

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

- One of the important functions of county government is storage/retrieval of vital county records such as land, birth, death, court and other records – in order to overcome a major deficiency of record storage space, the Building and Grounds Department was relocated and portions of the Sheriff's Department and county pole building were remodeled to provide secured, safe and environmentally controlled storage to assure the public that vital records are properly stored
- Although finances are limited, the county continues to utilize optical technology – significant amounts of records are now maintained optically at the Friend of the Court and Register of Deeds – funding to begin optical imaging for the Courts and County Clerk's Office has been budgeted for 2006
- The County Board of Commissioners wants to work with the Drain Commissioner to manage future county drainage costs – according to information received from the Drain Commissioner, six drainage projects will be removed from the tax roll from 2006 to 2007 which would reduce county drainage costs by approximately \$72,000 - however, whether actual costs decline by this amount will depend upon how much in new drainage project costs are added to the tax roll – if costs are able to be reduced, relief to local units of government would also occur
- The State has extended the sunset for the telephone surcharge that funds Dispatch for one year to expire on Dec 31, 2007 – The Emergency Telephone Service Committee has authorized a Stable Funding Workgroup (SFWG) to look at other means to fund the 911 surcharge equally for all devices that can dial 9-1-1. Even though Tuscola County has approved a wire-line surcharge until Dec 31, 2011, there will be a mechanism in place to transition to whatever the final funding plan that comes from the SFWG
- At this time, one of the proposals being discussed is a surcharge for all devices (wire phones, Cellular, VoIP, On Star etc...) that will cap at either \$3.00 or \$2.00 and access equally for each device. If Tuscola would move to this plan the surcharge for each device could be reduced to approximately \$.75 to \$1.25 (depending on the final funding formula) and bring in as much revenue as is now received with a \$3.10 surcharge on wire line phones and \$.29 surcharge on cellular phones.
- The County recently received a two year grant of \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds for housing rehabilitation – the county has been receiving housing rehabilitation funding for over a decade
- County, municipal and township government in the county are working to link Web Site information so the citizens have access to services available at all levels of government
- An important economic indicator is the number of building permits issued – for the past several years the number of building permits issued has been declining in Tuscola County – according to South Central Michigan Construction Code Commission, 980 permits were issued from January to April of 2006 compared to 1,153 from January to April of 2005 for a decline of 173 permits or 18% – for April of 2006 there were 572 permits issued compared to April of 2005 with 677 permits issued

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