

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – October 2007 Activity Report

- The **Tuscola County Farm Bureau Annual Land Use Tour was held October 20, 2007** – all in attendance gained significant knowledge of agricultural practices in the County including: organic, traditional dairy and open pasture dairy farming – agriculture remains a key component of the economy of Tuscola County
- The Michigan Association of Counties **summarized the impacts of the 2007-2008 State Budget on counties** as: Tuscola County state revenue sharing payments are included, court equity payments were reduced by \$900,000 statewide, intercounty drain program may be eliminated, Community Mental Health was held harmless, Medical Care Facilities will see a slight funding decrease, sentencing guidelines did not change preventing diversion of more state prisoners into county jails, reimbursement for housing state prisoners in county jails will remain the same, foster care was not privatized allowing the counties to dodge a \$6-\$10 million bullet, Payment-in-Lieu of Taxes are currently planned to continue to be paid, Road Commission funding was reduced, child enforcement support funding was included, but federal funding needs to be restored
- The **Sirolli Program of Enterprise Facilitation takes hold** – during the last week of October meetings were held throughout the County to explain the new program and to begin recruiting Board of Management members – an outstanding response occurred with approximately 60 people attending and serving on the Board of Management – Board officers were chosen as follows: Chairperson Amanda Roggenbuck, Vice-Chairperson Tom Striffler, Secretary Tina Bacon and Treasurer Tom Doran – the next critical step in the process is to hire an Enterprise Facilitator – on November 5, 2007 a check presentation ceremony was held for the \$30,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant that is helping to fund the program
- After receiving and reviewing proposals from four auditing firms to conduct the **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (audit) the three-year bid was awarded to Rehmann Robson** who is the current county auditor
- **As part of the 2008 County Budgeting process County strengths were listed and included:** good infrastructure support systems and recent upgrades (roads, sewers and water system, bridges, drains, airport improvements, Medical Care Facility expansion, Caro Community and Hills & Dales Hospital improvements) enterprise facilitation-entrepreneurship programs advancing, County Economic Development Corporation Strategic Planning, Brownfield Redevelopment Grant for environmental cleanup (\$400,000), strong work ethic and competitive wage structure, balanced County and Local Unit of Government budgets, productive agricultural lands, Class A industrial park space in several locations with renaissance zone tax abatement, Camp Tuscola re-opening and Ethanol Plant construction in Caro
- **On October 25, 2007 a fire occurred at the building where Adult Probation is currently housed** – short and long term solutions to housing needs of Adult Probation are underway
- **Planning for the second annual intergovernmental summit needs to begin** to review solutions to economic problems and the delivery of critical services will require public and private entities working together as financial resources become more strained – we simply have to determine how to combine energy/resources to maintain our quality of life

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