

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

- The **Sirolli Program of Enterprise Facilitation is on the fast track** – the project manager from the Sirolli Institute is Ned Webb – current work activities center on forming the 50 member Board of Management which along with the Enterprise Facilitator are critical to the success of the program – if you are interested in learning more about this program and helping to create jobs in Tuscola County there will be a series of two hour workshops throughout the county at different times of the day on October 29 through November 1 – for more information please call 989-672-3700 (ask for Michael Hoagland)
- **Mr. Ron Amend was recently hired as the Veterans Affairs Director** for Tuscola County – Ron comes to the County with significant prior experience in Veterans Administration and is dedicated to helping the veterans of Tuscola County – The Board of Commissioners recently helped to strengthen service delivery to Veterans by providing funding for additional secretarial support to assist the Director – Mr. Amend can be contacted at 989-673-8114 (Ext. 6)
- **The County will be signing an intergovernmental agreement with Huron County whereby the Tuscola County Equalization Department will provide certain equalization services to Huron County** – Tuscola County will receive payment for services from Huron County in excess of new expenses resulting in additional revenue to Tuscola County – this is a shining example of how alternative methods have to be reviewed and can work to the best financial and other advantages of both parties and taxpayers – this type of arrangement will continue to increase in importance as we all struggle to maintain quality services with declining financial resources
- The **Tuscola County Farm Bureau Annual Land Use tour will be held October 20, 2007** – further details can be obtained by contacting Hal Hudson at 989-672-3883
- The **County will be obtaining proposals from Landmark Architects regarding alternative methods of expanding the county jail** – both operation and construction cost estimates will be incorporated in the alternatives – it will take approximately 3-4 months for preparation of these alternatives – the county has experienced reoccurring jail overcrowding and is projected to spend by far the most ever spent to house prisoners in other counties (estimated for 2007 at \$110,000 to \$140,000)
- The Tuscola County **Economic Development Corporation has prepared a strategic plan** that will be presented to the County Commissioners on October 11, 2007
- The **state still has not resolved the dispatch/911 funding issue** - it now appears this problem will carry over into 2008
- Some of the current **priorities of the County Board of Commissioners** include: implementation of enterprise facilitation, maintain balanced county budget/bond rating/fiscal stability, strengthen the marketing of tourism and businesses in the thumb, maintain sewer, water, roads, bridges and other infrastructure critical to economic development, implement the Brownfield Redevelopment grant, review solutions to the aging and overcrowded county jail, strengthen public and private collaboration to collectively solve problems, gain renewal of 5 special purpose county millages in 2008, obtain a fair method of funding 911/dispatch, preserve prime agricultural lands and update the County Master Plan

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