

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

April 9, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2013 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

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

Present: Comrs. Dunn, Todd, Haadsma, Frisbie, King, VanSickle (excused at 8:00 p.m.) and Kale

Staff Present: County 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 Battle Creek Barber Shop Chorus sang the National Anthem.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the agenda of the April 9, 2013 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the March 21, 2013 Regular Session

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2013 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Steve Sharpe, Jackson County, stated he had been working with his Commissioners to promote commercial hemp production. He presented the Board with information and cds and asked that they also look into promoting hemp production in the county, as there are various uses for hemp and there would be jobs created.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Matthew Smith, Chief Assistant Prosecutor, stated the Prosecutor's office had cleared up their backlog, issued 1600 warrants, and were issuing 25 new warrants each day, with their turn around being only 48 hours. He stated they were working on grant money for their office because they were in need of two to three attorneys and two to three office staff. He stated Prosecutor Gilbert had talked to the Commissioners about getting a county wide grant writer and their office was willing to offer an office and supplies if the county decides to hire someone. He stated they would do whatever they could to help and they had already purchased a book to learn all the grants that were available in the state.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Barber Shop Harmony Month Proclamation

The proclamation was read into the record by Comr. Frisbie.

**WHEREAS**, on April 11, 1938, 26 men met on the rooftop of the Tulsa Club in Tulsa, Oklahoma, a historic meeting that launched the Society for the Encouragement and Propagation of the Barber Shop Quartet Society in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the barbershop form of unaccompanied four-part male harmony is one of America's original art forms and is preserved by more than 800 chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society; and

**WHEREAS**, The Barbershop Harmony Society is dedicated to providing enjoyment to the people of North America, and throughout the world, as well as providing financial support to music education programs through the Harmony Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pioneer District, with 28 chapters and over 1100 members from Michigan and western Ontario, will celebrate the 75th birthday anniversary of the International Barber Shop Harmony Society during the month of April.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim April 2013 as

**BARBERSHOP HARMONY MONTH**

In Calhoun County and extends best wishes for a successful Songfest and Birthday Party in Battle Creek on April 11, 2013.

Res. 49-2013

“Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Barber Shop Harmony Month proclamation as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

The proclamation was accepted by the Battle Creek Barber Shop Chorus.

B. Alcohol Awareness Proclamation

The proclamation was read into the record by Comr. Dunn.

**WHEREAS**, research continues to demonstrate alcohol use by young people poses dangers associated with acute impairment, threats to long-term brain development and overall safety and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, it is illegal to give or allow youth under the age of 21 to drink alcohol in your home, even with their parents' permission; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone found guilty of providing alcohol to underage youth can face up to a \$1,000 fine and sixty days in jail, in addition to any civil action that can be brought as a result of damages or injury related to the offense; each year approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking; and

**WHEREAS**, alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students and is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk for unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections; and

**WHEREAS**, youth that consume alcohol before the age of 15 are 40 percent more likely to develop alcohol dependence as adults. However, if consumption of alcohol can be delayed until the legal age of 21, serious alcohol-related problems can be reduced by 70 percent;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim *the month of April 2013*, as

***ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH***

in Calhoun County and encourages residents to refuse to provide alcoholic beverages to underage youth and to take the necessary steps to discourage the illegal and unhealthy practice, including the reporting of underage drinking by calling their local law enforcement. We call upon all citizens, parents, youth, governmental agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, hospitals, and schools to support efforts that will reduce and prevent underage drinking in our community.

Res. 50-2013

“Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Alcohol Awareness Month proclamation as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

The proclamation was accepted by Danielle Maitland of the Substance Abuse Council.

C. Sexual Assault Awareness month

The proclamation was read into the record by Comr. Todd.

**WHEREAS**, the month of April 2013 has been designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, only 46 percent of rapes and sexual assaults are reported to law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, among adult male or female victims of rape and sexual assault, 2/3 of the crimes were committed by someone known to the victim; and

**WHEREAS**, among child sexual assault victims 96 percent of the offenders was someone known and trusted by the child or the child’s family; and

**WHEREAS**, one in six girls/women and one in thirty-three boys/men will experience an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the **month of April 2013**, as

**“SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH”**

in Calhoun County. The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners recognizes the survivors of sexual assault and thanks the Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County, a grant-funded department of Bronson Battle Creek, the Calhoun County Prosecutor’s Office, the Battle Creek Police Department, and other law enforcement and service agencies for their combined efforts in battling this insidious crime.

Res. 51-2013

“Moved Comr. Todd, supported by Comr. Haadsma to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Sexual Assault Awareness Month proclamation as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

The proclamation was accepted by Joyce Segal, Program Director of Sexual Assault Services of Calhoun County.

D. Calhoun County 2013 Equalization Report

**WHEREAS**, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 19 Townships and four Cities within Calhoun County to determine whether the real and personal property in the respective Townships and Cities has been equally and uniformly assessed; and

**WHEREAS**, based on this examination and studies it conducted, the Equalization Department has prepared and presented to the County Board of Commissioners the attached 2013 Equalization Report; and

**WHEREAS**, said Equalization Report presents recommended County equalized valuations for each of the 19 Townships and four Cities within the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended County equalized valuations were determined by adding to or deducting from the assessed valuations of taxable property in the 19 Townships and four Cities within the County an amount which represents true cash value.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners accepts and adopts the recommended County equalized valuations presented in the 2013 Equalization Report prepared by the Calhoun County Equalization Department for a total 2013 equalized valuation of real and personal property of \$4,057,772,361 with the breakdown of equalized valuation by property classification as follows:

Agricultural Real Property \$446,956,357  
Commercial Real Property \$555,666,966  
Industrial Real Property \$180,920,509  
Residential Real Property \$2,302,349,182  
Developmental Real Property \$2,356,200

Total Real Property \$3,488,249,214

Total Personal Property \$569,523,147

Total Real and Personal Property \$4,057,772,361

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Calhoun County Board Chairperson and the County Clerk of the Board are authorized to sign the report; further, that the County Administrator/Controller and the Equalization Director/Deputy Director are authorized to represent Calhoun County at both preliminary and final State equalization sessions, if deemed necessary.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Equalization Report was being presented per statutory requirements. She stated the county had contracted with Bonnie Payton for MMAO (Level 4) Equalization Director services and Roger McEvers to run the operations of the office and prepare this report.

Equalization Director Payton stated staff had worked diligently and audited every property in the county to make sure they were equalized according to law. She noted the state equalized value reduced 1.44% and the taxable value was a 1.01% decrease.

Mr. McEvers reviewed the highlights of the Equalization report for the Board.

Res. 52-2013

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Calhoun County 2013 Equalization Report as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (VanSickle). Motion **CARRIED**.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Buren County Resolution Regarding Road Funding
2. Delta County Resolution for Second Amendment Preservation Van
3. Pennfield Township resolution regarding the 911 Funding Surcharge Proposal

B. Resolutions

There were none.

Res. 53-2013

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the consent agenda of the April 9, 2013 meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion **CARRIED**.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the Dispatch Authority had been discussing many townships sending in resolutions requesting the Board place a surcharge issue on the ballot again and eventually the Board would have to decide which direction to head in, whether to put it on the ballot or not. He stated the resolutions are on the agenda so the Commissioners can see what stances the townships are taking.

Comr. King gave a review of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. He stated the logging to take down the beetle infested trees in Kimball Pines would start soon and there would be banners put up to inform people what they were doing. He stated the county had a grant to repair the fencing and put up "No ATV" signs in the Ott Preserve. He stated Bridge Park would officially be opening May 1 and they were working on a contract with a third party company to handle trash pickup. He stated the Commission would be forming subcommittees to form a Master Plan for each park and all of them collectively so they have an outline of what direction they would like to go in.

#### 11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

#### 12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

##### A. County Administrator/Controller's Report

Administrator/Controller Scott stated they were working on a long term plan to replace the Equalization Director. She stated Brad had taken leadership of the department and was working on the details of a new independent contract that may work better for the Level 4 oversight as well as the direct office leadership. She stated they were working with Roger McEvers to fill the Level 3 portion and the retiring St Joseph County Equalization Director would cover the Level 4 requirement. She stated they would work together in a job share role to cover the office administration. She stated this would also allow the City of Marshall through their assessing contract to appoint a Level 4 of record for them.

Scott stated Jen Bomba, who was the County's Planning Director, had agreed to take over the Environmental Coordinator duties when Tiffany Eichorst resigned. She stated there were many things coming up including the compost center opened April 8, would have various hours on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and there would be no charge to county residents. She stated the spring tire collection would be April 24 - 26 at the Road Department garage, also no charge to county residents. She noted we were getting a proposal from the Conservation District to staff the event and help with other solid waste and recycling projects. Scott explained we were trying to separate Road Department crews from solid waste, recycling and parks. She added Recycle-Rama was coming up April 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kellogg Community College and all of the information would be on the County's website, CalhounCountyrecycling.com website and Facebook.

Scott shared some Road Department updates, stating there would soon be a press release going out for National Work Zone Awareness week reminding people to be aware for the safety of road crews working on pot holes and construction. She stated the new Interim Managing Director, Bob Griffis, had started, and was at the Road Department 4 out of 5 days. She stated we were trying to leverage management staff from Jackson County and get their expertise.

Bob Griffis, Jackson County Department of Transportation, stated he was facilitating the collaboration between Jackson and Calhoun Counties. He had started by doing evaluations of positions, policies and procedures to where we could collaborate on between the two counties. He gave his background, noting he had been involved in transportation for many years, retiring from the Air Force as a transportation and logistics manager then working his way up through the Jackson County Road Commission. He stated he would be bringing the Jackson Fleet Manager over to evaluate the Calhoun County fleet and give another opinion on the status of the fleet. He stated sign shop personnel would be going to training to be certified in sign shop requirements. He stated he would be taking a supervisor and two teamsters to participate in a MDOT salt delivery presentation so the operators can learn about salt spray. Griffis stated we would be posting job openings for a stockroom clerk and two mechanics. He explained they had an average of nine crews out each day patching potholes, they were trying to get the biggest ones first then would go back around and get the rest later. He stated it would take them time to get caught up. He stated they would start working on the deberming process, making sure the water drainage from the roads was appropriate.

Comr. Kale thanked Griffis for his efforts and stated he appreciated their fresh eyes approach and he was looking forward to seeing what came out. He thanked Griffis for his service in the Air Force. He stated he appreciated the no nonsense approach.

B. New Business

1. Amendments to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Contract

HR Director Archambault stated the Blue Cross Blue Shield Contract was approved at a prior meeting but it was necessary to present amendments to the contract language to make the contract compliant with Health Care Reform.

Res. 54-2013

“Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the amendment to the Blue Cross Blue Shield contract as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (VanSickle). Motion **CARRIED**.

2. Award of Guardrail Bid #103-13 to Highway Improvement Company

Administrator/Controller Scott stated Brad had been working with teams at the Road Department to put purchasing bids on a schedule. She stated two of those bids were presented for award on this agenda, guardrail materials and roadside mowing.

Assistant Administrator Wilcox stated he was seeing the effectiveness of the teams. He stated they went through the process of evaluating the bids using matrix tools and MDOT specs. He stated staff was recommending approving the two year contract with Highway Improvement Company for \$52,000 per year.



Res. 55-2013

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Haadsma to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby award the guardrail bid #103-13 to Highway Improvement Company for a two year contract in an amount estimated at \$52,000 annually.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (VanSickle). Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Roadside Mowing Bid #104-13 to Provide Mowing Services for the Road Department

Assistant Administrator Wilcox stated the contract for mowing and routine litter removal was based on MDOT specs and require MDOT approval before work could start. He stated they select a low bidder, have a pre-award meeting and the contractor would bring in further information. He stated they had an MDOT representative on their bid review team so the process would be expedited. He stated this bid was for \$55 per acre for about 900 acres and there would be at least one mowing in the spring and maybe one in the fall. He noted the MDOT contract specs were very specific and required the low bidder in almost all cases.

Res. 56-2013

“Moved Comr. King, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve E. Niewoonder & Sons, Inc., for the contract award of the Roadside Mowing Bid #104-13, to provide mowing services for the Road Department for a two year period at a cost of \$55 per acre for a total cost of \$94,930.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (VanSickle). Motion **CARRIED**.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Matthew Hall, Sheridan Township and Road Department employee, gave a history on road building and stated he was looking forward to working with Bob (Griffis) and continuing to work with the Commissioners.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Haadsma referenced the VanBuren County resolution regarding road funding in the consent agenda and encouraged the Commissioners, administrators and the public to go to [justfixtheroads.com](http://justfixtheroads.com) which emphasizes the need to fix our roads now rather than to allow them to deteriorate further.

5. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. County payables from March 15 - 28, 2013 in the amount of \$535,483.14, the County P-Card payables for February 2013 in the amount of \$3,487.57 and Road Department payables in the amount of \$112,456.10.

Res. 57-2013

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, Supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners County payables from March 15 - 28, 2013 in the amount of \$535,483.14, the County P-Card payables for February 2013 in the amount of \$3,487.57 and Road Department payables in the amount of \$112,456.10

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (VanSickle). Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Haadsma announced that on Saturday, April 13, the Arts Center of Battle Creek is having its annual art auction at 7pm.

Comr. Frisbie stated the Pennfield Exchange Club hosted their Youth of the Year essay contest and it's a great way to hear youth talk about patriotic themes and what our future holds. He stated this year's winners were Jessie Schneider and Chris Lukowski, both Pennfield High School Seniors, and they would move on to statewide contest and, if successful, on to the national competition.

Comr. Kale announced there would be a pancake fundraiser on Saturday, April 13 from 8-12 at the Albion High School for the Albion High School Athletic Club.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman  
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

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Clerk  
Calhoun County