

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

**2005 Major County Accomplishments**

- County applied and was approved for assistance from a MSU-Extension Community Assessment Team (CAT) to facilitate developing a plan to rebuild the local economy
- CAT conducted a review of county strengths/weaknesses to assist in developing a strategy to improve the economy and create employment opportunities – recommendations are anticipated in early 2006.
- Telephone surcharge that funds the 911/Dispatch operation was successfully renewed for a 5 year period
- Drain-at-Large costs were able to be reduced for 2006 – this was a significant factor in balancing the 2006 Budget without staffing reductions
- Commissioners determined that future county jail space needs will be solved through upgrades and expansions at the current facility - funds were budgeted in 2006 to begin replacing deteriorated plumbing and other infrastructure needs at this facility
- County record storage needs will be resolved through both optical imaging and through providing physical storage space – methods of solving physical storage needs have been narrowed to two alternatives – funds were included in the 2006 budget to make progress with both optical imaging and physical storage needs
- Planning and fund raising continues for an important February 2006 entrepreneurial conference to help rebuild the local economy
- A monthly status report of county activities was implemented to strengthen communication between county, municipal and township government and to maintain/improve services
- Further methods of strengthening the animal control program without increasing costs were implemented in 2005 including contracting with Sanilac County to operate the animal shelter to help with the stray problem in Tuscola County
- Homeland security funds were allocated in 2005 to help the county in emergency situations including purchase of a generator, communication equipment, dog to identify bombs, computer hardware/software to assist in monitoring and tracking of resources in emergency situations
- County successfully lobbied the state to provide for “roll forward” in property tax payments to replace the state’s decision to discontinue revenue sharing payments to all counties in the state
- County formed a Hospital Finance Authority to provide assistance to hospitals in the county when they are making improvements by lowered borrowing costs without risk to the county – in 2005 Hills and Dales hospital capitalized on lower borrowing costs for a

renovation/expansion project

- Assistance was obtained from the Michigan Association of Counties to write a grant to identify Brownfield sites and make changes to eliminate Brownfield conditions
- Additional senior millage funds were allocated to assure home delivered meal services were maintained at the level of demand even though senior level of contributions declined
- Nearly \$13 million in needed bed space and facility renovations at the Medical Care Facility were completed in 2005 making this a “State of the Art Facility”
- Significant improvements continued to be made to the county computer web site in 2005 to help the public understand available services and how they can be accessed
- County was able to assist with financing the Reese/Denmark and Millington Village sewer system improvements through Act 185 financing – and by lowering the borrowing costs of these communities by receiving a bond rating upgrade in 2004
- Important department head positions at both MSU-Extension, Court Administrators and Recycling were successfully refilled in 2005

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