

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Report of County Activities (April-May 2007)

- Security will be enhanced at the Friend of the Court (FOC) office by instituting an armed sheriff's department police officer – the decision was made to implement this form of security at the FOC because of the inability to move the FOC back to the Courthouse (which already has armed guard metal detector security) without moving other departments out of the Courthouse that were also considered to need this security level – estimated annual operational costs is \$60,000 of which approximately 66% is paid by the State – there are also certain FOC space remodeling and other security improvements to be considered after the security officer makes suggestions
- Tuscola County officials recently presented a PowerPoint status report regarding implementing the Sirolli Institute Model of Enterprise Facilitation – this is a job creating program that has had renowned success in other parts of the United States and throughout the World – whereby an Enterprise Facilitator works one on one to provide entrepreneurs, individuals and businesses with all phases of successfully financing, marketing and maintaining a business – the county is waiting on decisions regarding grant funding to implement the program – over \$100,000 in local pledges have been raised – the goal is to begin implementation in July of this year
- The Board of Commissioners (BOC) has decided to begin a trial program of conducting Board meetings in each of the five commissioner districts – the goal is to obtain more public input on the numerous issues confronting County Government – the first meeting under this new trial structure is June 12, 2007 at the Gilford Township Hall
- 2007 County State Equalized Value (SEV) is \$1,955,499,082 which is an increase of 5.06% from the previous year - this compares with an increase of 7.67% for the previous 2005 to 2006 period – SEV is the official measure of overall county worth, but no longer is used to determine property tax revenue which is now based on Taxable Value –Taxable Value growth has a cap under Proposal A – additional information can be obtained by contacting the County Equalization Director at 989-672-3833
- The BOC recently took action to give the necessary authority to the Sheriff and staff to aggressively pursue prisoner repayment for time spent in the County Jail - this involved empowering the Sheriff and his designees to enforce MCL 801.313 and other statutes – increasing these payments would help to generate more revenue
- Legislation has been introduced to correct the inequality between wireline and cellular telephone surcharges – certain amendments have been suggested and are being monitored by the counties and Dispatchers Association – hopefully, this will be enacted before the end of 2007 to achieve a more equitable/balanced method of funding 911
- The state fiscal crisis remains unsolved – cuts to county government remain in the crosshairs including: convention facilities tax (\$116,000) and the personal property tax – county government has saved the state millions of dollars with the implementation of the property tax roll forward to temporarily replace state revenue sharing payments
- The BOC recently passed a resolution requesting the state to repeal the dog claim provisions of the Michigan Dog Law of 1919 citing that the law is antiquated, cumbersome and inequitable for the public sector to subsidize livestock claims for which private insurance should be purchased

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