

**TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – July 2007 Activity Report**

- Tremendous progress is being made to implement the Sirolli Program of Enterprise Facilitation but your help is needed – although still short of the three year funding needs, over \$200,000 has been raised – to make pledges or to obtain additional information please contact Jim McLoskey 673-2849, Michael Hoagland 672-3700 or Hal Hudson 673-3870 – the contract signing for this critical job creating program in Tuscola County is anticipated by September 1, 2007
- The County Board of Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Commission and Trail Committee recently signed a License with International Transmission Company that will enable the use and development of the Trail as a further quality of life enhancement for the citizens of Tuscola County – the trail runs east from Caro through Wells and Kingston Townships – other than minor legal review charges, the County has not incurred costs for use of this trail
- Roll-forward funds that temporarily replaced State Revenue Sharing payments are projected to be depleted before the end of 2008 – without state replacement of these funds other local revenue would have to be generated or expenditure cuts of approximately \$1.2 million would have to be made
- Positive financial factors involved in developing the 2008 County Budget include: moderating health insurance (program changes were made) and retirement system costs, projected declining drainage costs, interest earning increases, probable that funds will be available for capital improvement needs and ability to begin renting space to the state for use of the County Human Services Building
- Negative financial factors involved in developing the 2008 County Budget include: jail overcrowding, potential state changes in sentencing guideline that could further intensify county jail overcrowding, five out of eight special purpose millages will require renewal in 2008, an equitable telephone surcharge to fund dispatch has yet to be implemented by the state, county finances are directly impacted by state finances will are still unresolved, office and storage space overcrowding and the state/county economies are weak
- The county has started the process of negotiating six labor contracts all of which expire at the end of 2007
- The second annual Tuscola County Intergovernmental Cooperation Conference has been scheduled by the County Farm Bureau for Monday, September 24, 2007 - last year's conference was a success – and this year's conference will focus on updates to critical county projects such as: Community Assessment Team (CAT), Economic Development Corporation Strategic Planning, Sirolli Program, County/State financial picture and discussion of improving service delivery while reducing costs – please reserve this date
- The County Economic Development Corporation has completed an Economic Development Strategy Plan enabling the establishment of Task Forces to develop specific actions and steps to implement the CAT recommendations to strengthen the local economy
- According to the U.S. Census, Tuscola County population declined from 58,266 in the year 2000 to an estimated 57,878 at year end 2006

Prepared by: Michael R. Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller/Administrator 989-672-3700