

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 15, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 2015 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

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

Present: Comrs. Dunn, Reynolds, Haadsma, Frisbie, King, and VanSickle

Excused: Comr. Bearman

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Human Resource Director Kim Archambault and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence was held in honor of past Commissioner Becky Rocho, who recently passed away unexpectedly, followed by Comr. Dunn leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Reynolds, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the agenda of the October 15, 2015 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 October 1, 2015 Regular Session

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

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

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Creighton Burrows, Marengo Township, explained ongoing problems with his road and invited the Commissioners to visit.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

There were none.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner Proclamation

Comr. Reynolds read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, The **National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)** was created in 1909 by a small group of black and white citizens, and has grown to be the largest and most influential civil rights organization in the country; and

WHEREAS, For more than 100 years, **the NAACP** has led the civil rights battle to destroy barriers to equality for minority groups, and has launched many programs to assist in eliminating the scourges of racial hatred and poverty; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the **NAACP** is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority groups, to achieve equality of rights and eliminate racial prejudice among the citizens of the United States; to remove barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic process and seek to enact and enforce all federal, state and local laws securing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, the Battle Creek Senior Branch of the NAACP hosts its 82nd Annual Freedom Fund Dinner on Friday, October 23, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Harper Village Drive in Battle Creek. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, it is my honor and privilege to extend our very best wishes for a most successful 82nd Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

Res. 159-15

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner Proclamation as presented."

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

B. Presentation and Approval of the 2015 Apportionment Report

Equalization Director Judy Nelson stated GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen lead training on pictometry, the aerial software. She thanked the Commissioners for support of the program and noted Thelen has done a great job. She stated the Apportionment Report is an annual report approved by the Board.

Equalization Consultant Roger McEvers presented an overview of the 2015 Apportionment Report.

Res. 160-15

“Moved Comr. Dunn, second by Comr. Frisbie to approve the resolution approving the 2015 apportionment report pursuant to Michigan Compiled Law 211.37 as presented.”

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.36 requires each Township Clerk to submit to the County Clerk on, or before, September 30 each year a statement which sets forth the amount of money to be raised in the Township by taxation; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.37 requires the County Board of Commissioners to hold an apportionment session and approve an Apportionment Report in October of each year; and

WHEREAS, at the annual apportionment session, the County Board of Commissioners must examine documents and records submitted to the Board that show the amount of money to be raised by ad valorem levies in each Township for school, highway, Township, and all other purposes as authorized by law and authorize and require the correction of any defects or omissions with regard to those levies; and

WHEREAS, the action of the County Board of Commissioners concerning the spread of these levies is final, except in situations where a change is made to the equalization of the County through an equalization appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; and

WHEREAS, the Apportionment Report approved by the County Board of Commissioners for 2015 will be the official authorization for its 59 taxing authorities within the County to levy property taxes in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Equalization Department has prepared an Apportionment Report for consideration by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Apportionment Report, if approved, will provide final authorization for the levy of property taxes upon which taxing authorities depend to provide educational, health, economic development, public safety, and other services which are important to the well-being of the county's economy and Calhoun County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

millage levies apportioned to various taxing authorities in Calhoun County for the year 2015 is hereby approved in accordance with Michigan Compiled Law 211.37; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, under the authority of Michigan Compiled Law 211.37, directs that the millage rates specified in the attached 2015 Apportionment Report for Township, school, highway, and all other purposes as authorized by law shall be spread against the taxable value of properties on the proper assessment rolls of the Townships, Wards, and Cities in the County.

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

C. County Board of Canvassers Election

The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners is required to fill vacancies on the Board of Canvassers by electing a Democratic member and a Republican member from the names submitted Michigan election law specifies that a ballot be used by the Board of Commissioners in filling the seats. The Democratic Party has submitted the names of Stephanie Krause, Tabitha Mingus and Aaron Peterson. The Republican Party has submitted the names of Jeannie Burchfield, Sallie Massa and Cathy Skelding.

The Board of Commissioners held a biennial election by ballot and the results were tabulated by Comr. Kathy Sue Dunn and Comr. Jim Haadsma, as appointed by Chair King. By unanimous vote, Aaron Peterson was elected as the Democrat to the Board of Canvassers. By unanimous vote, Sallie Massa was elected as the Republican to the Board of Canvassers. The official ballot is retained in the October 15, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting file.

Res. 161-15

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the appointment of Democrat Aaron Peterson and Republican Sallie Massa to the Calhoun County Board of Canvassers as presented.”

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

There were none.

B. Resolutions

1. Amendment to Remonumentation Program Surveyor Agreement
2. Amendment to Planning Services Agreement

Res. 162-2015

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, second by Comr. Haadsma to approve the Consent Agenda of the October 15, 2015 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

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

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/ WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Dunn stated Summit Pointe had their board meeting and she wanted to highlight Angie Phillips and Angela Deal, who handle youth services. She stated it's a great program that helps many youth in our area. She stated Summit Pointe has seen some difficult times so she wanted to point out some shining stars.

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 budget committee held budget hearings today and will hold the final two next Friday as part of the 2016 budgeting process. She stated we started with a deficit of \$3.7 million out of a \$40 million for the General Fund. She stated it was mainly due to revenue shortages in charges for services, fines and forfeitures, and department fees, including court costs and public safety revenues in the jail, which have been down for the last couple years and are expected to remain down for the next year. She explained that the deficit included funding for the current staffing level plus vacant, unfunded positions, and that the baseline budget was unaffordable in spite of a slight increase in property taxes and expected full funding of revenue sharing from the state. She stated we followed a similar process to last year and departments were asked to submit budgets with a few percentage point reduction, with credit for position vacancies that are unfunded. She stated that after submissions were reviewed, the departments were able to solve about three quarters of the deficit, but we are still working to close a gap of close to \$1 million. She stated we are on track to present a balanced budget in November, have the public hearing and ask for Board approval at the first meeting in December, as has been the practice for the last few years. She thanked the Budget Committee, chaired by Chair King and including Comrs. Frisbie and Haadsma, for taking so much time to review the budgets in more detail with the various departments. She noted she would keep them updated as the budget process progresses.

Scott stated a press release came out from the courts announcing that Probate Court Judge Michael Jaconnette has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to be the Chief Judge of all Calhoun County Courts for a two year term starting January 1, 2016. She explained the state has started the process of streamlining the courts throughout Michigan. She stated that our courts have already started, this just finalizes the process.

Scott stated we heard from the Calhoun County United Way campaign coordinators, Nina Baranowski and Richard Lindsey, that the 2015 campaign is over. She stated we exceeded our goal, raising over \$26,000 for the community. She stated the participation goal of 25% was also met. She thanked the coordinators, the Commissioners, county elected officials and everyone who gave, stating we are thankful we can give back to the community through United Way.

B. New Business

1. Planning Services Agreement with Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this Planning Services Agreement with Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) was another example of regionalizing local services for the benefit of the greater community and leveraging resources of the larger council that we can use locally. She explained that SMPC was the designated regional planning council that, until a couple years ago was not meeting. She stated it has been revitalized and Comr. Dunn serves on the Council, which serves five counties as the designated body for planning services for things such as transportation and land use planning. She explained that this was an agreement through Planning Consultant Jen Bomba and Community Development to serve as an overflow planning agency so if the local units of government want planning services from a regional entity, they could have additional expertise or help with overflow. She explained that SMPC would reimburse the county for our efforts plus an administrative fee so we are compensated for our efforts in administering this contract. She stated it is a two year contract that ends September 30, 2017. Scott stated services would be on a case by case basis to be sure we are properly reimbursed for our service on each individual project. She stated we don't have a specific budget amendment yet but it will be positive to reinvest in our Community Development budget.

Res. 163-2015

“Motion by Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Planning Services Agreement with Southcentral Michigan Planning Council as presented and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the Agreement.”

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

2. 2015/2016 Crime Victims' Rights Grant Agreement

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was an annual request from the Prosecutor's Office. She stated the Prosecutor normally reminds us that crime victims' rights are not only necessary but are a mandated service that his office provides. She stated there are five staff that provides this service throughout the county. She stated the grant provides \$181,000 and does not fund the entire operation but a substantial portion with the remainder, approximately \$70,000, coming from the County General Fund and is included in the budget submitted by the Prosecutor for the next fiscal year.

Res. 164-2015

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the following:
Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the fiscal year 2015/16 Crime Victim Rights Grant Agreement as presented, and further authorizes the Board Chair to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.”

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

3. September 2015 Financials

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the monthly financial report is presented for information only, showing the General Fund and other budgetary funds year to date through September. She noted the memo states potential revenue shortages and expenditure over-runs that have been included in the reports for the last few months. She stated the expected revenue shortfall from the Register of Deeds Office is mostly gone. She stated we also had revised estimates for Public Safety. She stated the total budget problem could be up to \$600,000 and we have identified the few places where we have unrestricted balances in other funds that can be transferred to balance the budget if needed, even though such transfers are not the preferred contingency over the long-term. She noted we had the same scenario last year, but we didn't have to make transfers because of the large healthcare savings. She stated that we have lowered the revenue estimates for next year and in the county's long-term operating budget forecast to reflect this trend of reducing revenues.

Res. 165-2015

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, second by Comr. Reynolds to approve the following:
Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does accept for informational purposes the September 2015 Financials as presented.”

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

13. CITIZEN'S TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Frisbie sent his congratulations to Matt Godde of LifeCare Ambulance who will be concluding thirty-four years of employment to move on to the State EMS Division. He stated that is quite an accomplishment. He stated they would miss him and he has been a great asset to Calhoun County.

Comr. Reynolds announced Bobby Holley has put together a Fire Prevention Month celebration on Saturday, October 17 at Second Baptist where Reverend Wyne is the Pastor. She stated it is open to the public and food will be served. She stated it is also Domestic Violence Prevention Month and one out of four women will be a victim in her lifetime. She explained the Purple Purse Initiative encouraged women to put purple tags on their purses to promote awareness and break the cycle. She stated the United Way is looking for volunteers to be a reading buddy for thirty minutes once a week to help with alphabet and numbers.

Comr. Dunn congratulated Judge Mike Jaconette on his appointment of Chief Judge. She has known him for years and he will do a phenomenal job.

Comr. King stated that some of the Commissioners were wearing their favorite team colors for the Michigan/Michigan State football game scheduled for October 17, 2015.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

- A. Calhoun County Payables September 25 - October 7, 2015 in the amount of \$1,458,653.79 and Road Department Claims from September 30, 2015 in the amount of \$1,570,653.34 as presented.

Res. 164-2015

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, second by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Calhoun County Claims Payable for September 25 - October 7, 2015 in the amount of \$1,458,653.79 and Road Department Claims from September 30, 2015 in the amount of \$1,570,653.34 as presented.”

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman

Clerk