

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 18, 2008

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:02 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 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, Veterans Services Officer Jude Lonergan, Road Commissioner Scott Brown, Prosecutor John Hallacy, District Court Judge Marvin Ratner, Drain Commissioner Blaine VanSickle 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. Solis, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners amend the December 18, 2008 agenda to include an additional Commissioners’ Time as Item 6.A.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the December 18, 2008 agenda and addendum, as amended, to include an additional Commissioners’ Time as Item 6.A.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Todd, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the November 20, 2008 minutes and the December 4, 2008 minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Mr. James Coury of the Calhoun County Conservation District thanked the Commissioners for supporting the District. Mr. Coury advised that the District is one of only 25 out of 1,500 districts that was studied for its successful water conservation programs. Mr. Coury advised that the District supports the first farm easement that the Board shall be considering tonight.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Commissioners Rae, Solis and Todd presented Commissioners Arnquist, Moore, Bolger and Segal with a plaque in recognition for their service to the people of Calhoun County.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Special Tribute to Marvin Ratner

Res. 196-2008

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

WHEREAS, **MARVIN RATNER** has served as Tenth District Court Judge for Seventeen {17} Years from January 1, 1991 through December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Ratner served Calhoun County as Probate Register and Juvenile Court Referee for nearly Seven {7} years during the period of September 1, 1983 through December 31, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Ratner currently serves his community as President of the following service clubs: The Battle Creek Council of Service Clubs, the Battle Creek Exchange Club, and the University of Michigan Club of Calhoun County; plus is the President of the Calhoun Abuse/Neglect Council and is a Board Member of Family and Children Services and the Southwest Michigan Boy Scout Council; and

WHEREAS, Marvin Ratner shall be missed by everyone in the Calhoun County “family.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **JUDGE MARVIN RATNER** is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and the Tenth District Court. On behalf of Calhoun

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Judge Marvin Ratner has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to John A. Hallacy

Res. 197-2008

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

WHEREAS, in October 1988 **JOHN HALLACY** became an Assistant Prosecutor with Calhoun County. Then in January 1991, he was appointed as Chief Assistant Prosecutor. Even early in his career, John was given the responsibility of handing high-profile cases as well as murder cases; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 John won election as Calhoun County’s Prosecuting Attorney. John not only envisioned change, but also implemented procedures to enable the Prosecutor’s Office to broaden and strengthen its service to the community. One major innovation was the establishment of Calhoun County’s Bad Check Recovery Program, thus relieving the courts from handling the collection of these debts; and

WHEREAS, John also became active with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and served as a member of the Board of Directors from 2002 until now; appointed Secretary/Treasurer from 2005 to 2006, Vice-President from 2006 to 2007, and President from 2008 to the current time. He specifically focused his attention on the cutting edge of computerization of the Prosecutor’s Office. Calhoun County became a flagship for implementing the paperless office; and John has promoted the concept which is being adopted by several police agencies and the local courts; and

WHEREAS, John managed a staff of forty; with the office annually prosecuting on average, over 6,000 criminal cases (felony and misdemeanor); handling 1,700 to 2,000 DHS petitions, juvenile diversion referrals, and juvenile criminal matters and is involved with mental hearings, and annually processes over 600 cases in the CRP Unit; and

WHEREAS, John serves his office and his community through his commitment to and participation in the following organizations, to mention a few:

- ▶ Domestic Violence Coordinating Council for 8 years
- ▶ S.A.C. Advisory Board for 8 years

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

- ▶ SafePlace Board member for 6 years
- ▶ Community Corrections Advisory Board member for the past 8 years
- ▶ Juvenile Justice Committee and the Security Committee
- ▶ Fraternal Order of Police No. 121
- ▶ United Way Campaign Cabinet January 2006 through 2008

Over the years, John has been honored by the Battle Creek Police Department and the Battle Creek Jaycees for outstanding service in the community and continuous support of the D.A.R.E. program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby honor and thank **JOHN A. HALLACY** for his years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and offer this tribute as our thanks for all John has accomplished.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Blaine VanSickle

Res. 198-2008

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

WHEREAS, **BLAINE VAN SICKLE** has served as Drain Commissioner for Calhoun County for Eight {8} Years from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Blaine has also served as Southwest District Chairman of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners for Four {4} years, 2004 through 2007; and Chairman of the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners’ Michigan Farm Bureau Liaison Committee also for Four years; and

WHEREAS, Blaine Van Sickle further served as Chairman of the Homer Lake Board from 2001 through 2008; and was a Member of the Goguac Lake Board from 2001 through 2008; and the Rice Creek, St. Joseph River, and Battle Creek River Watersheds from 2003 through 2008; and

WHEREAS, Blaine during his tenure as Calhoun County Drain Commissioner undertook and completed twelve petitioned new drain and drain maintenance projects in addition to hundreds of annual drain maintenance projects and lake level maintenance projects; and

WHEREAS, Blaine participated in numerous public forums to better inform the public

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

regarding the duties of the Drain Commissioner and his office and advocated for proper drainage facilities for commercial and residential developments throughout the county; and

WHEREAS, Blaine was instrumental in acquiring property from the State of Michigan to expedite the Pennfield Township #2 Drain Project; and

WHEREAS, Blaine Van Sickle shall be missed by everyone in the Calhoun County “family,” and employees shall never forget the samples of wild game he provided at the Annual Christmas Potluck.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **BLAINE VAN SICKLE** is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County in his position as Calhoun County Drain Commissioner. On behalf of Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Blaine Van Sickle has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Betty Arnquist

Res. 199-2008

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

WHEREAS, **BETTY ARNQUIST** has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for Two {2} Years from 2007 through 2008, representing the citizens of District 3; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Betty Arnquist further served the Board through her membership on various committees and workshops during her tenure with the County Commission; e.g., the Administrator’s Review Workshop, the Community Action Agency Governing Board of Directors, the Employee Recognition and Relations Committee, the Legislative Liaisons, the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and the Workforce Development Chief Executive Officers Board, to list a few; and

WHEREAS, Betty Arnquist shall be missed by fellow Board members and everyone in the Calhoun County “family.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

that **BETTY ARQUIST** is hereby honored and thanked for her years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. On behalf of Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Betty has accomplished and extend our best wishes in her future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Jase Bolger

Res. 200-2008

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

WHEREAS, **JASE BOLGER** has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for Four {4} Years from 2005 through 2008, representing the citizens of District 6 and was recently elected State Representative for the 63rd District; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Jase Bolger further served the Board through his membership on various committees and workshops during his tenure with the County Commission; e.g., the Administrator’s Review Workshop, the Calhoun/Barry Voluntary Mortgage Review Board, the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Center Authority Governing Board, the Calhoun County Retirement Committee, the Emergency Telephone District Board, the Information Technology Executive Committee, the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and the Workforce Development Chief Executive Officers Board, to list a few; and

WHEREAS, Jase Bolger shall be missed by fellow Board members and everyone in the Calhoun County “family.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **JASE BOLGER** is hereby honored and thanked for his years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. On behalf of Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Jase has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Kate S. Segal

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Res. 201-2008

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

WHEREAS, **KATE SEGAL** has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for Six {6} Years from 2003 through 2008, representing the citizens of District 1 and was recently elected State Representative for the 62nd District; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Kate Segal further served the Board through her membership on various committees and workshops during her tenure with the County Commission; e.g., the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, the Casino Baseline Study Committee, the Criminal Justice System Workshop, the Employee Recognition and Relations Committee, the Goguac Lake Board, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, the United Way FEMA Board, the Calhoun County Youth Council and as President of the Calhoun Health Plan, to list a few; and

WHEREAS, Kate Segal also served as Board Chairwoman for Two {2} Years, from 2007 through 2008, and as Vice Chairwoman for Two Years, from 2005 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, Kate Segal shall be missed by fellow Board members and everyone in the Calhoun County “family.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **KATE SEGAL** is hereby honored and thanked for her many years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. On behalf of Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Kate has accomplished and extend our best wishes in her future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Gregory A. Moore

Res. 202-2008

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

WHEREAS, **GREGORY MOORE** has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for Nine {9} Years from April 11, 2000 through December 31, 2008,

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

representing the citizens of District 5; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Gregory Moore further served the Board through his membership on various committees and workshops during his tenure with the County Commission; e.g., the Budget Committee, the Calhoun County Agricultural Preservation Board, the Calhoun County Retirement Committee, the Casino Baseline Study Committee, the Drainage Board, the Emmett Township Local Development Financing Authority, the Friends of the Ott Committee Executive Board, the Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Advisory Board, the Legislative Liaisons, the Potawatomi Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Gregory Moore also served as Board Chairman for 2004; and

WHEREAS, Greg shall be missed by fellow Board members and everyone in the Calhoun County “family.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **GREGORY A. MOORE** is hereby honored and thanked for his many years of dedicated service to the residents of Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. On behalf of Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Greg has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Special Tribute to Alyce McDonagh

Res. 203-2008

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

WHEREAS, **ALYCE MCDONAGH** shall be retiring January 2, 2009 after serving Twenty-Seven {27} Years from 1981 through 2008.

Alyce was hired in June of 1981 as an Executive Secretary to Controller Steven Heric and in February 1995 was promoted to the position of Administrative Executive Secretary.

WHEREAS, Alyce served three Controllers during her career, two Administrator/Controllers,

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

and for a period when there was no Administrator/Controller, worked for the Finance Director;
and

WHEREAS, former and current Commissioners Mike Nofs, Ron Ivey, George Perrett, Marvin Austin, Jase Bolger and Greg Moore shall always hold a special place in their heart for Alyce.

Former Chairman of the County Commission Mike Nofs once said “Alyce McDonagh is the Matriarch of Calhoun County. She knows all, sees all, and is loved by all. Plus, she is not a bad golfing partner to have on your team.”

WHEREAS, Alyce shall be missed, not only for the service she provided in her day to day responsibilities, but also by her co-workers who will miss her humorous stories of cat antics, her willingness to assist during busy times, and her caring and loving nature. She always took time to listen and offer sage advice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that **ALYCE MCDONAGH** is hereby honored and thanked for her many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County and its Finance and Administrative departments. We offer this tribute as our thanks and extend our best wishes to Alyce in her retirement.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Amended Calhoun County E 9-1-1 Plan Public Hearing

Res. 204-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners declare the public hearing regarding the amended Calhoun County E 9-1-1 Plan open for discussion.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

Comr. Bolger explained that the Plan had to be opened and amended due to the consolidation of the dispatch centers, and that a public hearing is part of the process to amend the Plan.

The public hearing was declared open for public discussion at 7:50 p.m. No comments were received.

Res. 204-A-2008

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners declare the public hearing regarding the amended Calhoun County E 9-1-1 Plan closed.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

The public hearing was declared closed at 7:50 p.m.

Special Tribute to K9 Ginger

A video of Ginger was presented. Chairwoman Segal read and presented the following tribute to Sgt. Matt Saxton and Deputy Brad Hall.

Res. 205-2008

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

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2008 K9 Ginger passed away from cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ginger began her career with the Calhoun County Office of the Sheriff in 2003 and during her tenure with the agency she has been a very productive member; and

WHEREAS, Ginger was instrumental in obtaining arrests in hundreds of drug cases; and

WHEREAS, Ginger performed over two hundred tracks for suspects and lost people; and

WHEREAS, Ginger assisted in hundreds of building searches for the Office of the Sheriff and many outside agencies, working closely with SWET, other police agencies and many school districts within Calhoun County; and

WHEREAS, Ginger and her handler, Deputy Brad Hall, were a valuable and well respected K9 team within the Calhoun County law enforcement community. The loss of Ginger will greatly be felt within Calhoun County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners that K9 GINGER is hereby honored and remembered for her many years of dedicated service to Calhoun County, through the Calhoun County Office of the Sheriff. We offer our deepest sympathy to Deputy Brad Hall and the Calhoun County Office of the Sheriff.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Sgt. Saxton advised that Ginger was with the Department for seven years and was to be retired at the beginning of the year. Sgt. Saxton stated that Ginger shall be sadly missed by the Department, and that her passing has been hard on her partner, Deputy Hall.

2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Presentation

Marshall City Economic Development Director Michael Hindenach presented the Strategy, advising that the document was created whereby entities in Calhoun County can apply for federal grants. Mr. Hindenach advised that the City is attempting to get infrastructure at the property on C Drive in Marshall Township. Mr. Hindenach stated that the document shall be evaluated on an annual basis, and thanked the Upjohn Institute for their work and The Coordinating Council for providing the statistics.

Comr. Bolger thanked Mr. Hindenach for his work, and stated that the Strategy is another collaborative effort to address a very important need.

Res. 206-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Rae, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners adopt the 2008 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Calhoun County as presented.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 207-2008

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following December 18, 2008 Consent Agenda as presented:

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

- (1) Notice of a public hearing scheduled for December 16, 2008 regarding approving revised costs and exemption time period for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate Holder Denso Manufacturing received from Battle Creek City. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Equalization Director David Jager)
- (2) Notice of Letting of Intercounty Drain Contract and Review of

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Apportionments for Big Creek Branch Number One Intercounty Drain on December 16, 2008 received from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. (Received and placed on file)

- (3) Resolution received from Antrim County requesting the State of Michigan adopt legislation to protect owners of low capacity wells that may be impacted by another low capacity well. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons, with a copy remitted to Health Officer James Rutherford)”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Road Commissioner Selection Committee

Committee Chairman Solis reported that the Committee met on December 12 to conduct interviews of the five finalists for the Road Commission appointment. Committee members in attendance were Todd Wildt, Terris Todd, Michael Rae and himself. Rob Behnke was not able to attend due to a medical emergency.

Comr. Solis stated that prior to the date set for the interviews candidate Allan Hayward withdrew his application from consideration. The Committee interviewed Alan Huffman, John Bedient, Wayne Kukuk and Christopher Vreeland. All candidates showed a high level of understanding of the Road Commission’s role and duties; its relationship to the County Board; the challenges the Road Commission must address and most importantly, the need to provide accountability and accessibility to the citizens.

Comr. Solis stated that while the Committee had an excellent pool of applicants and all are worthy to serve, the Committee unanimously chose to recommend Mr. Christopher Vreeland for appointment to the Road Commission Board by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners. Comr. Solis stated that geographic area of residence was not emphasized, however, Mr. Vreeland is from Fredonia Township.

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller’s Report

Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated 2008 Delinquent Taxes

Treasurer Ann Petredean advised that the resolution is the same that she has presented for the past 28 years which allows her to borrow the money to pay the townships and schools and then collect the taxes. Ms. Petredean stated that the news regarding foreclosures is not good, and advised that the county shall be borrowing \$1.5 Million more this year. Ms. Petredean advised that the delinquency rate is 10 percent.

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Res. 208-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated Delinquent 2008 Taxes (ATTACHMENT A) as presented by the Calhoun County Treasurer.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

County Agent Designation Resolution

Res. 209-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, 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 2009 (the “Notes”) for the purpose of establishing a fund to pay the 2008 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.

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

2. All resolutions or parts of resolutions conflicting with this resolution are hereby repealed.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Hoyt Conservation Easement Purchase of Development Rights Appraisal Price Approval

Comr. Moore advised that the easement represents one of the first programs he worked on. Comr. Moore stated that approval of the appraisal price is another step in the process to preserve the farm. Comr. Moore advised that the appraisal places the value of the property at \$1,200 per acre, however, the landowner has committed thirty percent of the appraised value of the easement to provide the match funds necessary for the county to make application for state grant funds, which makes the price to be offered equal to \$840 per acre for the 126 acre farm. Comr. Moore advised that the appraisal provided is a summary and that the full report is available for review within the Board Office.

Comr. Moore introduced Calhoun County Agricultural Preservation Board Chairman Ken Blight and Member Daniel Kesselring.

Mr. Blight advised that Commissioner Moore has represented the Board well on the Agricultural Preservation Board, and credited Commissioner Moore for the idea of creating the Board’s brochure. Mr. Blight advised that the Agricultural Preservation Board requests the Board of Commissioners approve the appraisal price.

Res. 210-2008

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the price of \$840 per acre to be offered for the purchase of development rights on 126 acres of property nominated and owned by Ben and Carol Hoyt and located in Eckford Township.”

Comr. Moore pointed out that the request is not for the county to spend any money, only to seek the grants to offer a contract on the property. The county is not purchasing the development rights.

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Transportation and Disposal of Municipal Recycling Services Agreement

Solid Waste Management Director Tiffany Eichorst advised that the Agreement is for the period of 2009 through 2011. Ms. Eichorst thanked the Board for supporting the solid waste management programs.

Res. 211-2008

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the three {3} year Transportation and Disposal of Municipal Recycling Services Agreement between Calhoun County and Republic Waste Services for the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011; further, authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

County Administrator/Controller Appointment and Employment Agreement

Interim County Administrator/Controller Don Gilmer requested the Board approve the appointment and the employment agreement of Ms. Sproule.

Res. 212-2008

“Motion by Comr. Rae, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners appoint Kelli D. Sproule County Administrator/Controller; further approve the Employment Agreement as presented, and authorize the Board Chairwoman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Comr. Rae stated that he believes the county is fortunate to have hired Ms. Sproule, who is extremely qualified, bright, innovative and cooperative. Comr. Rae stated that he looks forward to working with Ms. Sproule and believes she shall be a great addition to the county.

County Administrator/Controller Kelli Sproule thanked the Board and Mr. Gilmer for their support.

Road Commissioner Appointment

Res. 213-2008

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Solis, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners appoint Christopher Vreeland Calhoun County Road Commissioner, with appointment term to expire December 31, 2014.”

Comr. Bolger advised that he opposed expanding the Road Commission Board, and believes that the appointment is a political appointment and that the funding for the additional Road Commission Board member could be better used for salt for the roads. Comr. Bolger pointed out that three of the last Road Commissioners came from the Democratic Party, and advised that he shall not support the appointment.

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Comr. Moore concurred, advising that he also opposed expansion of the Road Commission Board. Comr. Moore stated that he believes the money would be better spent on fixing the roads instead of filling a political position. Comr. Moore stated that his belief that the appointment is a political appointment was confirmed when he received a telephone call from the leadership of the Democratic Party advising whom would be appointed prior to the committee being established. Comr. Moore stated that he would love to believe that the appointment process established by the Board of Commissioners is fair, however, he as observed that this is not so. Comr. Moore stated that if this is the way that the Board wishes to appoint someone prior to the appointment process, then he believes the Board should simply forego the committee process as it is a “sham.” Comr. Moore advised that his no vote shall be to oppose the appointment due to the flawed appointment process.

Comr. Rae advised Commissioner Moore that he is wrong. Comr. Rae advised that he served on the Road Commissioner Selection Committee with four other members. The Committee started with 18 applications and whittled those down to the top five candidates. Comr. Rae stated that he had no idea who the candidates were and had no idea who would be chosen. Comr. Rae advised that the candidate chosen was the last to be interviewed, and that prior to his interview, he had chosen another candidate. Comr. Rae stated that Mr. Vreeland changed his choice, not because of his geographic area of residence, nor his political party affiliation; but because he was the best choice for the position.

Comr. Rae addressed the arguments for expanding the Road Commission Board to meet the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, and disagreed that the appointment process was flawed.

Comr. Solis stated that he believes the comments regarding a flawed process and the statement that the appointment was determined prior to going through the appointment process is an insult to those that served on the Road Commissioner Selection Committee. Comr. Solis pointed out that the vote for Mr. Vreeland was unanimous.

Comr. Solis pointed out that prior to the five member Road Commission Board the Director took advantage of the stringent restrictions of the Open Meetings Act knowing that it only required two of the three Road Commissioners to meet together to be in violation of the Act.

Comr. Todd advised that he did not know Mr. Vreeland’s political affiliation, and had been rooting for Mr. Kohs who did not make the final round for interviews. Comr. Todd stated that the Committee interviewed great candidates, however, was most impressed with Mr. Vreeland.

Comr. Arnquist stated that she was disappointed with the process to determine the top five candidates. Comr. Arnquist stated that Mr. VanSickle was a candidate and that she believes his being a Republican was a factor in his not being selected as a top five candidate. Comr. Arnquist pointed out that Mr. VanSickle is a civil engineer with transportation background and has a masters degree in public administration. Comr. Arnquist continued that she further believes that when one of the top five candidates withdrew, that the sixth top candidate should have been interviewed.

Roll call vote: Yes - 4 (Comrs. Solis, Todd, Rae and Segal)

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

No - 3 (Comrs. Arnquist, Bolger and Moore)
Motion CARRIED

FY 2009 County Budget Adoption

Mr. Gilmer stated that the budget process has been a long process which commenced prior to his arrival. Mr. Gilmer thanked members of the Budget Committee, Mr. Stuhldreher, Ms. Kline, the department heads and the elected officials. Mr. Gilmer advised that the 2009 budget is “tight” and incorporates fiscal management practices for the budget to remain on target as well as some fee increases; e.g., dog licenses, emergency responder fees, inmate housing fee; and a new fee for administering breathalyser tests and for accident reports.

Res. 214-2008

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

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners has examined the fiscal reports for Year 2009 of the various departments, agencies, offices and activities, which it by law must finance or assist in financing; and

WHEREAS, the Board has taken into consideration the fact that there are certain required functions of County Government or operations which must be budgeted at a serviceable level in order to provide statutory and constitutionally required services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, MCLA 141.421 et. seq. requires that the Board enact a General Appropriations Act designed to meet all County-funded expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined the maximum authorized 2009 millage rate and estimates the property tax revenue generated to be as follows; and

General Operating	5.3779 mills	\$18,650,964
Medical Care Facility	.2482 mills	\$ 893,001
Senior Services	.7452 mills	\$ 2,748,578
Total	6.3713 mills	\$22,292,543

WHEREAS, the Board shall order that money raised by taxation, within statutory and charter limitations, to be paid into the funds of the local unit; and

WHEREAS, the following policies are hereby established to govern the County Administration for the 2009 Budget; and

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

1. No budget transfer to or from personnel services, fringe benefits, supplies, other services and charges, or capital outlay account groups shall occur unless in accordance with the Board of Commission Policy #275 and only after review by the appropriate Department Head/Elected Official, Purchasing Director, Finance Director, and County Administrator.
2. Any increase in wages or salaries, above those set forth in the salary wage schedule, or a newly created position, shall be made only by resolution or motion of the Board of Commissioners.
3. It is the responsibility of every Department Head/Elected Official to ensure that each of his/her business units does not exceed the amount appropriated in each account group. In turn, the County Administrator will oversee this operation and will expect to be informed by the Department Head/Elected Official of any potential budget variances.
4. Carry-forward requests for unencumbered non-capital items shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
5. Unspent balances, both encumbered or unencumbered, of previously authorized capital improvements or construction projects not completed by 12/31, are hereby re-appropriated. Any such carry-forwards will be presented to the Board of Commissioners as an informational item at a future meeting.
6. Any policies enumerated in Board of Commission Policy #275 are hereby incorporated by reference.

WHEREAS, the attached fee schedule (see Exhibit A) is hereby established to be effective as noted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amounts indicated in the Calhoun County 2009 Budget, as presented on December 18, 2008, are hereby appropriated for the General and other funds of Calhoun County.”

Comr. Moore thanked Mr. Gilmer and the Finance Department for their work in preparing the budget. Comr. Moore stated that he hopes the state’s promise regarding restoration of revenue sharing shall be kept. Comr. Moore inquired whether the budget includes salary increases for elected officials. Mr. Gilmer responded Yes.

Res. 214-A-2008

“Motion by Comr. Moore, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners rescind the 1.5 percent salary increase for elected officials for 2009 and place those monies within the Contingency Fund.”

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Comr. Rae stated that a 1.5 percent salary increase is very infinitesimal, and pointed out that the elected officials have not received a salary increase since 2005. Comr. Rae stated that if the elected officials' salaries are not keeping pace with the cost of living, at some point the Board will have to approve large salary increases. Comr. Rae advised that he shall not support the motion to rescind the proposed salary increases.

Comr. Arnquist advised that she supports the 1.5 percent salary increase and believes that it is better to increase the salaries every year or two rather than to grant none and then have to approve a five to six percent increase.

Comr. Solis thanked the Finance Department and Mr. Wilcox for all the work they have done. Comr. Solis pointed out that in previous years the Board has voted upon the elected officials' salaries separate from the budget; however that this year the Finance Department and the Budget Committee provided a process, and that taking portions of the budget out does not fit into that process. Comr. Solis thanked Commissioners Rae and Moore and the department heads for their work on the budget.

Roll call vote on Res. 214-A-2008: Yes - 3 (Comrs. Bolger, Moore and Segal)
No - 4 (Comrs. Todd, Arnquist, Rae and Solis)
Motion DEFEATED

Roll call vote on Res. 214-2008: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

November 2008 Financial Statements

No questions were raised.

2009 Out-of-State Travel Freeze

Res. 215-2008

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Bolger, 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

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

WHEREAS, Calhoun County has implemented a number of cost saving measures to balance the 2009 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, 2009 and will remain in effect until December 31, 2009 unless specifically revoked by the Board of Commissioners.”

Comr. Arnquist advised that she opposed the out-of-state travel freeze last year and still believes that in-state travel and out-of-state travel should be treated the same. Comr. Arnquist stated that the economy of Calhoun County is at least as tied to Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, or Toledo as it is to Traverse City or Mackinac Island; further, that the majority of hotels, motels and restaurants in Michigan are not locally owned. The profits of hotel, motel, and restaurant chains go to their corporate headquarters. Comr. Arnquist continued that it's true that in-state hotels, motels, and restaurants employ Michigan workers and that sales tax spent in state is revenue to Michigan; however, that protectionist policy on Michigan's part encourages protectionist policy on our neighboring states' part. Comr.

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Arnquist stated that all of the local states' economies would be better off with no out-of-state travel bans. Then cities and counties in neighboring states would be more likely to come to conferences in Michigan, which would generate employment and sales tax revenue in Michigan. Comr. Arnquist stated that it might sound as though the Board is being fiscally prudent in an article in the paper, but in reality, it will save little or no money to the State of Michigan, and certainly not to Calhoun County. Comr. Arnquist stated that in her opinion this policy is myopic and poor economic theory.

Comr. Arnquist continued that she discussed the policy with George Erickcek, and that he said that he believes that it is an advantage to county government to have the flexibility to choose conferences on a case-by-case basis using a cost/benefit analysis; further that he thinks it is unwise to put a conference in Indianapolis or Chicago in the same category as one in Santa Fe. Comr. Arnquist advised that Mr. Erickcek does not support this across-the-board policy.

Comr. Arnquist advised that she reviewed the policy and agrees with provision 1, however pointed out that provisions 2 through 6 require a Travel Review Committee composed of the County Administrator/Controller, the Asst. County Administrator and a department head; and she believes micro-managing travel is not a good use of the management team's time, not to mention the staff time to prepare the quarterly reports. Comr. Arnquist stated that if the Board wishes to reduce travel, then she is in favor of provisions 2 through 6 if applied to all travel requests.

Comr. Solis pointed out that the policy has a review process which has been working well; further, pointed out that the review process is not as time consuming in practice as it appears within the resolution. Comr. Solis advised that he shall support the policy.

Comr. Rae stated that Commissioner Arnquist raised some points with which he concurs. Comr. Rae stated that he believes it is important for department heads and elected officials to go to seminars, and those seminars are not always in the immediate area. Comr. Rae stated that he can live with the policy as there is some flexibility.

Comr. Arnquist requested the Finance Director's opinion of the policy. Finance Director Mark Stuhldreher advised that he supports the freeze.

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Bolger, Moore, Rae, Segal, Solis and Todd)
No - 1 (Comr. Arnquist)
Motion CARRIED

2009 Career Development Program Moratorium

Res. 216-2008

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners impose a moratorium on County Policy No. 351 - Career Development Program for 2009, as recommended by Administration.”

Comr. Rae stated that the moratorium goes “hand and glove” with the travel freeze. Comr. Rae stated that he would like a review process, similar to the travel freeze.

Mr. Stuhldreher pointed out that the moratorium shall be imposed upon tuition reimbursement for college classes, not conferences and seminars.

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

2009 Hiring Freeze

Res. 217-2008

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Rae, 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 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.

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

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, 2009 unless specifically revoked by the Board of Commissioners.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

Final Calhoun County E 9-1-1 Plan Adoption

Sheriff Allen Byam advised that each governmental entity has reviewed the Plan and no objections have been received. Sheriff Byam urged the new Board to appoint someone to fill the vacancy on the Consolidated Dispatch Center Authority Governing Board at the January 8, 2009 Board Meeting.

Comr. Bolger advised that Frank Post, who has been “heading” the technical committee, resigned. Comr. Bolger also urged the new Board to appointment someone quickly and to request a report regarding the back-up secondary service provider site which must be listed within the Plan.

Res. 218-2008

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners adopted Calhoun County’s first E-911 Plan on April 7, 1992, enabling Calhoun County to establish 9-1-1 as the universal number for emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County’s E-911 Plan was subsequently amended on February 7, 2008, to

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

address changes in legislation and to provide financial support to local Public Safety Answering Points; and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County currently has twenty-nine emergency response agencies including nineteen fire departments, eight police agencies, four ambulance agencies, and one Hazardous Materials team; and

WHEREAS, these public safety agencies, together with three primary Public Safety Answering Points, have historically provided emergency response services to Calhoun County's 137,999 residents; and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Telephone District Board has recommended that the dispatch services be consolidated into one primary service answering point; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2008, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners created the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Center Authority; and

WHEREAS, this updated E-911 plan provides for changes in policy and procedure relative to the consolidated dispatch services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby adopt the Calhoun County Amended E-911 Plan as attached hereto and made a part thereof.”
(ATTACHMENT B)

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

Sheriff Byam thanked those Board members leaving and stated that he looks forward to working with the new Board.

COMMISSIONERS' TIME:

Comr. Bolger advised Commissioner Moore that his experience and professionalism meant a lot to him, advised Commissioner Solis that he has enjoyed working with him, and advised Commissioner Todd that he admires him for being a family man and a man of faith. Comr. Bolger advised Chairwoman Segal that he has had fun working with her and looks forward to continuing to work with her.

Comr. Arnquist acknowledged the amount of work that Chairwoman Segal has done, and the amount of time Commissioner Bolger has devoted to the consolidated dispatch center project. Comr. Arnquist congratulated

**Board of Commissioners
December 18, 2008**

Commissioner Moore for his involvement in the farmland preservation project since 1999, stating that she finds his commitment very admirable. Comr. Arnquist offered the new Board her best wishes.

Comr. Moore stated that it has been a tremendous honor and privilege to have served the citizens of District 5. Comr. Moore thanked his family and his wife of 19 years, Becky. Comr. Moore stated that each year the county family has been requested to be more efficient and they have. Comr. Moore stated that he is thankful for the opportunity to listen and learn from them. Comr. Moore stated that he has taken his job seriously and has worked diligently to keep the promises he has made when he started on the Board. Comr. Moore thanked the county staff for their dedication.

Comr. Moore stated that the Board has done some wonderful things and that he believes his fellow colleagues are dedicated to serving the public towards the good of the county. Comr. Moore encouraged the new Board to seek counsel from the county's terrific staff, and urged the new Board to keep the best interests of the citizens foremost in their minds. Comr. Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chairwoman Segal invited everyone for cake in the Law Library. Chairwoman Segal stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Board and represent the citizens of District 1. Chairwoman Segal stated that she has grown a lot since commencing on the Board, and thanked her colleagues for their service and their friendship.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTING:

Res. 219-2008

“Motion by Comr. Solis, 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 \$502,105.13 for the two {2}weeks ending December 9, 2008.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 7 Motion CARRIED Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairwoman Segal announced that the Albion Chamber Eggs and Issues has been cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m. at the call of the Chair.