

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

September 4, 2008

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, September 4, 2008 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, 315 West Green Street, Marshall, Michigan.

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

Staff Present: County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell, Asst. County Administrator Bradley Wilcox, Finance Director Mark Stuhldreher, Sheriff Allen Byam, Veterans Service Officer Jude Lonergan, Interim Health Officer Larry Anderson, Prosecutor John Hallacy, Corporation Counsel Nancy Mullett, Solid Waste Management Director Tiffany Eichorst, Interim County Administrator/Controller Don Gilmer and Deputy Clerk/Board Aide Mary Lou Barrett.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM:**

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the September 4, 2008 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 August 7, 2008 minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

**ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:**

Interim Health Officer Larry Anderson thanked the responders to Maple Grove Apartments. Mr. Anderson

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advised that February 2009 shall be the tenth year for the Senior Services Office. Mr. Anderson further advised that there shall be a health care leadership forum on October 14, and that the Health Department will be a supporting sponsor. Mr. Anderson advised that Board members shall be receiving an invitation.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Special Tribute to Detective Guy Picketts

Chairwoman Segal read into the record the following tribute.

Res. 132-2008

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

WHEREAS, **Guy Picketts** retired from the *Calhoun County Sheriff Department* August 28, 2008 after Twenty-Five {25} years of service; and

WHEREAS, Guy began his career with the Sheriffs Office in April of 1983 and during his tenure with the Department has served as Animal Control Officer and also within the Law Enforcement Division, the Traffic Safety Unit and Road Patrol; and

WHEREAS, Guy spent four years working undercover with the Southwest Enforcement Team, from November 1993 through July 1997; and

WHEREAS, Guy has been the Agency’s only Detective since January 1997 and has been instrumental in solving many difficult cases; and

WHEREAS, Detective Guy Picketts during his career has earned the following awards: Citation for Professional Excellence from the Michigan State Police in April of 1998, Law Enforcement Officer of the Year - 1999, and nomination for the Michigan Sheriff’s Association’s Presidential Citation Award of the Year - 1999; and

WHEREAS, Detective Picketts received the following departmental awards in 2004: Professional Excellence, Distinguished Service, Department Unit Commendation; and Detective Picketts completed training courses and received certificates in the following areas: Tactical Driving and Pursuit Skills, Criminal Profiling, Radar Operator Training, United States Department of Justice FBI Sniper School, Michigan State Police Motor Carrier Enforcement, Michigan Justice Training for Jail Supervision, Tri County Regional Training Consortium Officer Survival Training, Reid Method of Criminal Interviews and Interrogation, plus various courses in Firearms Training; and

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WHEREAS, Detective Guy Picketts has been a valuable and well respected member of the law enforcement community. His skills and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **DETECTIVE GUY PICKETTS** is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County, through the Calhoun County Sheriff Department. We offer our best wishes to Guy for a long and happy retirement.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Deputy John Sanford

Comr. Rae read into the record the following tribute.

Res. 133-2008

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

WHEREAS, **John Sanford** retired from the *Calhoun County Sheriff Department* August 1, 2008 after Thirty-Two {32} years of service; and

WHEREAS, John began his career with the Sheriffs Office in June of 1976 and during his tenure with the Department has served in the Corrections Division, the Law Enforcement Division, the Traffic Safety Unit and the Transport Division; spending a major portion of his career in the Transport Division, moving to the Division in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Deputy John Sanford has been an asset to the Civil Division with his diligence and determination which assisted in increasing the number of cases resolved and enabled the Department to substantially increase revenues from civil cases; and

WHEREAS, John has received over twenty commendations from the public, attorneys, judicial staff, departmental and other law enforcement agencies; also received awards for Professional Excellence and an Individual Commendation Award; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Sanford completed training courses in Report Writing, Radar Certification, Handgun/Shotgun Training, Kuboton Training and PBT Training. John completed courses at the Kalamazoo Regional Police Academy SWAT School and courses at Delta’s Advanced Criminal Investigation School.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **DEPUTY JOHN SANFORD** is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County, through the Calhoun County Sheriff Department. We offer our best wishes to John for a long and happy retirement.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Chairwoman Segal presented the tributes to Sheriff Byam. Sheriff Allen Byam stated that he is honored to represent both Detective Picketts and Deputy Sanford. Sheriff Byam stated that it has been a pleasure to work with them and that both have been dedicated in assisting those that will be filling their positions. Sheriff Byam advised that John will be fishing and that Guy will be going to a part time job.

National Celebrate Recovery from Addiction Month Proclamation

Comr. Solis read into the record the following proclamation.

Res. 134-2008

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

WHEREAS, treatment and long-term recovery from substance use disorders can offer a renewed outlook on life for those who are addicted and their family members; and

WHEREAS, substance use disorders impact 22.6 million people aged 12 or older in the United States ( or 9.2 percent of the population), which is more than the number of people living with coronary heart disease, cancer, or Alzheimer’s disease combined; and

WHEREAS, people who receive treatment for substance use disorders can lead more productive and fulfilling lives, personally and professionally; and

WHEREAS, studies have consistently found that individualized treatment is essential for people to be successful in their path of recovery; and

WHEREAS, real stories of long-term recovery can inspire others to ask for help and improve their own lives, the lives of their families, and the entire community; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that we educate our community members that substance use disorders are treatable, yet serious health care problems, and by treating them like other chronic diseases, we can improve the quality of life for the entire community; and

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WHEREAS, in observation of National Recovery Month (September) the *Celebrate Recovery Committee of the Substance Abuse Council* will host the following events;

- A Free Bus Trip to Michigan's Annual Walk & Rally at Belle Isle Park, Detroit, MI on Saturday September 13, 2008.
- A *Celebrate Recovery Team* will participate in the 2008 City Corporate Cup September 11, 12, & 13<sup>th</sup>.

A media campaign will be conducted throughout September, in observation of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Recovery Month which recognizes the impact that real people and real stories have on recovery and celebrates those who have worked to advance the treatment and recovery landscape.

THEREFORE, WE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners proclaim September 2008 National Celebrate Recovery from Addiction Month.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 135-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following September 4, 2008 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

- (1) Resolution received from Huron County supporting House Bill No. 5398 {Michigan Vehicle Code Amendment}. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons)

B. Resolutions:

- (1) Jury Board Appointment  
(Term Expires April 30, 2009)  
  
{a} Ann Lyon -- Replacing Peggy Mrozinski”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Governing Board

Comr. Bolger reported that Frank Peterson has been appointed as the A.M.S.A. representative, and Jeff Albaugh has been appointed as the Calhoun County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association's representative.

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller's Report

Interim County Administrator/Controller Appointment

Chairwoman Segal stated that the Board shall be appointing an Interim County Administrator/Controller tonight and is very lucky to be appointing Don Gilmer from Kalamazoo County who has a long history in Calhoun County. Chairwoman Segal expressed the Board's appreciation for his willingness to accept the position providing the Board time to locate a new Administrator.

County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell stated that Don is a colleague and a friend. Mr. Purcell advised that Mr. Gilmer was a State Representative from 1977 to 1998 holding many positions including State Budget Director in 2001 and 2002. Mr. Purcell continued that Mr. Gilmer recently retired as Kalamazoo County Administrator/Controller.

Mr. Don Gilmer stated that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Purcell and congratulated him upon his new position. Mr. Gilmer stated that he has worked with a few members of the Board in different capacities and that some of the elected officials he has known for many years. Mr. Gilmer advised that he was born in Calhoun County and feels right at home. Mr. Gilmer stated that he looks forward to getting a responsible budget passed and monitoring many of the challenges in the legislature, and looks forward to working with the Commissioners in the orientation process.

Comr. Bolger welcomed Mr. Gilmer and stated that he believes the Board is lucky that he is able to serve and grateful that he is willing to serve.

Res. 136-2008

"Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners appoint Don Gilmer Interim County Administrator/Controller, effective September 22, 2008 until January 31, 2009, or until such time that a permanent County Administrator/Controller is appointed."

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

FY 2009 Health Department Budget

Mr. Purcell pointed out that the budget includes a modest fees increase of 3 percent, and that a 1.5 percent county contribution increase is requested.

Mr. Anderson stated that this year's budget is rather unique in that services and staff are not being reduced; further, pointed out that the budget also requests one additional registered nurse. No new programs are proposed. Mr. Anderson advised that the budget was approved unanimously by the Board of Health, and was also approved by the Budget Committee.

Comr. Solis thanked Mr. Anderson and Dr. Mitchell for their work on the budget. Comr. Solis stated that the most important thing about this budget is the renewed relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the Health Department. Comr. Solis recommended that the Board approve the budget.

Res. 137-2008

“Motion by Comr. Arnquist, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the FY 2009 Health Department budget as recommended by the Board of Health.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Comr. Rae thanked Mr. Anderson for stepping into the Interim Health Officer position, and wished him the best as he leaves the position. Chairwoman Segal and Comr. Arnquist also thanked Mr. Anderson. Comr. Arnquist stated that she has heard that morale within the Department is very good.

Mr. Anderson advised that Board members shall be receiving an invitation to attend an open house for the newly renovated W.I.C. Program.

FY 2009 Solid Waste Services Memorandum of Understanding

Solid Waste Management Director Tiffany Eichorst advised that the Memorandum of Understanding is similar to agreements of the past. Ms. Eichorst advised that there is one new item which addresses following the Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan. Ms. Eichorst advised that the services have no impact on General Fund monies as the funding comes from the C and C Landfill revenue.

Res. 138-2008

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“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the one year Memorandum of Understanding between Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Public Works for 2009 solid waste services for the period commencing January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009; further, authorize the County Administrator/Controller to execute said Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Comr. Rae advised that the Solid Waste Management Strategic Plan is working well and paying for itself.

FY 2009 Crime Victim Services Grant Agreement

Mr. Purcell advised that the annual Agreement in the amount of \$138,000 pays the wages of the employees and supplies. Mr. Purcell pointed out that the county pays the fringe benefits for the employees.

Prosecutor John Hallacy apologized for the Board’s late receipt of the Agreement advising that the Agreement was received on September 2 with a return date of September 17.

Res. 139-2008

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the FY 2009 Crime Victim Rights Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Community Health and the County of Calhoun Prosecutor’s Office in the amount of \$138,000 for the period commencing October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009; further, authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Comr. Solis inquired whether the number of staff positions is the same as last year. Prosecutor Hallacy responded Yes. Prosecutor Hallacy pointed out that this year’s grant is for \$5,000 more for computer equipment.

Comr. Rae advised that he was the one that had the “hairy fit” with receipt of both of the late items listed upon the addendum as it makes it difficult for Board members to do their job correctly allowing no time to study the agreements. Comr. Rae asked Prosecutor Hallacy whether he could advise the state that late receipt of applications/agreements places the Board of Commissioners in a very difficult position to provide a response under such a restricted time line. Prosecutor Hallacy responded that he shall advise the P.A.A.M., and encouraged the Board to also address the issue with the Michigan Association of Counties. Comr. Rae requested the Prosecutor copy the Board with his statement to the P.A.A.M.

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

FY 2008-2009 Prosecutor's Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant Agreement

Mr. Purcell advised that the annual grant Agreement was received today and must be returned to the state by September 17. Mr. Purcell stated that the grant is in the amount of \$302,864 and that the county's match amount is \$156,021.

Prosecutor Hallacy advised that the grant provides funding for seven employees within the Cooperative Reimbursement Unit that is responsible for the establishment of paternity and obtaining orders for the payment of child support and confinement expenses.

Res. 140-2008

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the FY 2008-2009 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Human Services and Calhoun County for the Prosecutor's Office in the amount of \$302,864 for the period commencing October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009 (with the County's match of \$156,021 and incentives of \$65,017, for total funding in the amount of \$523,902); further, authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Chairwoman Segal inquired whether the amount of the grant is similar to last year's amount. Prosecutor Hallacy responded that the grant is \$50,000 less than last year. Chairwoman Segal inquired whether the program shall be covered with General Fund monies. Prosecutor Hallacy responded that he does not foresee any personnel impact, pointing out that there is incentive funding also.

Comr. Moore noted that the amounts stated within the resolution do not add up to \$523,902. Prosecutor Hallacy responded that the incentives funding is not included within the resolution. Brief discussion regarding whether the resolution should be amended. Mr. Purcell pointed out that the total funding is stated within the resolution.

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. Creighton Burrows, Marshall resident, addressed the Sheriff being in violation of the supreme law of the state, stating that he has seen nothing in the media nor any action of the Board to move the Sheriff's principal office back to the county seat in violation of the Attorney General's ruling. Mr. Burrows questioned whether he must go to the Prosecutor to have the Sheriff placed in jail. Mr. Burrows stated that it is his understanding that the Sheriff has presented his 2009 budget, and questioned whether within that budget there is an amount to move his principal office back to the county seat.

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Mr. John La Pietra, Marshall resident, advised that he is a candidate for County Clerk-Register and is neither a Republican nor a Democrat. Mr. La Pietra advised of his qualifications and training, and requested that voters consider voting for him this November.

Mr. Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, addressed the poor condition of the roads while the Michigan Department of Transportation built a new garage at the airport.

Mr. Berezonsky advised that he reviewed the claims listing, and stated that the county's cell phone bills are getting awfully high and should be reviewed. Mr. Berezonsky addressed a payment on Page 1 of the listing for the County Administrator/Controller's breakfast interview, and another food expense paid to Schuler's Restaurant on Page 10. Mr. Berezonsky objected to taxpayer's money being expended to pay for food.

Mr. Berezonsky announced that this week is the Home Tour in Marshall.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Chairwoman Segal advised that tonight is Mr. Purcell's last Board meeting, and invited everyone to attend a farewell reception next Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Law Library. Chairwoman Segal advised that she shall provide the refreshments from non-government funding. Chairwoman Segal stated that Mr. Purcell shall be missed terribly.

Comr. Moore stated that during his tenure on the Board he and Mr. Purcell have been through a lot and balanced every budget.

Comr. Moore announced that the Corporate Cup commences next week and that the volley ball team shall be defending its title on court five at the Y.M.C.A.

Comr. Solis thanked Mr. Purcell for his years of service, leadership and mentoring. Comr. Solis stated that he appreciated his leadership style, and advised Mr. Purcell that he shall be missed.

Comr. Todd concurred, and advised Mr. Purcell that he appreciated all his emails, ensuring that the Board received all the information to make well informed decisions.

Comr. Rae stated that Mr. Purcell is one of the top Administrators with which he has worked with through the years. Comr. Rae advised Mr. Purcell that he considers him a friend and that he shall be missed.

Comr. Arnquist stated that she believes Mr. Purcell's orientation for new Commissioners is legendary, advising that Mr. Purcell picked her up and drove her up for the training. Comr. Arnquist stated that Mr. Purcell has always kept the Board informed and that it will not be the same without him.

Comr. Bolger informed Mr. Purcell that he has appreciated his service and wished him the best.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTING:

Res. 141-2008

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Moore, 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 \$1,974,334.74 for the week of August 26, 2008.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairwoman Segal announced that the next Board meeting shall be conducted in the Albion City Council Chambers.

Comr. Bolger invited everyone to enjoy the Home Tour in Marshall.

CLOSED SESSION:

Res. 142-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners meet in Closed Session for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations and pending litigation with Corporation Counsel.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Chairwoman Segal recessed the meeting at 8:07 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. to allow citizens to exit the room. The Board met in Closed Session commencing at 8:15 p.m. until 8:38 p.m. with Corporation Counsel Nancy Mullett, County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell, Assistant County Administrator Bradley Wilcox and Deputy Clerk Mary Lou Barrett present.

OPEN SESSION -- ADJOURNMENT:

The Board reconvened in Open Session and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m. at the call of the Chair.