

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 18, 2014

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 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, Human Resources Director Kim Archambault, 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. Kale leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Todd to approve the agenda of the December 18, 2014 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 December 4, 2014 Regular Session

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. Todd to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2014 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

There was no citizen comments.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Treasurer Christine Schauer wished the Board Happy Holidays, and gave updates on the foreclosure process, encouraging home owners facing foreclosure to come in to the Treasurer's office to discuss options. She also noted that there was pending state legislation that would allow the Treasurer to lower interest rates as another tool to help keep people in their homes and avoid foreclosure. She announced that her office will be open during the lunch hour beginning on January 1, 2015.

Sheriff Saxton thanked Chair Kale and Comr. Terris Todd on behalf of the Sheriff's Office and presented them with plaques to recognize their service on the commission.

Road Department Managing Director Christopher Bolt wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He stated the state had decided to let the voters decide if a sales tax increase would be approved to help with road funding. He stated their biggest concern right now was the bridge on 29 1/2 Mile Road and they had an engineering company helping so they could move forward quickly with project. He stated there was an unprecedented amount of work coming up next year. He stated the trailway signs were up and the project was completed under budget. He stated bridge evaluations were being done. He stated the Glen Cross project would be replaced with with four projects: Raymond Road from Michigan to Verona, Golden from Raymond to Beadle Lake, Golden from Beadle Lake to the City of Battle Creek limit and 30 Mile Road from M60 South. Bolt said he was proud of what the crews were accomplishing, especially knowing we had the smallest crews we have had in a long time. He stated the crews had been doing a lot of patching during the mild weather and he was pleased with their progress. He stated a crew was doing tree and brush cutting and the night shift was working on equipment. He thanked Chair Kale for his warm welcome and said it had been a pleasure. He also thanked Comr. Todd.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Presentation from Albion College President Mauri Ditzler

Albion College President Mauri Ditzler stated he had been at Albion College for six months and the community had been very welcoming. He stated in the past the community took care of the college but the college hadn't taken care of the community. He stated that the college would like to start taking care of the community. He stated they would like to find a way to drive the economic engine and become a national model of what a college town could be. He announced that Albion College would be free to any young person from Albion who would in turn donate 800 hours of community service. He stated Albion College would also get involved with the Kalamazoo Promise. He stated they were working on how to collaborate with Battle Creek then would move on to the other communities in Calhoun County. He stated the college agreed to guarantee a number of rooms rented every day to the developer for a new hotel in Albion. He stated a storefront in Albion was being renovated to house the college's community business so the career center and any departments that work with the community would move to Superior Street. He stated that if they could partner with the city to rebuild Albion, they would do the same with Calhoun County.

B. Tribute to Terris Todd

Comr. Kale read the tribute into the record.

WHEREAS, Terris Todd has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for ten (10) years from 2005 through 2014, representing the citizens of District 2; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Terris Todd further served the Board through his membership on various committees and workshops during his tenure with the County Commission; e.g. the Battle Creek Downtown Development Authority, Community Corrections Advisory Board and the Land Bank Authority Board; and

WHEREAS, Terris Todd 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 Terris Todd 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 the Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Terris has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.

Res. 213-2014

"Motion by Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the tribute to Terris Todd as presented."

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

C. Tribute to Art Kale

Comr. Frisbie read the tribute into the record.

WHEREAS, Art Kale has served on the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners for four (4) years from 2011 through 2014, representing the citizens of District 7; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Art Kale further served the Board through his membership on various committees and workshops during his tenure with the County Commission; e.g. the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board, Senior Millage Allocation Committee and the BOC Budget Committee; and

WHEREAS, Art Kale 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 Art Kale 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 the Calhoun County residents and the workforce of Calhoun County, we offer this tribute as our thanks for all Art has accomplished and extend our best wishes in his future endeavors.

Res. 214-2014

“Motion by Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the tribute to Art Kale as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Huron County Resolution Opposing SB 1123 and 1124

B. Resolutions

1. Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby schedule the Organizational Meeting for 2015 for January 8, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and the Deputy Clerk is directed to post notice of said meeting in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
2. 2015 Budget – Staffing Allocation Revision
3. Approval of Submission of 2015 Application for a Survey and Remonumentation Grant
4. Appointment to Jury Board
(Term to Expire April 20, 2015)

{a} Kathleen Johnson (replacing Ann Lyon)
5. Land Bank Authority Appointments

{a} Derek King, Calhoun County Board of Commissioners (Term to Expire 12/31/16)

{b} Patrick McLean, Calhoun County At-Large (Term to Expire 12/31/18)

Res. 215-2014

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following:
Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the December 18, 2014 Regular Session.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

There was none.

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 wished everyone happy holidays. She noted that one of the Consent Agenda items that had been approved was to set the date of the Organizational Meeting for January 8, 2015, which would be the second Thursday of the month because of the holiday. She thanked Comrs. Todd and Kale, stating they were wonderful to work with and would be missed.

B. New Business

1. Agreement for Services Related to Tax Foreclosed Properties

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this resolution related to the County Treasurer and the growth of the Land Bank. She explained the proposed agreement was between the Treasurer and the Land Bank, recognizing the increase in the number of properties ending up in the Land Bank from Treasurer. She stated it would redirect \$150,000 per year from the Foreclosure Fund to the Land Bank to maintain properties. She noted the Foreclosure Fund had a significant fund balance accumulated from fee collection.

Res. 216-2014

"Motion by Comr. Dunn, second by Comr. Haadsma to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Agreement for Services Related to Tax Foreclosed Properties as presented."

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

2. Office Space Lease with the Calhoun County Land Bank

Administrator/Controller Scott explained the Treasurer's office had been recently renovated and so this was an update of their previous lease. She stated they now have 680 square feet in the garden level and the lease generated money to offset building occupancy costs to the County.

Res. 217-2014

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Haadsma to approve the following:
Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Office
Space Lease with the Calhoun County Land Bank as presented.”

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

3. Community Senior Dental Program Grant from the United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was the acceptance of the dental grant Senior Services Manager Carl Gibson announced at the last Board meeting. She stated they were asking for formal acceptance of the three year, \$45,000 per year grant cycle for dental services for seniors.

Res. 218-2014

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region for the Senior Dental Program as presented.”

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

4. Calhoun County Fiscal Year 2014 Final Budget Adjustments

Administrator/Controller Scott stated these were the final 2014 budget adjustments. She stated she and Finance/Budget Analyst Pam Kline did a final review for variances and it was important to get them adjusted before year end. She stated the increases and expenses were covered by existing revenues. She stated the Board was required to approve the budget adjustments because they exceeded the dollar threshold for Administrative approval.

Res. 219-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the FY 2014 Final budget adjustments for the General Fund and several Special Revenue funds as presented by the Finance Department.”

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

5. 2015 – 2016 Workers’ Compensation Contract

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was the worker compensation contract renewal. She stated HR Director Archambault continues to do a great job managing the county’s benefit packages and our expenses related to the insurance that we offer. She stated we worked through our agent to do a market analysis and a request for proposal. She stated we were recommending two year contracts with CMI for Worker Compensation and Midwest Employers Casualty Company for excess insurance because we are self insured. She explained these contracts provide a cost savings of about \$8,000 with locked in rates.

Res. 220-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the 2015 - 2016 Workers Compensation Contract with CMI, along with the Excess Insurance with Midwest Employers Casualty Company as presented, and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to sign the contracts.”

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

6. Month-to-Month Extension of Recycling Contract

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the recycling program was going through a lot of transitional discussions. She stated the program had been taken over by the Health Department and they were trying to operate in a more economical manner. She stated they had negotiated a month to month extension for the Marshall and rotating recycle bins at the townships. She stated this extension did not impact the General Fund.

Res. 221-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the month-to-month extension of the recycling agreement with Republic as presented.”

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

7. Policy 351 – Educational Reimbursement Program Changes

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was part of the policy review and revision worked on over the last couple years. She stated this was a policy that had been in place since the 1990's and HR Director Kim Archambault revised it. She stated the program had not been funded in the last few years but was funded for 2015. She stated it allowed for staff, with permission of their supervisor, to be reimbursed for job related classes in which they earn a passing grade. She stated there was a maximum of \$500 per person per calendar year. She stated the union groups had been asking for it and it was a nice benefit to encourage people to further their skills.

Comr. Frisbie stated it was a good thing and he would support.

Res. 222-2014

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve changes to Policy 351 - Educational Reimbursement Program as presented.”

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

8. November 2014 Financials

Administrator/Controller Scott stated we were still expecting significant revenue shortfalls. She stated that a new shortfall was noted in the accompanying memo, related to the backlog with deeds being recorded. She stated that we are expecting enough savings on the expenditure side—mostly because health insurance rates are significantly under budget, to cover the revenue shortfalls, and as a back up plan there are other accumulated funds to transfer to cover the shortfall.

Res. 223-2014

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the November 2014 Financial Statements as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Bedford Township Supervisor Tom Sprau thanked Comrs. Kale and Todd, stating he thought they did a good job. He thanked the Board for dissolving the Road Commission, stating he thought we were on the right track. He noted the two townships that went forward with millages were in Comr. Frisbie's district.

Homer Township Supervisor Todd Wildt stated the Commissioners were awesome and they did a great job. He stated the Board made big decisions in dismantling the Road Commission. He stated the Township Supervisor meetings were awesome now. He stated Comr. Kale would be missed and that County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott was valuable as well.

Marshall City Mayor Jim Dyer thanked the Comrs. for their service but mostly Comr. Todd and Comr. Kale. He thanked Comr. Todd and Comr. Kale for their personal friendships and stated he couldn't imagine better friends. He stated that as Mayor he thanked them all for their collaboration.

Lee Township Supervisor Art Farmer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and echoed what had already been said. He stated this board should take the accolades for the success of the Road Department. He thanked Comr. Kale for the leadership, the advice and experience shared while being the representative of Lee Township.

Clarence Township Supervisor Dave Schmidt stated he met Comr. Kale a couple years ago and thought he had been a solid Chair. He stated the Board had been doing a great job and the Road Department was getting better. He stated he hoped the lines of communication got better. He thanked Comr. Kale for being their Commissioner.

Matthew Hall, Sheridan Township and Road Department employee, thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the county.

Jerry (no last name provided) thanked the Board for putting up with him.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Todd thanked his family for the sacrifice and support. He stated it had been a sacrifice but it had been a sacrifice to serve the people and doing what's right. He stated he was honored and humbled to have served on the Board and it had been a tremendous blessing. He thanked Carla Reynolds for answering the call to serve. He appreciated all of the departments working together over the years to consistently balance the budget.

Comr. Kale recognized his wife for standing by him while serving because it took a lot of his time. He stated he had never enjoyed working with a group of people more than the Commissioners and county staff. He stated there was such an energy of cooperation and he would not trade our Board, county staff or county administration with anybody in the state. He stated with this Board it had not been a matter of politics, it was a matter of outcomes. He stated they had accomplished a lot but the thing he was most proud of was dissolving the Road Commission.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. Calhoun County Claims Payable for November 26 – December 11, 2014 in the amount of \$547,322.52 and Road Department Payables from November 30, 2014 in the amount of \$166,850.00

Res. 224-2014

"Moved Comr. Dunn, second by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for November 26 – December 11, 2014 in the amount of \$547,322.52 and Road Department Payables from November 30, 2014 in the amount of \$166,850.00 as presented."

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Res. 225-2014

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Dunn to retire to closed session to discuss labor negotiations."

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

The Board retired to closed session at 8:35 p.m.

The Board returned to open session at 8:47 p.m.

18. APPROVE THE TPOAM 2015-2017 AGREEMENT

Res. 226-2014

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. King to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby the TPOAM 2015-2017 agreement as presented.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Clerk
Calhoun County