

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Report of County Activities (July 2005)
Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services

- Tuscola County Commissioner Gerald Peterson will become the President of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) on August 17, 2005 - Gerald Peterson is the first commissioner from Tuscola County to be the President of MAC - the commitment and dedication to excellence by Commissioner Peterson has resulted in his appointment to this vital leadership position - he has earned the trust and confidence of county commissioners throughout the state - Commissioner Peterson welcomes your ideas and input to overcome the challenges facing county/local government
- Renewal of the telephone surcharge that funds 911/dispatch will be requested in a November 2005 election - current surcharge is \$3.10 per month - final bond payments for the building and equipment will be in 2006 which may enable reduction in the \$3.10 per month - the county only assesses what is needed to operate 911/dispatch - the surcharge is fair because it is based on telephone lines and not land values - questions can be directed to the 911/dispatch director (Robert Klenk) 989-673-8738
- Based on a 2004 financial analysis approximately 33% of the county general fund is spent for court operations followed by 25% public safety, 13% central service departments (departments that provide internal support to departments directly serving the public), 10% offices that maintain vital county records, 7% drainage, 6% health related functions and 6% all other categories
- Drainage costs are disproportionately higher in Tuscola County than any other county according to a recent survey of 24 Michigan counties - 2005 per capita drainage costs were \$9.64 in Tuscola County compared to the 24 county average of \$.99 (almost 10 times higher in Tuscola County) - including operational and drain-at-large costs 6% or approximately \$727,000 of the total general fund budget is spent for drainage - the Board of Commissioners have no direct control of how much is spent for drainage
- Other points regarding drainage: counties and local units of government pay drainage costs because of benefits to roads - under the drain code if 14A calculations are used to determine benefit then the road commission can be assessed half of the county cost - 11 of 24 counties in the survey charge the road commission - in 2003 Commissioners passed a resolution requiring new drain petitions to be assessed according to 14A calculations rather than the former system (50% property owner/25% county/ 25% local governmental unit) – also legal opinions have stated drainage costs can be put on the tax roll as has been done by Gilford Township
- Progress is being made with updating monuments used for surveying – completion of this system will provide more efficient and accurate surveys and enable the ability to use the latest technologies such as global positioning systems - 1300 new monuments have been placed in Tuscola County - there are 4400 monuments required - thus 30% of the program is completed - if the state does not increase funding the program will not be finished by the target date of 2012
- The county continues to review potential alternative uses for the former Camp Tuscola - both public and private sectors uses are under consideration - ideas can be forwarded to your commissioner