

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monthly Report of County Activities (January 2006)
Linking County/Local Government for Efficient Public Services

- Major county economic development and finance work activities for 2006 include: implementation of Community Assessment Team economic development recommendations, co-sponsor Entrepreneurship Workshop on February 25, 2006, encourage fee changes for wireline and wireless telephones that fund 911/dispatch, develop multi-year financial plans/determine necessary service base adjustments if revenues continue to decline, review and evaluate to determine if the County is business friendly, continue work of the Hospital Finance Authority, review Governor's Task Force recommendations for funding local government, monitor drain-at-large costs, encourage restoration of Emergency Services funding for the county
- Other county work activities for 2006 include: update county parks and recreation plan, promote tri-county tourism council, evaluate re-joining East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region, pursue a Brownfield redevelopment grant, implement optical imaging and provide physical space to solve county record storage needs, continue work with the Farm Bureau and others to preserve agricultural land, implement new video arraignment equipment for efficiency when conducting arraignments, negotiate all county labor contracts, replace jail plumbing, solve county smoking and parking issues, evaluate the re-opening of the Animal Control Facility, conduct a workshop to foster intergovernmental cooperation/collaboration/partnering
- Jerry Peterson was re-elected Chairperson and David Milligan was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Board for 2006 – the Committee and Board meeting schedule is posted in county buildings, available on the county web site and can be obtained by contacting the Controller/Administrator's Office or County Clerk's Office 989-672-3700
- Information will be forwarded in February to municipal and township government in the county explaining the advantages of membership in East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region and requesting consideration of becoming members of this organization under a joint funding plan with the county
- The County Animal Shelter was re-opened at the start of 2006 under a budget neutral plan—along with this re-opening actions are going to be taken to make it easier to license dogs by including forms when tax bills are mailed, making forms available in veterinarian offices, making forms available on the county web site – with other improvements to include computer interconnection between 911 and the Treasurer's Office for access to licensure information for dog bite cases
- Methods to resume the use of metal detector security at the Courthouse are being reviewed with the goal of reducing costs without lowering quality of security protection
- With the closure of Camp Tuscola, the state prisoner work crew program was discontinued – the county has a work crew that has experienced increased demand because the state program was discontinued – in order to defray some of the costs of operating the county work crew, a per day rate of \$10 per prisoner will be requested
- The Federal Government may be making cuts to funding to the Friend of the Court which could result in an estimated \$200,000 reduction in funding to Tuscola County Friend of the Court in 2007

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