

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 15, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 15, 2011 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chairman Kale called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.

Present: Comrs. Behnke, Todd, Haadsma, Camp Seifke, Frisbie, VanSickle and Kale

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey, Human Resources Director Kim Archambault and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board held a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comr. VanSickle.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the agenda of the December 15, 2011 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2011 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Art Farmer, Lee Township Supervisor, thanked Art Kale for asking him to participate in the Road Commissioner selection process. He stated he felt privileged to be involved. He thanked the other four members of the committee and Blaine VanSickle for acting as chair. He claimed he felt everyone was pulling in the same direction and that was for what was in the best interest of those in Calhoun County.

Todd Wildt, Homer Township Supervisor, stated he also sat on the Road Commissioner Selection Committee. He thanked the Commissioners for reinstating the application and selection process, he thought it was very important and he disapproved of the last process. He stated VanSickle and Frisbie were great to work with, the Board of Commissioners was the best there had been in a long time and the selection committee had the best finalists they had seen in a long time.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

There was none.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Lake County Resolution Supporting a Statutory Exemption for Stormwater Runoff from Logging Roads
2. Antrim County Resolution Supporting a Statutory Exemption for Stormwater Runoff from Logging Roads
3. Holiday Inn Award Recognition

B. Resolutions

1. Calhoun County Road Commission Appointment
(Term Expires December 31, 2017)
2. Planning Commission Reappointment
(Term Expires December 31, 2014)

Res. 172-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the December 1, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

There were none.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

A. Calhoun County Recycling Contract with Republic Waste

Res. 173-2011

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Calhoun County Recycling contract with Republic Waste Services to provide drop off recycling services from 2012 - 2014.”

Comr. Camp Seifke stated she appreciated the work done by Parks Trustees, Department of Public Works, Environmental Services Coordinator Tiffany Eichorst, and Road Commission Managing Director Kevin Henning and thanked them for answering her questions throughout the process. She stated it would be great to have dialogue about expanding recycling throughout the region.

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator/Controller Scott thanked Road Commission Managing Director Kevin Henning and Environmental Services Coordinator Tiffany Eichorst for attending and providing such good information about the recycling contract.

A. Final 2011 Budget Adjustments

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was a fairly routine item for Finance to bring forward at the end of the year and the Board must approve any final budget adjustments that exceed \$20,000. She stated the good news was the adjustments were all a result of increased revenue, mainly in the area of accommodations tax, as hotel occupancy is still up from the oil spill. She stated revenues are passed on Visitor’s and Convention Bureau and then some retained by the County. She stated there were adjustments within the General Fund and the Treasurer’s area in the amount of \$21,720, which is the portion the Treasurer’s office gets to administer in the accommodations tax process, and then adjustments in the special revenues fund, accommodations tax fund and county web services in the amount of \$376,480. She stated the revenues and expenses were equal so there was no net General Fund Budget impact.

Res. 174-2011

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Camp Seifke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the FY 2011 Final budget adjustments for the General Fund, the Accommodations Tax Fund and the County Web Service Fund as presented by the Finance Department.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

B. Michigan State University Agreement for Extension Services

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the next item was a new agreement for extension services for the Michigan State University Extension Office. She reminded the Board the university has undergone reorganization and was working with all their county partners to approve the same financial agreements that outline what the county would pay for and what Michigan State University will pay for. She stated this was a 5 year contract and with the financial term was a 1 year attachment. She noted the county would still have 4H and all the educators we currently had and the county would continue to offer support staff for an annual assessment of \$71,844, with the county in turn staffing the office with office staff. She stated the reorganization would provide additional access to educators with specialties throughout the staff. Scott stated there was a staffing reduction, and that being the office supervisor who was a county employee, since the new agreement calls for Michigan State University to provide supervision of the office.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired if there would be additional staffing cuts beyond the reduction of office hours.

Michigan State University Extension Regional Director Neumann stated the management decision was made to cut the office hours by one hour per day because the support staff who was always in the office will be working until 4 p.m. and they did not want the educators to have to try to coordinate coverage of the office as well as their own duties.

Res. 175-2011

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the agreement with Michigan State University (MSU) for the provision of Extension services for Calhoun County residents for the term of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016 for the standardized portion of the Agreement and January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 for the Annual Work Plan.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, No – 1 (Camp Seifke). Motion CARRIED.

C. Highway Safety – Safe Communities Grant Award

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the next item came from the Office of the Sheriff and was a grant award for multiple agencies, (Calhoun County and the cities of Marshall and Albion) and provided \$24,000 for overtimes and fringes for road patrol to focus on impaired driving and seat belt safety enforcement.

Sheriff Byam stated the grant does not require a local match.

Res. 176-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby accept the Highway Safety Grant Application for grant year October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 and authorize the County Administrator / Controller to electronically accept the Highway Safety - Safe Communities Grant Award.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

D. Calhoun County Board of Commissioners 2012 Meeting Schedule

Administrator/Controller Scott stated since it was the last meeting of the fiscal year, the 2012 proposed schedule was being presented. She stated it was similar to this year’s schedule with the Board meetings were scheduled for the first and third Thursday at 7p.m., there were 4 quarterly Committee of the Whole meetings at 6 p.m. and a Tuesday meeting in April for the Equalization Session.

Res. 177-2011

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the 2012 Meeting Schedule as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

E. November 2011 Financial Statements

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the November 2011 Financial Statements in summary indicated the General Fund was on track as a whole. She stated some revenue was over, some under but they were still projecting a balanced budget and to end with a balance of about 10% of our operating budget.

Res. 178-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve Calhoun County Board receive and accept for information the November 2011 Financial Statements.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

A county resident thanked all the loyal employees for keeping us on budget. He commented if staff could find an extra million dollars, residents would appreciate it. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Jim Coury of Marshall wished everyone a Merry Christmas and good New Year. He thanked the Commissioners and staff for their public service in the last year. He stated public service is often filled with controversy and disagreement and many people say we should have no local government yet public service is essential in our democracy, a democracy is the longest existing government in our world today. He thanked the public servants for their long hours and dedication over the last year.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Todd thanked Mr. Kurt Thornton for the calendars he draws that highlight the history of some of Battle Creek's architecture. He stated he was a history teacher so he appreciated the historical facts and thanked Thornton for the time spent on the calendars.

Comr. Haadsma followed up on Mr. Coury's comments and thanked Misters Wildt, Farmer and Irons and Comrs. VanSickle and Frisbie for their work on the Road Commissioner Selection process and agreed with Mr. Wildt that this was the way should be undertaken. He thanked the other candidates and stated Mr. Monaweck had served admirably in the past and was one of the finalists. He stated he was pleased so many came forward to make themselves available for service.

Comr. Haadsma thanked Michigan State University Regional Director Brad Neumann for doing a great job during a complicated time coordinating extension services in the State. He stated he was pleased with the innovation that Michigan State University is demonstrating.

Comr. Frisbie thanked outgoing Road Commissioner Eric Tobin for years of service and hard work.

Comr. Frisbie congratulated Huron Valley Ambulance celebrating 30 years of existence.

Comr. Frisbie wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Comr. Camp Seifke thanked the Road Commissioner Selection Committee for their work and thanked outgoing Road Commissioner Eric Tobin for his service and passion.

She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated she looked forward to working with everyone in the new year.

Comr. Kale thanked Sheriff Byam for not spilling coffee on him at the Food Bank Celebrity Server lunch.

Comr. Kale stated he attended the Michigan Association of Counties Transportation Committee meeting where they discussed the accelerator rail project and gave out a list of vendors for Amtrack. There was \$6,000,000 and Calhoun County only had a small portion of revenue from that. He stated he would put together some information for the County website so people can tie in with the railroad industry.

Comr. Kale stated he was here last year during the Road Commissioner appointment process. He stated he committed to avoiding that type of conflict. He explained the Committee recommended 3 people, the Chair would appoint and the Board would support. He stated this year they had a committee with a geographic split that covered the county and chose to have more 3 township supervisors than commissioners to avoid politics. He stated he didn't interfere and didn't express his opinion during the committee's process. He stated he wanted the best person for the job and he was committed to follow their recommendation. Comr. Kale stated he didn't want the guys to spend the time on the committee for nothing and the process worked. He stated it was very public, had open meetings and it was transparent as possible. He thanked them for a great job and claimed he had all the confidence in the world in their integrity.

Comr. Kale stated he feels blessed, being on the Commission has been a great experience and he was lucky to work with everyone. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res. 179-2011

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Claims Payable Listing for November 24 – December 8, 2011 in the amount of \$2,546,227.17.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Behnke announced his resignation from the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners effective at the end of the Organizational Meeting in January due to his election to the Battle Creek City Commission. He read his letter of resignation and stated he would assist in the transition. He wished everyone good luck and stated he looked forward to working with everyone at the City of Battle Creek.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Clerk
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners