

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

- An important vote regarding renewal of the telephone surcharge that funds 911/Central Dispatch will be held November 8, 2005 – this surcharge has existed since 1996 – it is currently \$3.10 per month and will likely decrease after bonds for the building/radio system are paid off in 2006 – 34 police, fire and ambulance agencies are dispatched – this is a life saving operation handling an average of approximately 100 calls per day or over 35,000 calls per year – this operation has “state of the art” equipment and is vital to the health, safety and welfare of Tuscola County citizens
- The County Board of Commissioners, MSU Extension, Economic Development Corporation of Tuscola County and other leading economic development agencies & organizations have launched a critical economic initiative aimed at rebuilding the local economy – an update regarding this undertaking was sent in last month’s report – each local unit of government was requested to appoint a representative who can be a contact person and interact as events, activities, information, etc. become available – if you have not already forwarded the name of this contact person, please do so soon so that we can collaborate countywide on this crucial job creation effort
- The 2006 county budget development is underway – noteworthy features and points of discussion to date include: unexpected reduction in county share of drainage costs, unified court system was administratively changed back to individual courts, need to develop plans/cost estimates to replace the plumbing and other jail infrastructure, concerns whether state revenue sharing will be restored to the county in 3 years, rising prisoner medical care costs, rising utility costs, physical and optical imaging storage space needs, security measures without operational costs of metal detectors, etc.
- The County is still working to obtain the assistance from the state to conduct a feasibility study to determine potential re-uses of the former Camp Tuscola – a re-use plan is essential and assistance from the state in marketing/implementing this plan is needed without delay considering the negative economic impacts the state’s decision to close this facility has had locally – your support and ideas to re-establish a viable use for this facility would be appreciated
- Please review the County Web page at www.tuscolacounty.org and comment if there are changes or other information or links that you believe would be beneficial
- An overview of local projects of significance include: Caro/Mayville and other water system upgrades to meet federal standards, pursuit of a grant to make a bike path between Vassar and Mayville, Hills & Dales Hospital expansion/renovation, Vassar Theater remodeling, Moore Drain, increased interest in Brownfield development/countywide assessment grant, Millington downtown streetscape improvements, etc.
- Pressures continue to mount on the expenditure of senior millage funds – increased expenditures have recently been requested for: extra home delivered meals, mileage reimbursement for volunteer home delivered meal drivers and reduced client contributions for meals – these trends reflect the difficult economic times

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