

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

- On August 9, 2006 state officials eliminated the **Single Business Tax effective December 31, 2007** – reducing revenue to the state general fund by approximately \$1.9 billion or 25% - replacement revenue or service reductions have not been determined – elimination was set for 2009, but this change moves the elimination up to the end of 2007
- Two critical proposals that will be voted on in the November 2006 General Election – these proposals are called **K-16 and Stop Over Spending (SOS)** - opponents say if these proposals pass it would likely have dramatic financial implications to township, municipal and county government along with many other operations receiving state funding
- Opponents say if the **K-16 proposal** is approved it would guarantee annual inflationary increases to education spending that would put funding for other critical services such as police and fire fighters in jeopardy, education spending would increase without accountability, the state budgeting process would be circumvented and it could result in a tax increase on Michigan Citizens. Many private and public sector entities are opposed to this proposal – further information can be obtained at the Michigan Association of Counties [www.micounties.org](http://www.micounties.org)
- Opponents say if the **SOS proposal** is approved it would create rigid unrealistic tax and spending limits and dramatically retard the ability of government to provide services such as public safety, education, health care, infrastructure improvements and other vital services essential to quality of life and economic development
- At the August 24, 2006 Commissioners' meeting a decision was made to re-establish membership in the **East Central Michigan Planning and Development Region** under a joint financing arrangement – county \$2,800 and participating local units of government \$3,200 – this membership is for the October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 period – Hal Hudson 989-672-3883 and Steve Erickson 989-325-0748 are the county representatives
- **Citizen Planner** is a valuable program offering training to planning commission members and other interested parties concerning performing critical planning and zoning functions – this is a well received program with many participants from Tuscola County taking advantage of it – for more information call Hal Hudson MSU-Extension at 989-672-3883
- The **Medical Care Facility is a tremendous asset** – it is in great demand with an occupancy rate of 99.6% - it was recently expanded to provide for 141 beds including a new Alzheimer's unit – the \$13 million expansion was accomplished by public approval of millage funding– the daily room rate is \$185 – the facility has an operating budget of \$9.69 million and, with 250 employees, it is a major employer in the area - Residents of Tuscola County are given precedence for admission over out-of-county residents

- At the request of **South Central Michigan Construction Code, Inc. (SCMCCI)**, Commissioners temporarily reduced the office space lease payment that SCMCCI pays to the county from \$50,000 to \$25,000 – SCMCCI has encountered financial difficulties because of decreasing building activity with the economic downturn – Commissioners were willing to help this organization because it is considered a better option than the state doing building codes because most state inspections take longer than SCMCCI

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