

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

August 7, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, August 7, 2014 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: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2 and 3. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Dunn, second by Comr. Todd to approve the agenda of the August 7, 2014 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

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

5. CITIZENS' TIME

Daniel Jones, Haven of Rest Director, addressed the Board regarding the PA2 money being budgeted on the agenda. He described their Life Recovery Program, a Women's program for substance abuse and allowing children to stay with them. He asked the Board to increase the Haven's portion of the PA2 funding.

Dave Frantz, Battle Creek Balsa Bees, introduced himself and asked for approval of the contract on the agenda.

6. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Prosecutor Dave Gilbert introduced Holly, the Victim's Advocate Dog his office recently acquired.

Sheriff Matt Saxton stated an inmate worker walked away from the facility earlier in the day but he was found within a few hours in Colon and taken back to the Calhoun County Jail.

Sheriff Saxton announced his Students for Success Golf Outing was on August 8 and was sold out.

7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Region 3B Area Agency on Aging's 2014 – 2015 Annual Implementation Plan

Karla Fales, CEO of Area Agency on Aging, presented their 2014 – 2015 Annual Implementation Plan, stating funding had stayed consistent. She then reviewed the plan and highlighted the changes.

Res. 123-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Region 3B Area Agency on Aging's 2014 – 2015 Annual Implementation Plan as presented.”

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

B. Community Action Presentation

Michelle Williamson and Elizabeth Carr of Community Action presented an overview of Community Action's programs and their impact on the county.

Comr. Frisbie acknowledged Michelle Williamson for stepping in to a tough spot and accomplishing a lot with Community Action. He stated she was doing a great job.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Eaton County Resolution Opposing the Development of an Underground Nuclear Waste Facility

B. Resolutions

1. 2013 Act 51 Financial Report
2. Support for MDNR Purchase of Property in Marengo Township
3. Remonumentation Peer Group Appointments  
(Appointed until resignation or successors are appointed)
  - {a} Tony Bumstead, P.S.
  - {b} Robert R. Carr, P.S.
  - {c} William Crane, P.S.
  - {d} Fred Cutcher, P.S.
  - {e} Mike Groat, P.S.
  - {f} Scott Koch, P.S.
  - {g} David Lohr, P.S.
  - {h} Brian Reynolds, P.S.

Res. 124-2014

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following:  
Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the August 7, 2014 Regular Session.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. King stated the Parks and Recreation Committee met that day and work on the Trailway was well underway. He stated Community Development Coordinator Ingrid Ault had hit the ground running and was doing a great job. He stated he had received a lot of questions about when Kimball Pines would be opened again after it was desimated in a storm a few years ago. He explained that right now the focus was on getting the Trailway and Historic Bridge Park in running order then a focus group would be meeting to discuss Kimball Pines and how to move foward. He stated we had some great parks in Calhoun County.

Comr. VanSickle stated the Planning Commission met and welcomed three new board members so there was a full board for the first time in a long time. He stated they had a light agenda but did discuss the Marengo property the MDNR was purchasing that was on the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

## 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 the Internal Budget Team and the BOC Budget Committee met and reviewed the plans for the 2015 budget submission. She stated the instructions for departmental budget submissions would go out August 8. She stated we expected \$600,000 increase in revenue next year, while trends in expenditures would expect them to be up \$3.5 million, leaving a \$2.9 million deficit. She explained that about \$2 million of that was for vacant, unfunded positions that were authorized but not filled. She stated that leaves less than a \$1 million deficit, or about a 2% reduction from the baseline budget that departments would, on average, be asked to submit and meet those targets. She stated it would be a similar process to last year, but it should not be as difficult and departments that had more vacancies to work with would find it easier to meet the targets. She stated the departmental budgets would be worked on for the next month then we would begin to schedule hearings with the Budget Committee. Scott stated we were on track with a somewhat better forecast and were still keeping an eye on the long term effects of the elimination of personal property tax and were hopeful about things like the Sheriff's efforts to stabilize his revenues and our health insurance trends that were greatly below what the medical inflation trend had been.

Scott stated she had a good meeting with an exciting new initiative, a Collaborative Youth Leadership Program between 4H, the county and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe designed to teach kids about Tribal, County and State Government. She stated it was modeled after another program in Emmet County and was mostly sponsored by the Tribe. She explained that the kids would come to a Board Meeting, meet government officials, learn about County Government then go to Athens and learn about Tribal Government, then go to Lansing and experience State Government, then return and report to the Board.

Scott stated the Road Department and Administration met with Enbridge about a promise to fix roads affected by the Line 6B replacement project. She assured everyone that the County was committed to holding Enbridge accountable and Enbridge was committed to making the county whole.

### B. New Business

#### 1. MSHDA Blight Elimination Grant Acceptance

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this request came from the Office of the Treasurer and was a request to accept a Blight Elimination Grant. She stated the Deputy Treasurer was present to provide any needed information.

Deputy Treasurer Nina Baranowski stated they were requesting approval of a resolution to approve a two year grant for a total amount awarded of \$353,650. She explained the grant required a 25% local match, which would be shared by the Land Bank, the Treasurer, the City of Albion and Emmett Township. She stated they were asking for approval of the grant agreement to move forward with the demolitions.

Comr. Todd stated he was glad to hear this was moving forward, as he had toured some of the rehab homes and it was exciting to see what this did for people.

Res. 125-2014

“Motion by Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the grant agreement with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) for \$353,650.00, which includes both demolition and administrative funds and authorizes the Treasurer's Office to administer the program in conjunction with the Land Bank as presented.”

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

2. Sheriff's Office Request to Increase Staffing in the Corrections Business Unit

Sheriff Saxton explained they were asking for an increase in personnel but they were not asking for budget adjustment. He stated they had added transport to Livonia on a daily basis and they would like to begin using part time deputies to alleviate over time and extra costs. He stated they were asking for four part time, but they had no intention to hire all four at this time. He stated they would be casual employees and would not work more than thirty hours per week.

Res. 126-2014

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Sheriff's Office requests to increase staffing in the Corrections (Jail) business unit by four (4) part-time Deputies as presented.”

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

3. Calhoun County PA2 Alcohol Tax Budget for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Services for FY 14/15

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the PA2 revenue estimate was built on actual receipts then an estimate from the State for the rest of the year. She stated we spend 50% of budget on substance abuse prevention. She explained that we work with The Coordinating Council (TCC) Substance Abuse Work Group to distribute the budget, with Mindie Smith taking the lead on behalf of Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health (SMBH) agency and Jamie White doing financial reports. She stated that revenues were up substantially and a top priority was to restore funding to those groups that took deep cuts last year. She stated that as a government agency, we continue to get utilization through Sobriety, Drug and Veterans court. Scott explained they would be giving funds to one new provider in this budget, The Haven, who was heard from earlier. She asked the Board for support.

Comr. Haadsma stated he appreciated the work Administrator Scott and Mindie Smith undertook on this. He thought Mr. Jones had offered a compelling argument to revisit issues. He stated he knew The Haven well and he had seen lives changed. He believed the first priority should be to provide funding to the programs that were most needed, not necessarily just restore funding. He respectfully asked for The Haven's funding to be reviewed.

Comr. Frisbie agreed that they needed more funding but their first priority was government and the courts were an important part of our services in the county. He stated had no doubt The Haven took great care of people but their first responsibility should be for government programs.

Comr. Todd echoed both Commissioners, stating if there was additional funding, he believed The Haven should be the first place it goes.

Comr. King asked who decided what groups were on the list for funding.

Scott stated a formal RFP was issued for the prevention services but the county has had the same limited list of services that would qualify for funding, with the courts recently added. She explained the funding procedure was a partnership between the Coordinating Agency (SMBH), who understands the needs of the community, and the county for what they believe was most needed in the community. She stated she had met Daneil Jones, toured the Haven's facility and had asked the Coordinating Agency to add them to the list, just as she had with Gracious Homes. She stated the funding criteria was very stringent.

The SMBH's Financial Director Jamie White stated no one was prevented from requesting funding as long as they meet the prevention provider requirements.

Comr. King stated his surprise that an organization that was offered funding for the first time would come to the Commissioners and request more. He stated he was not going to undermine what TCC and Administration did with this budget.

Comr. Kale stated he was pleased we could bring a new vendor aboard and support them. He stated he was sure all of the vendors could make a compelling argument for more funding.

Res. 127-2014

"Moved Comr. Dunn, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approves the Calhoun County PA2 Alcohol Tax Budget for Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment services for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 in the amount of \$676,361 in expenditures as presented."

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

#### 4. Lease for Newton Township Property

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was a lease of county property in Newton Township by the Balsa Bees Model Airplane Club. She stated Corporation Counsel Lindsey worked on this agreement and there would be no financial impact if approved.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated this was an agreement that was in place when the Road Commission was dissolved. He explained it was piece of property that was unusable to the county and the Balsa Bees they had used and maintained it for many years as a place their club could go to fly their remote controlled airplanes. He stated they had insurance, did all the property maintenance, and it was a good use for the property. He stated they would rent the property for \$1 per year on a five year lease with a five year extension.

##### Res. 128-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the lease with the Balsa Bees Model Airplane Club for property in Newton Township as presented.”

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

#### 5. Medicare Advantage Group Contract Rates for 2015

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was a benefit renewal contract for the Medicare Supplemental program that was fully insured on our end. She explained that Medicare was requiring an early renewal, but this would not be effective until January 1. She stated it did impact the post-65 retiree cost, but did not impact the county budget and needs to be in place before open enrollment.

##### Res. 129-2014

“Moved Comr. King, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Medicare Advantage Group Contract rates for 2015 as presented.”

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

#### 6. Amendment to Road Department Staffing Allocation

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was a request to amend the staffing allocation for the Road Department with staff fully funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). She explained that MDOT was requesting maintenance personnel for the trunklines and they were willing to fully fund the additional staff.

Road Department Managing Director Peterson stated the State was anxious to get this approved, as they were under pressure for road conditions too. He stated they would reimburse for both equipment and labor.

Res. 130-2014

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the staffing allocation for the Road Department as presented.”

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

7. Purchase of MERS Other Governmental Service Credit

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this completed the process of moving all employee defined benefit to the Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS). She explained that anyone in the 401K program was allowed to move and it was a lengthy process to be sure there was no financial impact. She stated there were twelve people getting into MERS using 401K dollars to purchase service credit in the MERS system. She stated there should be no negative impact on the pension plan and Board approval was required by MERS.

Res. 131-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the purchase of Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) Other Governmental Service Credit as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Frisbie stated the Bedford Township Board held a special board meeting and voted 4-3 to put a special assessment of \$150 per improved parcel, \$75 per unimproved parcel and would need another meeting to set the roll. He stated the assessment would raise about \$4.2 million in Bedford Township as their match for local roads. He stated Pennfield Township met and voted for a 2.8211 millage request to be spread over eleven years to be put on the ballot in November, with ballot language for their residents coming out soon. He stated Emmett Township had their initial meeting to talk with residents so there was movement there as well.

Comr. King wished a Happy Anniversary to Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey and his wife.

Comr. King stated it was sad to see two members of Board go, they would be missed and he was sorry their elections didn't go their way.



Comr. King stated he wanted to touch again on the 70/30 match for road repair. He stated the movement in the townships was to pay 70% of the cost to repair their roads and we would pay 30%. He noted Calhoun County went from a 50/50 split to 70/30 to be more in line with the counties around us. He said now we have townships raising millions of dollars to put into roads. He stated we would still need to be careful because with the townships raising money, the county would be asked to do more matched work. He stated there were years when the townships contributed less than \$100,000 toward repairs. He stated that was one of the reasons the Board voted unanimously to change the split amount, get the townships involved and get repairs done.

Comr. VanSickle stated he agreed with Comr. King and commended the townships for having the foresight to move forward and put funding initiatives on the ballot. He also thanked Marengo Township for their action.

Comr. Frisbie stated that Public Act 188 dealt with special assessments and that was something that could not be voted on unless it was a police or fire ballot issue. He stated that and many other issues with special assessments needed to be fixed. He stated it was a challenge to the State Legislature to do something with Public Act 188 to make it more nimble for the townships to be able to use and for citizens to vote on.

Comr. Haadsma stated he wanted to underscore what Comr. VanSickle indicated and thanked the Marengo Board of Trustees and voters for going forward in the way Comr. VanSickle indicated. He stated it was a start and he believed our county roads would be better because of the effort from the townships.

Comr. Haadsma commended Comrs. Todd and Kale for running clean and classy campaigns. He stated they were both honorable gentlemen.

Comr. Todd appreciated what everyone said and for their support. He publically thanked his campaign manager, Cynthia Little, his wife, everyone who helped him and his supporters for the last 10 years. He stated in his heart he genuinely loves and cares about people and about doing what's right. He also thanked Comr. Frisbie for recognizing Comr. King and him at the Pennfield meeting.

Comr. Kale stated that even with the 70/30 funding split we were significantly lower than surrounding counties.

Comr. Kale congratulated the Primary Election winners. He stated it was disappointing but so be it. He stated we still had five months of work to do for the county and he would work as hard as he always had. He appreciated the support he had received.

Comr. Kale congratulated Corporation Counsel Lindsey and his wife on their anniversary.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. Calhoun County Claims Payable for July 11 - 30, 2014 in the amount of \$1,953,849.91, P-Card Claims for June in the amount of \$84,550.83 and Road Department Claims for July 23, 2014 in the amount of \$582,185.20

Res. 132-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for July 11 - 30, 2014 in the amount of \$1,953,849.91, P-Card Claims for June in the amount of \$84,550.83 and Road Department Claims for July 23, 2014 in the amount of \$582,185.20 as presented.”

On a voice vote, Yes – 7. Motion **CARRIED**.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 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