr. Purcell advised that the amendment shall limit the number of "take home" vehicles. Mr. Purcell advised that some personnel shall be allowed to take vehicles home, however, that it will have to be approved by the County Administrator/Controller. Mr. Purcell further advised that the Sheriff has the authority to designate vehicles that may be driven home.

Administrative Services Director Bradley Wilcox stated that the policy has not been updated since 1988 and requires amendment to comply with Internal Revenue Service guidelines regarding taking vehicles home. Mr. Wilcox advised that the other change is to require a list of the employees that drive county vehicles and a list of those employees that have the ability to take vehicles homes.

Mr. Purcell requested the Health Officer address savings to the Health Department. Health Officer Dottie-Kay Bowersox stated that no other health department in Michigan allows staff to take vehicles home, and advised that she shall recommend for the Health Department a six-month transition period for those employees who currently take vehicles home. Ms. Bowersox estimated a \$10,000 vehicle usage savings for the Department.

Res. 181-2006

"Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Strowbridge, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve amendment of County Policy No. 415 - Use of County-Owned Vehicles, as presented."

Comr. Moore questioned whether the Health Department could still allow on an individual basis a one-day special exception to the provision regarding taking a vehicle home. Ms. Bowersox responded Yes.

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

October 2006 Financial Statements

Ms. Kline reported that the contribution to the General Fund for ten months of 2006 totals \$1,706,604. As of October the targeted level was 83.33 percent. Revenues are at 82.84 percent and expenditures are at 78.3 percent. Ms. Kline advised that the Finance Department shall continue to monitor property tax collections.

2006 Apportionment Report Amendment

Mr. Purcell advised that the amendment is for the Barry Intermediate School District's general operating millage.

Res. 182-2006

“Motion by Comr. Segal, supported by Comr. Bolger, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners adopt the following:

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2006, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approved the 2006 Apportionment Report; and

WHEREAS, the area served by the Barry Intermediate School District extends into Calhoun County; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 the voters of Barry County approved separate tax limitations which provided general operating millage for the Barry Intermediate School District; and

WHEREAS, the separate tax limitations approved in 1999 in Barry County expired at the end of 2005; and

WHEREAS, due to the expiration of the separate tax limitations in Barry County at the end of 2005, the 2006 Apportionment Report of Calhoun County did not include a general operating millage for the Barry Intermediate School District; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2006, the Calhoun County Equalization Department was informed and received documentation that the Barry County Tax Allocation Board has approved a general operating millage for 2006 of 0.1206 mills, after application of the Headlee millage rollback, for the Barry Intermediate School District; and

WHEREAS, without action by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners to adopt an amended 2006 Apportionment Report including the general operating millage of 0.1206 mills for the Barry Intermediate School District, the Barry Intermediate School District will be without official authorization to levy this millage within Calhoun County this year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATTACHED 2006 Apportionment Report, as amended to include a general operating (allocated) millage of 0.1206 mills for the Barry Intermediate School District, is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, under the

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authority of Michigan Compiled Law 211.37, directs that the millage rates specified in the amended 2006 Apportionment Report for township, school, highway, drain, and all other purposes as authorized by law shall be spread against the taxable value of properties on the proper assessment rolls of the cities and townships in the county.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. Overley advised that the appointments the Sanitariums receive do not come in on a schedule.

Mr. Chris DuBois advised that on November 3 William Schaumann who volunteered at the jail for 24 years passed away and that Chaplain Mason has recommended a memorial fund for him. Mr. DuBois stated that he hopes the Board shall support the fund.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Comr. Segal advised that the county cookbooks, a fund raising event for United Way, are available for \$8.

Comr. Moore congratulated the Nottawaseppi Huron Indian Tribe who installed their first Chief Justice, Michael Petoskey, tonight. Comr. Moore advised that it was a very nice event and that the county was very well represented.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTINGS:

Res. 183-2006

“Motion by Comr. Segal, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$2,685,536.92 for the week of October 31, 2006; further, approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$910,787.65 for the week of November 7, 2006.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comr. Strowbridge stated regarding the 3:30 p.m. event on Saturday, “Go Blue!”

Comr. Segal announced that this Saturday is the Battle Creek Holiday Parade commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Comr. Moore announced that the Seventh Annual Holiday Balloon Rally is December 1, 2 and 3. Comr. Moore

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advised that 72 pilots are entered in the event and that there shall be 4 flights.

Comr. Bolger announced that the Annual Marshall Christmas Parade is November 27.

RECESS:

The meeting recessed at 7:35 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

mlb