

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

- Forms were recently distributed to department heads to begin development of 2007 county budget – the 2006 general fund budget is approximately \$11.5 million and the all funds county budget (including the general fund) is approximately \$35.6 million
- The Board of Commissioners are ultimately financially responsible for the overall financial management of county government – including preparing and submitting plans to correct any situation where a county fund finishes the fiscal year in a deficit position – at the end of 2005 all county funds were in good standing
- Major factors that will impact development of 2007 county budget include: staffing levels; wage/fringe benefit costs; K-16, TABOR-SOS and other state ballot questions; drainage costs; health insurance and retirement system costs; costs to settle labor contracts; federal cuts to friend of the court revenues; jail overcrowding; costs for abused, neglected and delinquent children; court case loads; whether state revenue sharing payments are resumed or are discontinued in 2008; costs to maintain aging facilities and utility costs
- Recently a review of actual revenues and expenditures in relationship to the budget for the mid-point of the county calendar fiscal year was conducted – although only half of the fiscal year is completed, general fund revenues are very close to budget and expenditures are running about 2% below budget – the net effect of this trend, if it continues at year end, is that less one-time sources of funds than budgeted would be required to balance the general fund budget (it is important to remember the county has not provided contributions for capital improvement funding for the past four years)
- Currently, only 17 out of a total of 35 county, municipal and township governments allocate funds to the County Economic Development Corporation – requests for expansion of this support from public and private sources will be made to implement several new important economic development initiatives
- In 2005, Tuscola County received approximately \$399,000 for homeland security – this declined to \$18,000 for 2006 – the funds were distributed in a manner that tremendously reduced the amount of funds available to rural areas - after expressing grave concerns with this funding shift, it now appears positive developments are occurring that may restore at least some of the funding to rural areas
- Tuscola County has three County Road Commissioners that are appointed for six year terms by the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners – they are the policy makers for certain road maintenance and construction in the county – regular public meetings are held - Counties are required to have three Road Commissioners, but they may be appointed or elected – statewide 49 are appointed, 33 are elected (Wayne County Charter abolished the Road Commission)
- The Board of Commissioners has contracted for the services of an architect to determine the feasibility, layout and a cost estimate to add 12-14 additional beds to the

last jail addition as an upper level – the architects have previously given an opinion that if proper technology is implemented, these beds could be added without increasing the number of corrections officers

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