

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 6, 2007

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2007 in the Commission Chambers, Calhoun County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan.

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM:

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the December 6, 2007 agenda and addendum as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the November 1, 2007 minutes and the November 15, 2007 minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. Robert Bonds, Battle Creek resident, thanked the Board for withholding Public Act 2 funds, which he believes were pretty much going to waste. Mr. Bonds advised that he presented information addressing what his organization has been experiencing for the past couple of years.

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Mr. Jerry Keller, Battle Creek resident, objected to the Board meetings being moved around the county, advising that the Enquirer and News incorrectly printed that the November 15 Board Meeting was to be conducted in the Battle Creek City Commission Chambers. Mr. Keller stated that Marshall is the county seat and is where the Board meetings should be conducted.

Mr. Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, addressed Agenda Item 12.A. (10) - Road Commissioners Selection Committee Creation/Appointments, advising that he came to the Board Office at 1:30 p.m. today and that this item was not on the agenda. Mr. Berezonsky stated that he has a problem with the individuals being appointed to the committee as two were on the previous Road Commission Workshop; further, that two of the three Commissioners being appointed do not represent the townships.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Special Tribute to Jonathan Byrd

Comr. Solis read the following tribute into the record.

Res. 185-2007

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

The Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners wish to thank Jonathan for his service as a member of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee.

During his service on the committee, Jonathan has shown a strong commitment to supporting services that enable Calhoun County seniors to remain as independent as possible. Jonathan’s insight and understanding of the needs of seniors was extremely valuable to the committee. His organized and thoughtful manner will be missed.

Jonathan has been a dedicated volunteer, generously giving of his time and knowledge to serve the seniors of Calhoun County. The members of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee, as well as the seniors of Calhoun County, have greatly benefitted from his service.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to MaryJo Byrne

Comr. Solis read, and accompanied by Senior Millage Allocation Committee Members Bolger and Arnquist, and Board Chairwoman Segal, presented the following tribute to Ms. Byrne.

Res. 186-2007

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

The Calhoun County Senior Millage Allocation Committee and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners wish to express their appreciation to MaryJo Byrne for her years of service with the Senior Millage Allocation Committee. MaryJo began her service as a SMAC member shortly after the inception of the committee.

During her service on the committee, MaryJo was a strong voice for seniors, especially those with health concerns. As a social worker, she understood the challenges seniors face when confronting health issues that put their independence at risk. MaryJo advocated for Marshall seniors as a member of the Allocation Committee and has always been a strong supporter of services that enable Calhoun County seniors to remain in their homes.

MaryJo has been a faithful volunteer, generously giving of her time and knowledge to serve the seniors of Calhoun County. The members of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee, as well as the senior citizens of Calhoun County, have greatly benefitted from her years of dependable service. We wish her much success as she transitions to a more active role working as the Executive Director of the Fountain Clinic where she will continue her role as advocate, supporter, and champion for at-risk and low-income citizens in Marshall and throughout Calhoun County.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Ms. Byrne thanked the Board for supporting the county’s senior citizens.

National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month Proclamation

Comr. Todd read the following proclamation into the record.

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Res. 187-2007

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

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol (with at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 g/dL or above) kill over 13,000 people and injure hundreds of thousands more every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the December holiday season is traditionally one of the most deadly times of the year for alcohol-impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, organizations across the nation are joining together to promote the “*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*” national public awareness campaign and law enforcement initiatives in December 2007, especially between December 15th and December 31st.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners proclaim December 2007 as “**National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Awareness Month**” and encourage promotion of the awareness campaigns this December holiday season and throughout the year.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Chairwoman Segal presented the proclamation to Battle Creek Area Transportation Study Executive Director Patricia Karr.

United Way Campaign Update

District Court Administrator Michelle Hill reported that the employees did a tremendous job in raising funds, advising that the goal was increased this year to \$23,000 and the employees raised \$26,864. Ms. Hill stated that this year there had a mum sale, and that 50 percent of the proceeds went to the Veterans Administration Hospital and 50 percent to United Way; further, advised that the basket raffle was continued this year. Ms. Hill pointed out that the United Way Committee paid for all the fund raising efforts, and advised that this year 17 employees volunteered their time and efforts.

FY 2008 County Budget Public Hearing

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Res. 188-2007

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners open the FY 2008 County Budget Public Hearing for comment.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

The public hearing commenced at 7:20 p.m.

County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell advised that the total 2008 General Fund budget is \$40 Million, which is 2.5 percent or \$973,000 more than the amended 2007 budget and 2.6 percent or \$999,000 more than the adopted 2007 budget. Mr. Purcell continued that the budget includes transfer of \$1.5 Million from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, transfer of \$100,000 from the Sick and Accident Fund, plus transfer of \$28,500 from the Inmate Concession Fund. Mr. Purcell stated that the budget provides for the charging of \$84,755 of indirect costs to non-General Fund departments.

Mr. Purcell stated that the budget for 2008 is predicated upon increased jail revenue which can only be achieved through the cooperation of all departments involved in the criminal justice system. Mr. Purcell addressed highlights of the 2008 budget; i.e., Justice Center bond refinancing with a savings of \$123,000 for 2008 and an average savings of \$200,000 in subsequent years, a Capital Reserve Fund for the Justice Center; the Medical Care Facility expansion and renovation, a centralized law enforcement information system, Kellogg/Keebler Renaissance Zone payment in lieu of taxes, implementation of new financial software, a refocus from a one year budget process to long term fiscal planning, no reduction in services or loss of personnel beyond those reductions approved in the Health Department budget, and additional funding for the Health Department’s maintenance of effort.

Mr. Purcell advised that the court has been requested to look at various options to jail placement and a tether program is being discussed, plus expansion of the work crew program with the Road Commission. Mr. Purcell addressed the budget percentage change, pointing out that the percentage is lower than 2004 through 2007; and addressed costs savings; e.g., no salary increases for Board members and the elected and appointed officials, a salary increase limited to 2 percent for non-bargaining personnel, salary increases ranging from 1.5 percent to 2 percent for bargaining unit personnel, and additional health care savings anticipated due to the introduction of the CB3 Plan.

Mr. Purcell addressed mills levied and pointed out that county taxes have decreased amounting to a savings of \$42.03 annually to owners of a \$100,000 home, and addressed Board policy continuations; e.g., hiring freeze, out-of-state travel freeze, suspension of the Career Development Program, and moratorium on job reclassifications.

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Mr. Keller pointed out that budget is not a “balanced” budget as it includes transfer of \$1.5 Million from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. Mr. Keller stated that the county is still spending more money than the county is receiving in. Mr. Keller stated that the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund is supposed to be a “rainy day” fund, however, is used each year to balance the budget.

Mr. Berezonsky advised that he spent an hour and a half reviewing the budget, which appears to be not much different than last year’s budget. Mr. Berezonsky questioned why the county pays for employees’ association dues. Mr. Berezonsky pointed out that every year the cell phone usage for county employees has been going up, however, he has not seen where the Purchasing Division has requested bids from cell phone service providers.

Mr. Berezonsky stated that Calhoun County has 11 lakes with public access, of which 6 are fishing lakes only, therefore, he cannot understand how the county can justify having a Marine Safety Division with two Boston Whalers to patrol the lakes for 6 months.

Comr. Bolger stated that the county earns \$1.5 Million in interest annually from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, and advised that the county is only using the interest earnings.

Mr. Purcell thanked Budget Committee members for their service.

Res. 188-A-2007

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners close the FY 2008 County Budget Public Hearing.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

The public hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 189-2007

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following December 6, 2007 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

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- (1) Notice of hearings scheduled for December 18, 2007 and January 15 and 16, 2008 regarding the need or desirability of issuing a Trenton Black River Formation Order received from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Drain Commissioner Blaine VanSickle)
- (2) Notice of a public hearing scheduled for December 3, 2007 regarding granting an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Miller Brothers Manufacturing received from Homer Village. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Equalization Director David Jager)

B. Resolutions:

- (1) Battle Creek Local Development Finance Authority Appointment
(Term Expires December 31, 2011)
 - {a} Albert Bobrofsky
- (2) Calhoun County Community Corrections Advisory Board Appointment
 - {a} James Peterson -- Circuit Court Probation Representative
(Replacing Kimberly Luther)
- (3) Calhoun County Jury Board Appointment
 - {a} Joseph Britvec – Term Expires April 30, 2013
- (4) Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee Appointment
(Term Expires October 31, 2011)
 - {a} Arnold Arquette – World War II Veteran
- (5) Department of Human Services Board Appointment
 - {a} Michael Lind – Term Expires December 31, 2010"

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Legislative Liaisons

Comr. Arnquist reported that the committee met and unanimously recommends support of the following three resolutions.

Res. 190-2007

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

WHEREAS, Calhoun County, Michigan strongly supports clean-air standards at a level that ensures public health and improves the quality of life for all our residents; and

WHEREAS, both state and local governments and private industry are making measurable progress in improving air quality, with the national average for ozone levels having decreased by 21 percent from 1980 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments and business are working diligently to meet the Environmental Protection Agency’s current National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ground level ozone by the 2020 deadline, investing approximately \$20 Billion each year, according to EPA estimates; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is in compliance with all federal regulations on air quality, except for a few areas still making progress towards meeting the current ozone standard; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, in the course of its required review of NAAQS, is nevertheless considering a further tightening of the ozone standard from 0.08 parts per million; and

WHEREAS, further tightening the ozone standard, even before the current standard is met, could significantly expand the number of non-attainment areas and result in emissions controls in additional areas, thereby imposing significant administrative and regulatory burdens on more citizens, businesses and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the burdens associated with a tightened standard would include almost certain plant and business closures and loss of jobs, along with higher energy and other prices to consumers, with total additional costs estimated at \$10 Billion to \$22 Billion per year; and

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WHEREAS, it is in fact likely that local businesses in Calhoun County, Michigan will have to close their doors if the lowest proposed standard is established; and

WHEREAS, adopting the proposed tighter standard would impose punitive and unnecessary costs, and hamper the economic development so crucial to the future of Calhoun County, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, significant questions have been raised regarding the science behind the EPA's proposal to tighten the ozone standard, and members of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC), the Agency's own scientific advisory board, have disputed its conclusions; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is proposing this action with virtually no evidence that the change in standards will result in significant health benefits and with no analysis of the enormous costs that will be charged to Calhoun County's businesses and consumers and to those communities that must implement new complicated compliance programs; and

WHEREAS, the transport of ozone is such that the ozone that settles in Calhoun County, Michigan, may not have its source in Calhoun County, but rather may have its source in areas such as Chicago, Illinois, or Gary, Indiana, or in any area to the west of Calhoun County, and the prevailing winds may carry it eastward, and Calhoun County should not be penalized for the ozone that originates elsewhere that happens to land here; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Calhoun County, Michigan advise and strongly urge the EPA to retain the existing NAAQS for ozone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the EPA to identify any unfunded mandates or other administrative and economic burdens for state or local governments or agencies that would derive from changes to the NAAQS for ozone; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of Michigan, and the Administrator of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality."

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

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Res. 191-2007

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

WHEREAS, the legislation authorizing a telephone surcharge to fund critical E-911 dispatching services will sunset this year; and

WHEREAS, all Calhoun County dispatch facilities depend on the revenue from the telephone surcharge to fund this emergency service that allows police, fire, ambulance and other critical services to be dispatched to the aid of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the telephone surcharge should be levied equally on all telephonic devices that can call E-911 (land lines, cell phones, voice over internet protocol, and other devices) so that all instruments are paying an equal amount for this critical service; and

WHEREAS, the shift from land lines to cell phones and other devices in Calhoun County has caused a reduction in surcharge revenue of over \$100,000 on an annual basis over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, simply extending the current legislation authorizing a telephone surcharge will continue to reduce the funding available for this critical service; and

WHEREAS, SB 410 and SB 411 would authorize County Commissioners to establish a uniform telephone surcharge sufficient to fund E-911 services, as reviewed and approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission, and have such funds paid directly to counties to ensure the funds are used for the proper purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby endorse the passage of Senate Bills 410 and 411, as adopted by the Michigan Senate, and encourages the Michigan Legislature to adopt the Bills forthwith to ensure that critical emergency dispatch services can be properly funded to meet the critical needs of the citizens of Calhoun County and the State of Michigan.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Res. 192-2007

“Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Moore, resolved by the Calhoun County Board

of Commissioners adopt the following:

WHEREAS, Michigan counties are an agent of state government because they provide state mandated services within individual counties for the state; and

WHEREAS, counties are dependent upon state revenue sharing to be able to continue providing state mandated and other essential public health, safety, and welfare services; and

WHEREAS, the public expects and needs these state mandated and other county services because they are crucial to the quality of life, including services such as: county jail; county prosecutor; trial courts; public health; homeland security; land use planning; drainage; and

WHEREAS, state revenue sharing is critically important because it is the second largest source of revenue to the general fund of counties, accounting for 7% to 10% of total general fund revenues; and

WHEREAS, for decades, the state has appropriated state revenue sharing to all 83 counties so they would have a source of funds to provide for state mandated and other essential services; and

WHEREAS, between 2001 and 2004, state revenue sharing payments to counties were drastically cut by 25% to 30%, forcing expenditure reductions; and

WHEREAS, other than the property tax, the state has not provided county government with the legal authority necessary for counties to generate revenue, making counties dependent on state revenue sharing and other sources of state revenue, which demonstrates why it is imperative that state revenue sharing be restored; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, state revenue sharing payments were discontinued and replaced with the "Property Tax Roll Forward" enabling the creation of a Revenue Sharing Fund; and

WHEREAS, this change had tremendous benefit to the state by temporarily relieving the state budget of approximately \$183 Million in annual state revenue sharing payments to counties; and

WHEREAS, without state revenue sharing restoration, a crisis in county government funding is imminent and could lead to financial defaults, state receivership assignments, and other financial problems for the state because of state financial responsibilities under Public Act 72 of 1990; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County and other counties are already struggling to maintain state

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mandated services even with the current availability of the Revenue Sharing Fund, and tremendous negative financial implications would occur unless state revenue sharing is restored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Michigan should fulfill its obligation to the 83 counties and commit to restore full state revenue sharing payments so that the counties can continue to provide for state mandated and other essential public health, safety, and welfare services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Mark Schauer, Representative Mike Nofs, and Representative Lorence Wenke, and the Michigan Association of Counties.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller’s Report

Property Forfeitures Report

Treasurer Ann Petredean reported that the Office has completed the listing of property forfeitures that will be published in the Enquirer and News. Ms. Petredean advised that there are over 850 properties that still have unpaid 2006 taxes and could be foreclosed. Ms. Petredean further advised that the Office has completed its personal inspections of 1,200 properties this year. Ms. Petredean stated that the number is growing as last year 800 properties were inspected. Ms. Petredean advised that she has scheduled the show cause hearings and already has 20 individuals scheduled; and that the Office is getting ready for the certified tax mailing in February.

Ms. Petredean reported that all remaining properties were sold at the last auction. Ms. Petredean advised that the Office has conducted its last walk through of the Harvard site and it is completely cleaned up, and the Office is currently negotiating with scrapers to level the site.

Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated 2007 Delinquent Taxes

Ms. Petredean advised that the resolution allows her to borrow the money to pay the townships and schools and then she collects the taxes.

Res. 193-2007

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the

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Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated Delinquent 2007 Taxes (ATTACHMENT A) as presented by the Calhoun County Treasurer.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

County Agent Designation Resolution

Res. 194-2007

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

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Calhoun, Michigan (the “County”) has adopted a resolution authorizing issuance of the County’s General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2008 (the “Notes”) for the purpose of establishing a fund to pay the 2007 delinquent taxes on real property to the county and political subdivisions therein pursuant to Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the County Treasurer is eligible for payment for services as Agent for the County pursuant to Section 87c subsections 3 and 15, of Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended; and

WHEREAS, at this time it is appropriate for the County Board of Commissioners to appoint the County Treasurer as Agent for the County with respect to issuance of the Notes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The County Treasurer is eligible for payment for services as Agent for the County pursuant to Section 87c subsections 3 and 15, of Act No. 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, as amended, and is hereby designated as Agent for the County in connection with the County’s Notes, and the County Treasurer and the Treasurer’s Office shall respectively receive such sums as are therein provided for the services as Agent for the County and to cover administrative expenses, after current debt service requirements on the Notes have been met. Such sums may be surplus monies in the 100% Tax Payment Fund or from County property tax administration fees before such fees are applied to debt service on the Notes.
2. All resolutions or parts of resolutions conflicting with this resolution are hereby repealed.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Board of Health Revised Bylaws Adoption

Health Board Chairman Larry Anderson advised that the Board of Health revised its bylaws and approved them at the last Health Board meeting. Mr. Anderson advised that four areas were revised; e.g., Article III, Section 4., provision that non-commissioner board members shall be eligible for reappointment up to a maximum tenure of nine years; Article IV, Section 1., increasing the Board Chairperson's term from one year to two years; Article V, Section 5., addressing procedure for conflicts of interest; and Article VI, removing specific advisory councils and providing the ability to establish additional advisory councils if and when appropriate.

Res. 195-2007

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners amend Article III. - Membership, Section 1. of the revised Calhoun County Board of Health bylaws, replacing “approved” with “appointed” as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Health shall consist of seven members six of whom are **appointed** by the Board of Commissioners and who are residents of Calhoun County.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Res. 195-A-2007

“Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the revised Calhoun County Board of Health bylaws, as amended.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

FY 2007-2008 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Agreement

Mr. Purcell stated that the agreement in the amount of \$211,776 is for environmental protection inspections. Mr. Purcell advised that the Health Department will be relinquishing campground inspections due to the cost and shall monitor the activity that the state conducts in that area.

Mr. Anderson advised that the agreement did not go before the Board of Health due to timing issues.

Res. 196-2007

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the FY 2007-2008 State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Agreement in the amount of \$211,776; further, authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Public Health Department.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Career Development Program Moratorium

Asst. County Administrator Wendee Woods requested continuation of the Career Development Program moratorium for 2008 due to the “tight” budget.

Res. 197-2007

“Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners impose a moratorium on County Policy No. 351 - Career Development Program for 2008, as recommended by Administration.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Job Reclassifications Moratorium Continuation

Ms. Woods advised that the current moratorium expires December 31. Ms. Woods stated that Administration recommends the moratorium be continued through March 31, 2009 to ensure that the current Board is not setting policy on this issue for the future Board and to provide time for the new Board to review whether or not they desire to continue the moratorium through the end of 2009.

Res. 198-2007

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners extend the moratorium on job reclassifications through March 31, 2009.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

2008 Out-of-State Travel Freeze

Ms. Woods recommended continuation of the out-of-state travel freeze for 2008.

Res. 199-2007

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

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is experiencing a significant budgetary shortfall that requires curtailment of various appropriations and revenue payments to local units of government; and

WHEREAS, in view of declining revenues and increasing expenditures, Calhoun County must implement cost saving measures; and

WHEREAS, by taking prudent measures, Calhoun County can absorb some of the impact of the current financial environment on the County by restricting out-of-state travel; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County has implemented a number of cost saving measures to balance the 2008 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. All County Departments should restrict and curtail travel to only essential travel required to perform the functions of departments and carry out requirements of grants and other agreements.
2. Out-of-State travel is prohibited for all County Departments unless 100 percent of the cost of such travel is funded by grant or other funds exclusive of the County General Fund.
3. Waivers from this resolution may be approved by a Travel Review Committee composed of the County Administrator/Controller, the Assistant County Administrator, and a Department Head to be selected by the Department requesting the waiver, but separate from the Department making the request.
4. The Committee may approve the waiver request if, in their judgement, proper documentation is provided to determine the following:
 - ▶ Travel is necessary to carry out a critical function of county government.
 - ▶ Travel will result in benefits to the County that outweigh the cost of the travel.
 - ▶ Travel outside of the state is essential for meeting the requirements of an agreement or

other binding commitment previously approved by the County.

5. Out-of-State travel associated with mandated law enforcement activities, such as extraditions is exempt from this policy.
6. A quarterly written report on all travel waivers will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Finance Department.
7. The travel restriction will take effect January 1, 2008 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2008 unless specifically revoked by the Board of Commissioners.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

2008 Hiring Freeze

Ms. Woods recommended continuation of the hiring freeze for 2008.

Res. 200-2007

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

WHEREAS, in view of declining revenues and increasing expenditures, Calhoun County must implement cost saving measures; and

WHEREAS, by taking prudent measures, we can absorb some of the impact of the current financial environment on the County by delaying the filling of vacant positions and avoiding the possibility of filling positions now that may have to be cut later.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. No County Department shall hire any person to fill any vacant position, unless the position is fully 100% grant funded.
2. No associated savings from the vacancy or hiring freeze may be spent unless approved by the Administrator/Controller.
3. Waivers from this resolution may be approved by a Freeze Waiver Review Committee consisting of the Administrator/Controller, the Assistant County Administrator and the

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affected Department Head or Elected Official.

4. Prior to submitting a waiver, the Department Head or Elected Official is requested to analyze the possibility of a reorganization.
5. The Review Committee will consider the following aspects of each vacancy:
 - ☆ Impact on operations and budget if not filled or if hiring is delayed
 - ☆ Ability of department to receive assistance from other departments during vacancy
 - ☆ Ability to re-organize the department to meet workload demands
6. The Board requests that all positions remain vacant for a minimum of 60 days, while some may remain vacant for a longer duration. The Review Committee will determine by consensus, if possible, the duration of any freeze/delay; the Administrator/Controller will retain final authority to determine the duration of the vacancy.
7. An annual written report on all hiring waivers requested and granted shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Human Resources Department.
8. The hiring freeze will remain in effect through December 31, 2008 unless specifically revoked by the Board of Commissioners.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Calhoun County Defined Benefit Pension Plan 2008 Employer/Employee Contribution Rates

Ms. Woods advised that Watkins, Ross and Company, per the Actuarial Valuation Report of December 31, 2006, recommend no change in the contribution percentage rates. Ms. Woods advised that the one employee enrolled in the 1 percent multiplier plan shall continue to contribute 6 percent.

Res. 201-2007

“Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the employee contribution rate of 9.5 percent for all employees in the enhanced Employees’ Defined Benefit Retirement Plan, as recommended by Watkins, Ross & Co. per the Actuarial Valuation Report as of December 31, 2006. The employer contribution rate will be 7 percent.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Road Commissioners Selection Committee Creation/Appointments

Res. 202-2007

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners create the Road Commissioners Selection Committee and appoint the following members: Eusebio Solis, Chairman; Commissioner Mike Rae; Commissioner Gregory Moore; Pennfield Township Supervisor Rob Behnke; and Homer Township Supervisor Todd Wildt.

The Committee shall automatically dissolve upon providing its appointment recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, or no later than December 31, 2007.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. Berezonsky inquired whether the Road Commissioners Selection Committee meetings are open to the public or whether the candidates have requested a closed session. Mr. Berezonsky inquired if the meetings are public meetings, whether citizens can hear the questions posed to the candidates and have an opportunity to ask the candidates questions.

Mr. Berezonsky questioned an \$80 fuel expense listed under the Marine Safety Unit on the November 20 claims listing since the boats are in storage now.

Mr. Keller requested that if there are exceptions to the out-of-state travel freeze, that the Board advise what those exceptions are for. Mr. Purcell advised that Administration provides a quarterly report of all out-of-state travel. Mr. Keller stated that he would like a report provided at the Board meeting after the exception is granted.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Comr. Todd thanked Mr. Bonds for the information provided to the Board.

Chairwoman Segal advised that November 20 was the Adoption Day Ceremony. Chairwoman Segal stated that there were 21 children adopted this year. Chairwoman Segal announced that Battle Creek Accessvision will be airing the ceremony on Channel 17 on Wednesday, December 26 at 7:00 p.m. and again on January 9 and 16 on Channel 2 at 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Segal stated that the county shall attempt to have the video aired in the other communities as well, and advised that the video can be purchased from Accessvision.

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Comr. Moore thanked Juvenile Home staff that participated in the holiday parade. Comr. Moore advised that there were 12 youths from the Home carrying a banner, which he thought was very nice.

Comr. Moore offered his congratulations to the 17th graduating class of the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy. Comr. Moore stated that this graduating class of 106 is the largest.

Chairwoman Segal announced that the Juvenile Home has put out the angel trees and encouraged participation.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTINGS:

Res. 203-2007

“Motion by Comr. Rae, 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 \$1,838,016.24 for the week of November 20, 2007; further, approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$1,283,018.94 for the week of November 27, 2007.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comr. Todd noted that Mr. Bonds has a radio broadcast on 98.9 in Albion and 98.5 in Battle Creek, and inquired when the broadcasts are delivered. Mr. Bonds responded “Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m.”

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

mlb