

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

- Rebuilding the local economy is critical – it continues as a priority of community and local leaders – Sirolli Model of entrepreneurship is being pursued by a county task force with over \$138,000 raised to date from individuals, businesses and other entities in the community, but additional funds are needed if this method of job creation is going to be implemented – further vital information can be obtained from the county web site <http://www.tuscolacounty.org/>
- The County Board adopted task force recommendations to re-activate Vanderbilt County Park and Campground in Wisner Township – primary recommendations include: reasonable adjustments in fees to generate revenue sufficient to cover annual operating expenses, contracting with a park host to increase park utilization and reduce vandalism, stronger marketing of the park and tree planting/landscaping for park beautification
- Gerald Peterson was elected chairperson and David Milligan vice-chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners for the 2007 year – Committee of the Whole meetings were changed from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. – Specific meeting dates are posted in the Courthouse and Annex Buildings and can also be obtained from the County Web site
- Adequate funding to operate dispatch/911 is in serious jeopardy and needs legislative action to correct – for the last five years, revenue has been falling because of the shift from wire line to wireless telephones – wireless phones are currently taxed much less than wire line phones – since January of 2002 the number of wire line phones has decreased by 5,700 resulting in a decline of annual wire line telephone revenue of approximately \$212,000
- Recently, a new computerized video arraignment system was installed in the Jail and Magistrate offices – this system is valuable because it improves safety by avoiding the transportation of prisoners from the jail to the Courthouse and reduces corrections officer staff demands – it also provides a complete state of the art video and audio record of all proceedings
- At the December 12, 2006 County Board meeting the 2007 County Budget was adopted – significant provisions of the budget include: status quo staffing, 1.5% wage increase and 5% health insurance increase
- The Human Development Commission Intergenerational Building will open in January of 2007 – this is an important new community facility providing adult day care for elderly and short-term day care for children – the building cost approximately \$500,000 with funding from the senior millage, Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Rural Development
- The lame duck state legislative session passed two bills that are significant to county government that now await the governor's signature: HB 4315 gives the option for the County Board of Commissioners to expand their road commission from 3 to 5 members and Senate Bill 868 allows county boards of commissioners to transfer any surplus

(above the costs associated with foreclosures) in the foreclosure fund to the general fund beginning in 2008.

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