

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 17, 2007

The Equalization Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, 2007 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, Michigan.

Roll Call: Present: Comrs. Arnquist, Bolger, Moore, Rae, Segal and Todd. Excused: Comr. Solis.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

A Moment of Personal Prayer was observed in remembrance of the victims at Virginia Tech, and the passing of Edith Arnquist; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Comr. Todd.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM:

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the April 17, 2007 agenda and addendum as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the March 15, 2007 Special and Regular Session minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Crime Victims' Rights Week Proclamation

Comr. Todd read and presented the following proclamation to Prosecutor Hallacy and Sheriff Byam.

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Res. 50-2007

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Moore, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, President Ronald W. Reagan first declared “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” in 1981 to focus our Nation’s attention on the plight of crime victims; and

WHEREAS, since 1981, America has joined together annually to recognize the needs and rights of crime victims and survivors during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week; and

WHEREAS, the week of April 22-28, 2007 has been designated as National Crime Victims’ Rights Week - with the theme “Victim’s Rights: Every Victim. Every Time.”; and

WHEREAS, despite impressive accomplishments in crime victims’ rights and services, there remain many challenges to ensure that all crime victims and survivors are treated with dignity and respect, recognized as key participants within our systems of justice, and afforded services that provide help and hope to them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that April 22-28, 2007 is recognized as Crime Victims’ Rights Week in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners thanks and recognizes those Victims of Crime, members of the Calhoun County Prosecutor’s Office, the Calhoun County Sheriff’s Department and other Law Enforcement and Service Agencies, who, through their cooperative effort in coordinating the events of Crime Victims’ Rights Week, help heighten awareness of the plight of those who are or become a victim of crime.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Comr. Moore read and presented the following proclamation to Prosecutor Hallacy.

Res. 51-2007

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Rae, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the month of April 2007 has been designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

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WHEREAS, only 36 percent of rapes and sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, among female victims of rape and sexual assault, 67 percent of the crimes were committed by intimate partners, relatives, friends or acquaintances; and

WHEREAS, one in four girls/women and one in seven boys/men will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that April 2007 is recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners thank and recognize Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County, the Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office, the Calhoun County Sheriff Department and other law enforcement and service agencies, who, through their cooperative effort have coordinated the events of Sexual Assault Awareness Month."

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Chairwoman Segal read and presented the following proclamation to Prosecutor Hallacy, and Calhoun County Youth Council Members Madeline Smith and Georgette Newman.

Res. 52-2007

"Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Rae, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the month of April 2007 has been designated as National Child Abuse Prevention Month; and

WHEREAS, approximately three million cases of child abuse are reported each year - on average a case of child abuse is reported every 10 seconds; and

WHEREAS, each day in the United States more than three children die as a result of child abuse in the home; and

WHEREAS, most of the children who die from child abuse are under the age of five years old.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that April 2007 is recognized as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners thank and recognize the Calhoun County Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Council, the Calhoun County Prosecutor's Office, the Calhoun County Sheriff Department and other law enforcement and service agencies, who, through their cooperative effort have coordinated the events of Child Abuse Prevention Month."

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Youth Council Member Newman advised that the Council is holding a Blue Light Benefit to focus awareness regarding child abuse and neglect on Sunday, April 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium and encouraged everyone to purchase a ticket to attend.

Youth Council Member Smith advised that the tickets are \$7 and that there shall be bands and a fashion show.

Alcohol Awareness Month Proclamation

Comr. Bolger read, and accompanied by Prosecutor Hallacy and Sheriff Byam, presented the following proclamation to Substance Abuse Council of Greater Battle Creek Executive Director Suzanne Horsfall.

Res. 53-2007

"Motion by Comr. Todd, supported by Comr. Moore, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, alcohol is a factor in the four leading causes of death among persons ages 10-24: motor-vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicide and suicide; and

WHEREAS, approximately 9.7 million current drinkers in the United States are between the ages of 12 and 20; and

WHEREAS, young people begin drinking, on average, at 13.1 years of age; and

WHEREAS, young people who begin drinking before age 13 are 5 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence later in life than those who begin drinking at age 21; and

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students and is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other diseases; and

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- To kick off Alcohol Awareness Month, an event to advise students of the dangers of alcohol use particularly during spring break was held at KCC on March 27.
- Sticker Shock, a program combining retailers and community groups to publicize the legal penalties for providing alcohol to minors, will be conducted throughout April.
- The Underage Drinking Prevention Forum will hold a meeting on April 24, 7:00 p.m. at Calhoun County Building to recognize licensees who have not sold alcohol to minors during 3 ½ years of compliance checks and to promote no sale to bearers of Michigan vertical licenses.
- Local leaders and citizens throughout the county are invited to be part of the solution volunteering to teach about the dangers of alcohol to 5th grade students throughout the county, during April and May. The Substance Abuse Council will provide training and materials for “Teach-In” presenters upon request.
- The Underage Drinking Prevention Forum will provide schools in Calhoun County with letters and flyers addressed to parents to in a call to action to reduce underage drinking that may take place during spring break, prom and graduation season.
- A media campaign will be conducted throughout the month, including information about the dangers of underage drinking during prom and graduation, as well as the community’s responsibilities to help prevent underage drinking.
- Law Enforcement and Substance Abuse Council will hold a Press Conference on April 9th to increase public awareness in Calhoun County; and announce increased law enforcement efforts to decrease underage drinking.
- Law Enforcement will increase patrol in Calhoun County during prom and graduation season to reduce underage drinking.
- A Town Hall Meeting to Reduce Underage Drinking will be held on May 1, 7:00 p.m. at Kellogg Center, Albion College, Albion, Michigan.

NOW THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim that April 2007 is Alcohol Awareness Month in Calhoun County. We also call upon all citizens, parents, youth, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and workplaces, hospitals, and schools in Calhoun County to support efforts that will reduce and prevent underage drinking in our community.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

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Ms. Horsfall stated that April is an opportunity to educate youth regarding underage drinking, and encouraged everyone to attend the meeting on April 24.

2007 Equalization Report

Equalization Director David Lee explained the three tiers of the equalization process, and reported that the total equalized valuations of the county increased 2.87 percent over the 2006 valuations. Mr. Lee pointed out that the growth rate was less than the 4.68 percent growth in equalized values that occurred between 2005 and 2006, indicating a softening real estate market.

Comr. Bolger inquired whether the Equalization Department had to change any of the assessments. Mr. Lee responded that the Department accepted the local assessors' assessments.

Comr. Moore inquired whether the Department noticed any change in the percentages by classification. Mr. Lee responded that the percentage changes were compared to last year's and there were very little valuation changes. Comr. Moore inquired whether Calhoun County's percentages compare to similar counties. Mr. Lee responded Yes.

Res. 54-2007

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

WHEREAS, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 19 Townships and four Cities within Calhoun County to determine whether the real and personal property in the respective Townships and Cities has been equally and uniformly assessed; and

WHEREAS, based on this examination and studies it conducted, the Equalization Department has prepared and presented to the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners the 2007 Equalization Report; and

WHEREAS, said Equalization Report presents recommended County equalized valuations for each of the 19 Townships and four Cities within the County; and

WHEREAS, the recommended County equalized valuations were determined by adding to or deducting from the assessed valuations of taxable property in the 19 Townships and four Cities within the County an amount which represents true cash value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners accept and adopt the recommended County equalized valuations presented in the 2007

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Equalization Report prepared by the Calhoun County Equalization Department for a total 2007 equalized valuation of real and personal property of \$4,428,748,963, with the breakdown of equalized valuation by property classification as follows:

Agricultural Real Property	\$ 360,497,780
Commercial Real Property	\$ 556,065,198
Industrial Real Property	\$ 201,918,943
Residential Real Property	\$2,785,334,379
Developmental Real Property	<u>\$ 3,564,795</u>
 Total Real Property	 \$3,907,381,095
 Total Personal Property	 <u>\$ 521,367,868</u>
 Total Real and Personal Property	 \$4,428,748,963

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board Chairperson and the County Clerk/Register of Deeds are authorized to sign the Report; further, that the County Administrator/Controller and the Equalization Director are authorized to represent Calhoun County at both preliminary and final State equalization sessions, if deemed necessary.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Arnquist, Bolger, Moore, Rae, Segal and Todd)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Solis)
Motion CARRIED

Equal Pay Day Proclamation

Chairwoman Segal read and presented the following proclamation to Albion Chapter Business Women’s Association President Barbara Frederick.

Res. 55-2007

“Motion by Comr. Todd, supported by Comr. Arnquist, resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, forty years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics released in 2003 by the U.S. Census Bureau, year-

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round, full-time working women in 2002 earned only 77 percent of the earnings of year-round, full-time working men, indicating little change or progress in pay equity; and

WHEREAS, according to a January 2002 report released by the General Accounting Office (the investigative arm of Congress), women managers in 7 of 10 industries surveyed actually lost ground in closing the wage gap between 1995 and 2000; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis of data in over 300 classifications provided by the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics in 2001, women earn less in every occupational classification for which enough data is available, including occupations dominated by women (e.g., cashiers, retail sales, registered nurses and teachers); and

WHEREAS, higher education is not free from wage discrimination according to a U.S. Department of Education analysis, reporting that, after controlling for rank, age, credentials, field of study and other factors, full-time female faculty members earn nearly 9 percent less than their male counterparts; and

WHEREAS, national statistics rank the State of Michigan among the lower one-third of all U.S. states in fair pay, citing that an average of 68 cents is earned by women to every dollar their male counterparts are paid – a gap of 32 cents; and

WHEREAS, over a working lifetime, this wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family as estimated \$500,000 in lost wages, impacting Social Security benefits and pensions; and

WHEREAS, fair pay equity policies can be implemented simply and without undue costs or hardship in both the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs, while enhancing the American economy; and

WHEREAS, Tuesday, April 24th symbolizes the time in the new year in which the wages paid to American women catch up to the wages paid to men from the previous year.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 24, 2007:

EQUAL PAY DAY

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in Calhoun County and urge the citizens of Calhoun County to recognize the full value of women’s skills and significant contributions to the labor force, and further encourage businesses to conduct an internal pay evaluation to ensure women are being paid fairly.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 56-2007

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following April 17, 2007 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

- (1) Notice of a public hearing scheduled for April 10, 2007 regarding granting Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificates to Advanced Plastic Manufacturing and Advanced Special Tools received from Battle Creek City. (Received and placed on file, with copies remitted to Equalization Director David Lee)
- (2) Resolution received from Van Buren County opposing Senate Bill 232 {Foster Children Supervision}. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons, with a copy remitted to Department of Human Services Director Gwain McCree)

B. Reports:

- (1) Calhoun County Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Committee Appointment (Term Expires December 31, 2008)
 - {a} Cheryl Vosburg – Environmental Interest Representative”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Emergency Telephone District Board

Committee Member Bolger reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed E 9-1-1 collaboration with the Cities of Albion and Marshall. The Committee is looking at spaces and considering the possibility of utilizing the old District Court.

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Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Committee Member Bolger reported that the Committee is continuing its strategic planning process and reviewing priorities for seniors. Comr. Bolger pointed out that Medicare was not available when the millage was originally approved; further, advised that P.A.C.E. is coming to the community that shall serve seniors; therefore, the Committee is determining whether seniors' needs are being met and may consider recommending that the millage be reduced.

Chairwoman Segal thanked the department heads and staff that attended the Strategic Planning Sessions. Chairwoman Segal stated that there had been a good exchange of ideas and discussion, and that she looks forward to continuing that process with everyone.

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller's Report

Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program Subcontract

County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell advised that the 2007 grant is in the amount of \$61,676 and allows the Sheriff Department to participate in the Southwest Enforcement Team (SWET).

Sheriff Allen Byam advised that SWET is a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement team whose mission is the interdiction of drug traffic in the south west counties of the state. Sheriff Byam stated that the collaborative effort has been in effect for years.

Res. 57-2007

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program Subcontract between the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Drug Control Policy, and the Calhoun County Sheriff Department in the amount of \$61,676 for the period of October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007; further, authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Subcontract on behalf of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Sheriff Department.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Bolger, Moore, Rae, Segal, Todd and Arnquist)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Solis)
Motion CARRIED

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March 2007 Financial Statements

Interim Finance Director Pam Kline reported that expenditures have exceeded revenues by \$1,726,054 creating a reduction to the General Fund. Revenues are below the targeted level for the first three months of 2007, however, expenditures are on budget. Ms. Kline advised that the largest revenue shortfall is the collection of property taxes. Ms. Kline explained that when the December 2006 tax levy collection occurred one-third went into the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund and the remaining two-thirds was placed within the General Fund, recorded as 2006 revenue; therefore until the Summer 2007 tax levy occurs, property tax collections will continue to be under budget. Ms. Kline further advised that the county has not received revenue from the State for the Court Equity Fund.

Ms. Kline reported that transfers in are above the targeted budget level because \$1.5 Million was transferred from the Delinquent Tax Fund to the General Fund in March. Ms. Kline advised that the Finance Department shall continue to monitor activities.

Industrial Facilities Tax Exemptions Discussion

Mr. Purcell addressed the industrial facilities exemption certificates listed on the Consent Agenda, pointing out that Calhoun County's contribution in tax revenue to the companies is \$2,700 to Advanced Plastic Manufacturing and \$900 to Advanced Special Tools.

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, recommended should the county go wireless at the Justice Center, that should an employee drop/damage the proposed lap top computers, the employee should purchase it.

Mr. Berezonsky addressed the Health Department's concern regarding obesity, advising that he asked Ms. Bowersox whether the Health Department conducted a survey of Calhoun County's employees, and was advised that such a survey had not been conducted. Mr. Berezonsky stated that if the county pays for the employees' health insurance, he believes an over-weight/obesity survey of employees should be conducted.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Chairwoman Segal announced that next Wednesday, April 25, is the County-wide Summit on Intergovernmental Cooperation at the Burnham Brook Center from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Chairwoman Segal advised that all elected officials in Calhoun County have been invited.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTINGS:

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Res. 58-2007

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Arnquist, 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 \$283,815.97 for the week of April 4, 2007; further, approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$570,861.35 for the week of April 9, 2007.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Moore, Rae, Segal, Todd, Arnquist and Bolger)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Solis)
Motion CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairwoman Segal announced that the Calhoun County Youth Council’s Blue Light Benefit is April 29.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board adjourned at 7:50 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

mlb