

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

July 11, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 11, 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 and Kale

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

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board held a moment of silence followed by Comr. Frisbie leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the agenda of the July 11, 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 June 20, 2013 Regular Session

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2013 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

## 6. CITIZENS' TIME

Pastor William Stein, Pastor of Gods Kitchen-Battle Creek made an appeal to the Commissioners for hungry in our community by asking for a \$25,000 grant. He stated the kitchen had served over 55,000 meals to the hungry in our community. He believed the grants were available, as the County was approving grants all the time, and believed this was a worthy cause.

## 7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Prosecutor David Gilbert gave an update on what has been happening in his office. He stated they had issued or reviewed 3,359 warrant requests for felonies or misdemeanors, over 150 more than last year. He announced they were implementing a new program that requires the forfeiture of a vehicle for second and third drunk driving offenses, reckless driving causing injury or death cases and OUI (Operating Under the Influence) cases with a passenger under the age of 16. He explained this was a program used by many counties in the state. He stated they were working with the Sheriff to figure out where to store vehicles and were planning to have it in operation by August 1.

Treasurer Christine Schauer stated her office was getting ready for foreclosed property auctions, which would take place the first weekend in September and in October. She stated they were also working with property owners that were going into forfeiture.

## 8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

### A. Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) representative Harry Moore presented the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserves.

We recognize the Guard and Reserve are essential to the strength of our nation and the well-being of our communities.

In the highest American tradition, the patriotic men and women of the Guard and Reserve serve voluntarily in an honorable and vital profession. They train to respond to their community and their country in time of need. They deserve the support of every segment of our society.

If these volunteer forces are to continue to serve our nation, increased public understanding is required of the essential role of the Guard and Reserve in preserving our national security.

Therefore, we join other employers in pledging that:

- We fully recognize, honor and enforce the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).
- Our managers and supervisors will have the tools they need to effectively manager those employees who serve in the Guard and Reserve.

- We appreciate the values, leadership and unique skills service members bring to the workforce and will encourage opportunities to hire Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.
- We will continually recognize and support our country's service members and their families in peace, in crisis and in war.

Res. 118-2013

"Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserves."

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

B. Public Hearing Regarding Approval of the Calhoun County Housing Rehabilitation Program Grant Application

Res. 119-2013

"Motion by Comr. King, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby open the Public Hearing regarding the approval of the Calhoun County Housing Rehabilitation Program Grant application."

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

Calhoun County Treasurer stated the Housing Rehabilitation Grant was administered by the Treasurer's office. She introduced Nina Baranowski and Amy Rose Wallace Robinson to present the grant information.

Calhoun County Property Foreclosure Manager Nina Baranowski stated the purpose of the Housing Rehabilitation Program was to improve and upgrade low and medium income housing by meeting the minimum housing standards. She stated the entire county is eligible except the homes inside the city limits of Battle Creek, as they have their own program. She stated an applicant's annual income cannot exceed certain levels. She stated the two components of the program were minor/major repair for up to \$35,000 and emergency for up to \$5000.

Amy Rose Wallace Robinson explained they had just completed the grant that ran from 2010 to March 2013 and the funding assisted 18 households, eleven with emergency repairs and seven major rehabs. She stated they had budgeted for eleven projects but were able to do eighteen due to additional program income that came back to the county and had to be spent right away. She stated currently they have thirty-seven residents interested in emergency repair and seventeen with interest in major rehab. She stated the only change in their projected budget for 2013 – 2015 would be to complete fifteen homes with a requested amount of \$300,000. She stated the performance targets they were looking to address were emergency home repair as a priority and had funding committed by May 31, 2015. She stated the homeowner contribution requirements had changed slightly. She stated people can apply through Community Action at (269)441-1335.

Res. 120-2013

“Motion by Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Frisbie to close the public hearing regarding the approval of the Calhoun County Housing Rehabilitation Program Grant application.”

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

- C. Approval to Submit the 2013 County Allocation Grant Application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)

WHEREAS, The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners must approve the submission of the 2013 County Allocation grant application to Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA); and

WHEREAS, Calhoun County Treasurer’s Office, will oversee the administration of the County Allocation grant application process

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the resolution authorizing the submission of the 2013 County Allocation grant application as presented by the County Treasurer, Christine Schauer.

Res. 121-2013

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the 2013 County Allocation Grant Application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

There were none.

- B. Resolutions

- 1. Senior Millage Allocation Committee Appointment  
(Term to Expire April 30, 2016)

{a} Dianne Kalnins (Replacing Joanne Konkle)

Res. 122-2013

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the consent agenda of the July 11, 2013 Regular meeting.”

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

## 10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. King gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He stated the logging at Kimball Pines would take place in late August or September and they were still pushing forward with the trailway around Ott Preserve; it would probably go in September.

Comr. VanSickle stated the Planning Commission met and their main discussion was on the sale of the Division Drive property that was before the Board and it passed with a 4-2 vote.

Comr. Frisbie stated the Community Action Board was working to resolve some trying times and they were looking for a new CEO.

Comr. Frisbie stated the Consolidated Dispatch Authority Board met and authorized the return of \$300,000 to the original funders of the first five years of consolidated dispatch with a 20% fund balance maintained. He stated they had operated more efficiently than planned and had also purchased a new Computer Aided Design (CAD) system that would save dollars.

## 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 announced we were working on finalizing the 2012 audit and were expecting to bring the audit to the Board in August. She stated it had been a big project to change the way we report the Road Department and to blend them in with the county accounts. She stated the audit results showed the General Fund with a small surplus, but we had to transfer a substantial amount from CIP to cover some revenue shortfalls. She stated we did not have to dip into general fund balance and it was a clean audit.

Scott stated we posted the vacant Finance Director position. She stated this person would as part of their duties help oversee the Road Department finances and so we may not fill the finance position at the Road Department.

Scott stated the Road Department had positive financial results for 2012 as a result of a mild winter, spending less than what was budgeted and a conservative revenue budget. She stated the net contribution to fund balance was about a million dollars and she would recommend a lot of that remain in the General Fund for reserves. She stated some of the excess would pay for a few one time or emergency projects or ones that would put us ahead going into next year.

Scott stated we were negotiating the Teamster contracts and hoped to have a tentative agreement in August.

Interim Road Department Managing Director Bob Griffis stated they were working on patching potholes, and were contracting with Lakeland Asphalt for more paver patching.

Griffis stated they started mowing in the Bedford, Emmett, and Pennfield area then would move to Convis, Marshall and Marengo next week.

Griffis stated they planned to do some overtime work to fill potholes.

Griffis stated they were still taking applications for a mechanic position and temporary general labor to help with patching.

Griffis stated the requests for pothole repairs had slowed down a little but they still had a long way to go. He noted they had over 1000 requests they were still working.

Griffis stated the work on B Drive North and Harper Village was completed.

Comr. Todd inquired how many positions would be filled temporarily for patching.

Griffis stated they were looking for ten people for ten weeks. He explained people could apply online or call the Road Department. He stated applicants don't need experience and just needed to be over 18 and have reliable transportation.

Comr. Todd thanked Griffis for coming to the Board meetings and presenting information. He stated this was the most he had seen anyone from the Road Department in the nine years he had been on the Board.

Comr. Haadsma asked how people can report potholes.

Griffis stated they could call the Road Department at 269-781-9841, use smart phones to access the seeclickfix app or report through the Road Department website at [calhouncountyroads.com](http://calhouncountyroads.com).

## B. New Business

### 1. Interlocal Agreement with Jackson County

Administrator/Controller Scott stated we were creating a joint management team with the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JCDOT). She explained the agreement gave us flexibility but clarifies terms and starts with the hiring of a joint Managing Director. She stated they had hired someone for that position; his name was Jerry Peterson, currently with the Manistee County Road Commission. She stated he was used to having a strong management team since he's from a small county with few staff. She thought he would be a good fit and he was excited for the challenge. She explained Bob Griffis would continue to be the Operations Manager over both Calhoun and Jackson Counties. She stated some employees would have set schedules at both offices; some would be in on an as needed basis. Scott explained Jackson County didn't have a Purchasing Department, so that would be done by Calhoun County staff. She stated Jackson County would bill us based on actual costs so no one was subsidizing budgets or using each other's Act 51 money. She stated we would be able to use their grader and would be contracting with Jackson County to come over and help with some projects. She

stated she thought it was a great idea, as did Corporation Counsel Lindsey. She stated costs would work out fairly similar to what it would be if we filled all of the positions at the Road Department. She stated she was looking forward to Mr. Peterson coming in.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated this was a historic agreement and no one else in the state had done this. He explained this will be a great example of the Urban Cooperation Act, allowing local governments to contract and share services. He explained that we will lease employees from each other and it would allow both to get the best from the employees. He stated this would be a two way street, it would be shared services. He stated all decisions will be made in conjunction with the two administrators.

Comr. Frisbie stated it was imperative that people understand that neither Road Department was going to dissolve. He stated the work crews would not change.

Lindsey stated that Dispatch was a good example in that they operate on their own but use our Human Resources, purchasing, etc.

Comr. Dunn asked if Administration was looking to pull together more areas.

Scott stated that was definitely a possibility and would be looking at I.T., finance, etc.

Comr. Haadsma stated this was an evolution for the 21st century, with more collaboration between governments to provide more services to more citizens for less tax dollars.

Comr. Kale stated we were not just doing the traditional stuff but that we were thinking outside the box. He stated this was the kind of stuff we needed to do to be more efficient. He stated he was proud of the Administrative Team and of our Board.

Res. 123-2013

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, Supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Interlocal Agreement with Jackson County and the Board Chair is authorized to sign on behalf of the County.”

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

2. Purchase Agreement for Property on Division Drive

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the purchase agreement was a long time in the making. She stated they had been discussing the potential sale of this property for months. She explained that as part of the Road Department transition we were looking at all of our assets and what was of value to someone but not necessarily to us. She stated that in the case of this property, we were not using it and it was of value to the Loyers, who requested the opportunity to purchase it.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the property was in Comr. VanSickle's district. He explained Mr. Loyer had approached the Road Commission years ago and negotiated the sale of the property. He stated after some management changes the Road Commission reconsidered and decided not to sell. He stated the terms of this purchase was a sealed bid and Mr. Loyer was the highest bidder by far. He

stated they engaged in a process of discussion on terms of the purchase agreement. Lindsey explained there was a DNR landing on the property, but the DNR didn't want it. He stated if the trailway ever came out that far, they included a conservation easement to be held by the county. He stated the agreement stated nothing but temporary structures would be put on the easement. He noted the property would go back on the tax rolls if sold.

Comr. King asked about the mineral rights.

Lindsey stated there was nothing in the contract and if they were not excluded they were transferred with the property and that was typical of agreements.

Comr. Frisbie stated he received a letter from Larry Rizor stating the agreement doesn't, in his opinion, agree with the Master Plan of the trail and there was no room for an equestrian trail adjacent.

Lindsey stated he believed it would be a long, long time before the trailway would be in a position to move the trailway in that direction and Mr. Rizor's concerns were not appropriate at this time.

Scott stated the compromise was to allow for a trailway, but the easement was not as wide as Mr. Rizor believed it should be.

Lindsey stated he drafted this language exactly the same as the rest of the trailway and this would be the only section of trailway with the width that Rizor was asking for.

Res. 124-2013

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, Supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Purchase Agreement between Calhoun County and Mark Loyer and Karen Loyer is hereby approved as presented and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County along with the deed transferring title and any other associated documents necessary to complete the sale of the premises as set forth in the purchase agreement."

On a roll call vote – Yes -7. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. Contract with Strategic Resource Management

Administrator/Controller Scott stated she was working with Strategic Resource Management, a company referred to her by Mr. Dick Sweet. She stated they work with industries and look for ways to save money and raise revenue. She explained they work on a contingency basis and would take one third of whatever savings they could find for the next three years. She stated she had worked with similar companies in the past and there was no risk for the county since they only get paid if they find savings. She stated the contract was reviewed by Corporation Counsel Lindsey. She stated upon approval they would start doing a more in depth review of the high level review already completed and they would renegotiate contracts for us to get better deals. Scott explained they drew on a nationwide database for savings and most of the work would be done by them, not our staff. She stated she was hopeful they would find significant savings to help our budget.



Comr. Kale stated he thought this was a great opportunity for us to get better.

Res. 125-2013

“Moved Comr. Dunn, Supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following:  
Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the contract with Strategic Resource Management (SRM) as presented and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to execute the agreement as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Matthew Hall of Sheridan Township stated he hoped that all of the Commissioners considered Calhoun County their main priority because he heard it sounded like a lot of the management would be based in Jackson County.

Hall stated First Baptist Church in Marshall would be starting Vacation Bible School on Sunday and it would run Sunday through Thursday.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Todd stated he understood the concerns of Mr. Hall and trusted that everyone would do it fair.

Comr. Todd congratulated Kyra Wallace who obtained CEO credentials for the Urban League in Battle Creek. He stated they did a wonderful job providing kids’ opportunities.

Comr. Todd stated Jordan Cooper, a former student of his, was recently selected by the Kalamazoo Metropolitan NAACP for national dance.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. Calhoun County Claims Payable for June 14 - 27, 2013 in the Amount of \$1,976,823.11, County P-Card Payables for May 2013 in the Amount of \$62,478.96 and Road Department Payables in the Amount of \$308,636.52.

Res. 126-2013

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, Supported Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for June 14 - 27, 2013 in the Amount of \$1,976,823.11, County P-Card Payables for May 2013 in the Amount of \$62,478.96 and Road Department Payables in the Amount of \$308,636.52.”

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

## 16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Frisbie stated next Thursday, July 18, will be the Pennfield Athletic Boosters Golf Outing at the Medalist and the Sheriff's Golf Outing will be on August 9.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated last weekend the Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society held the Cruise to the Fountain with over 400 cars. He announced that his father and his 1951 Chevy won Best of Show.

Comr. Todd stated he had to bring a youth over to the hospital for treatment and he was late, that's why he was dressed so casually.

Comr. VanSickle stated he had been working with a friend who owned the old Sanders farm on Partello Road and the DNR fisheries was trying to buy it. He stated Rice Creek is the border of the farm and it was a designated trout stream. He stated the real estate appraiser from the DNR would view the property on July 19 and they would probably purchase it. He stated that section of the river would be opened up for people to fish and the house may become a museum or meeting room. He also announced that Calhoun County had the least property owned by the DNR in the state.

Comr. Kale stated the DRN wanted to meet with the Commissioners to discuss coordinating efforts with property. He stated he would report back after that meeting.

## 17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 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