

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

November 20, 2008

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, November 20, 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: Asst. County Administrator Bradley Wilcox, Finance Director Mark Stuhldreher, Sheriff Allen Byam, Interim County Administrator Don Gilmer, Budget Analyst Pam Kline, Information Technology Manager David Hackett, Veterans Services Officer Jude Lonergan, Road Commission Managing Director Kevin Henning 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. Rae.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the November 20, 2008 agenda as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

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

Sheriff Allen Byam advised regarding the proposed 2009 county budget, that the Sheriff Department will continue discussions towards a favorable resolution of a budget impasse. Sheriff Byam stated that he believes that as the budget stands it would have a detrimental impact on public safety, employees and revenues. Sheriff Byam stated that he looks forward to continuing discussion.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Public Hearing Regarding Community Development Block Grant Funding for United Solar Ovonic, LLC

Res. 182-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners declare the public hearing regarding Community Development Block Grant funding for United Solar Ovonic, LLC open for discussion.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

The public hearing was declared open for public discussion at 7:05 p.m.

Asst. County Administrator Bradley Wilcox requested authorization to submit a grant application for \$10 Million to providing funding to allow United Solar Ovonic, LLC to purchase equipment to manufacture solar panels. Mr. Wilcox stated that there is the potential for the creation of 700 jobs. Mr. Wilcox advised that the county shall be the grant administrator, and introduced Doug Voshell from Battle Creek Unlimited (BCU) to answer questions.

Mr. Voshell expressed appreciation for the county’s support. Mr. Voshell advised that United Solar Ovonic, LLC’s move into the site on the intersection of River Road and Clark Road represents a \$440 Million project in Battle Creek. Mr. Voshell stated that the grant comes out of HUD whereby 51 percent of the employees to be hired must be at or below the minimum income level, and that the Company offers its employees health and dental insurance and a retirement program. Mr. Voshell advised that United Solar Ovonic, LLC’s employee turn over rate is two percent. Mr. Voshell thanked Mr. Wilcox for his leadership in preparing the grant application.

Mr. John LaPietra, Marshall City resident, inquired whether a similar effort shall be made to acquire grant funding to develop and provide infrastructure at the Marshall Township site, and whether the United Solar Ovonic project is dependant upon the proposed grant funding.

Mr. Voshell responded “Yes, that the grant funding is part of the original plan with United Solar Ovonic, LLC.” Mr. Voshell advised that the Marshall Township site did not have utilities in place and the Battle Creek site was ready for development. The United Solar Ovonic project was negotiated out of Lansing with the Company and the renaissance zone designation was another part of the project. Mr. Voshell advised that the Company has stated that if the grant funding is not acquired, the project is “up in the air.”

Comr. Rae advised that the county is working with the City of Marshall, Marshall Township and BCU to prepare a plan that will allow the flow of federal funding into the county, hopefully to get infrastructure to the site in Marshall Township.

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Mr. LaPietra inquired whether community development block grant funding can be acquired for infrastructure.

Chairwoman Segal responded “No, that a different type of grant would have to be acquired for utility development.”

Res. 182-A-2008

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Arnquist, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners declare the public hearing regarding Community Development Block Grant funding for United Solar Ovonic, LLC closed.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

The public hearing was declared closed at 7:13 p.m.

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great American Smokeout 2008 Proclamation

Comr. Arnquist read, and Chairwoman Segal presented, the following proclamation to Substance Abuse Council Director Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki.

Res. 183-2008

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

WHEREAS, the use of tobacco remains the number one preventable cause of death; and

WHEREAS, close to 15,000 Michigan residents die annually from tobacco related illness and disease and 215 of Calhoun County residents died from tobacco related causes in 2005; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more people in Michigan than AIDS, alcohol, auto crashes, fires, cocaine, heroin, murders and suicides combined; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use by adults in Calhoun County is 20.8% and by women while pregnant is 19.1%; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth, according to the annual *Monitoring the Future Survey*, report past 30 day use of cigarettes has declined, disapproval of peer use has risen, and youth perception of risk has increased; and

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WHEREAS, young people who do not initiate smoking before age 19 are highly likely to never smoke; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition in collaboration with the Kellogg Company, Denso, the City of Battle Creek, and Kellogg Community College will implement a social marketing campaign to promote smoking cessation throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Cancer Control Coalition will promote the state Quitline smoking cessation resource and the motto: “Hard Yes, Impossible No;” and

WHEREAS, there are numerous health benefits to quitting including increased blood oxygen levels; decreased risk of heart attack, heart disease and lung cancer; repaired nerve endings; increased lung capacity and function; and substantial cost savings to individuals and Michigan’s health care system.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim November 20<sup>th</sup> as the **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great American SmokeOut Day**. We encourage current smokers to quit and utilize available smoking cessation aids and programs. We call upon all citizens in Calhoun County to join in support of those seeking to quit and in local initiatives assisting people to quit.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Comr. Moore congratulated the Cancer Control Coalition for its marketing campaign. Comr. Moore advised that Arcadia Brewing went non-smoking, and did so without a government mandate.

Comr. Bolger advised that Lori’s Corner Café also went non-smoking.

Ms. Meyer-Niedzwiecki encouraged everyone to support smokers during their cessation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 184-2008

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following November 20, 2008 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

- (1) Resolution received from Ottawa County opposing House Joint Resolution III and Senate Joint Resolution P {Restriction of Real Estate Taxable Valuation Increases}. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons, with a copy remitted to Equalization Director David Jager)”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Senior Millage Allocation Committee

Committee Chairman Solis stated that at the previous Board meeting Mr. Gibson informed the Board regarding potential grant funding from the Battle Creek Community Foundation for dental services. Comr. Solis reported that the county received \$10,000 of which 60 percent shall be appropriated to the Family Health Center and 40 percent to the Fountain Clinic. Comr. Solis stated that little to no administrative costs shall be drawn from the grant.

Chairwoman Segal inquired when the grant commences. Comr. Solis responded January 2009.

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller’s Report

Community Development Block Grant Application for United Solar Ovonic, LLC

Res. 185-2008

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

WHEREAS, funding in the amount of Ten Million Dollars {\$10,000,000} is being requested to aid in machinery and equipment needed for the development and expansion of United Solar Ovonic, LLC, an alternative energy producing company, at the location of Battle Creek, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, certain areas within Calhoun County have suffered from depressed economic activity for some time. In support of the Local Community Development Plan, the proposed project will provide stimulus to both economic development and expansion of employment opportunity; and

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WHEREAS, in concurrence with requirements of the CDBG, project beneficiaries will fill 51 percent of the jobs created with low and moderate income persons as defined by the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, no CDBG project costs will be incurred prior to a formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures and formal, written authorization to incur costs from the Community Development Block Grant on behalf of the Michigan Strategic Fund of the State of Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners authorize submission of the Community Development Block Grant to the State and further authorize Chairwoman Kate Segal to sign authorizing forms with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

FY 2009 County Budget Presentation

Interim County Administrator/Controller Don Gilmer presented the budget, and expressed his appreciation to the Budget Committee, the Finance Director, the Budget Analyst and the departments for their assistance in the budget process. Mr. Gilmer stated that the budget reflects great restraint and shall continue to be a work in progress even after adopted. Mr. Gilmer addressed the state’s budget reduction and a potential executive order in the amount of \$8 to \$9 Million.

Mr. Gilmer stated that the budget process was very difficult, and advised that prospects for new revenue are non-existent.

Budget Committee Chairman Solis concurred that this was a tough year to prepare a budget that departments can live with in 2009.

Comr. Bolger inquired how much interest is earned annually from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, and whether the county shall still be within the year end fund balance parameters of eight to twelve percent of expenditures from the prior year.

Finance Director Mark Stuhldreher responded that the county fund balance shall be at 9.4 percent after use of \$1.5 Million from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund; further, advised that only the interest from the Fund is used.

Comr. Bolger inquired whether there will be more meetings with the Sheriff. Mr. Stuhldreher responded Yes.

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Chairwoman Segal advised that the public hearing regarding the budget shall be conducted at the next Board meeting.

October 2008 Financial Statements

No questions were raised.

CITIZENS' TIME:

Mr. LaPietra stated that he hopes that the FY 2009 County budget shall be available on-line and provided in "hard copy" to all of the libraries within the county.

Mr. LaPietra urged everyone to take part in Dark Earth Hour each third Thursday of the month; further, invited everyone who voted to take part in the voting conditions survey he has been promoting. Mr. LaPietra further invited his competitors in the election to join with him in requesting a recount of the voting results.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Comr. Bolger invited everyone to attend the Holiday Parade in downtown Marshall on December 1. Comr. Bolger wished Chairwoman Segal a Happy Wedding Anniversary.

Chairwoman Segal advised that this is their ninth anniversary, and that she and her husband are very happy.

Comr. Todd recognized Commissioners-elect Haadsma, Camp and Rocho present in the audience tonight.

Chairwoman Segal announced that the Holiday Parade in Battle Creek is this Saturday.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTING:

Res. 186-2008

"Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, 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 \$3,917,309.18 for the two {2} weeks ending November 12, 2008."

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

mlb