

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – January 2008 Activity Report

- Recently there has been a **heightened interest in wind energy in the County** – land owners have been approached by energy companies to enter into agreements – before signing agreement it may be beneficial to contact the Michigan State University Extension 989-672-3870 (Dennis Stein) who has compiled useful information – it may also be helpful to contact Huron County Building Codes Director Russ Lundberg – 989-269-9269
- Also the **Tuscola County Farm Bureau will be conducting a wind energy education-information seminar** on Monday, February 11, 2008 from 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. at the Tuscola Technology Center, 1401 Cleaver Road, Caro – if you plan to attend this session please RSVP the Farm Bureau office at 989-673-4155 – proper land use planning and zoning for wind generators is becoming increasingly important
- The **Sirolli Program of Enterprise Facilitation advances** – the next critical step in the process is to hire an Enterprise Facilitator – it is anticipated that a facilitator will be hired by March 1, 2008 – after training, the facilitator will be available free of charge to assist current businesses and others who are considering starting a new business – this program has a proven record of job creation
- Version 2.0 of the online **Property Tax Query (PTQ) database** was recently deployed at the county web site – it is located at <http://www.tuscolacounty.org/taxquery/> – the new release was a major upgrade to the existing online tax database – this project has been ongoing for over a year and utilized input from the Treasurer, Equalization, and end users – the enhancements to PTQ include free lookups of limited data – also users can subscribe online to annual unlimited searches or buy search credits to all of the tax data
- **On-going county office space problems have existed for years** – solutions currently are being reviewed and analyzed – **expiration of the Human Service Building lease (15,000 sq. ft.) on Cleaver Road offers an opportunity to use this building** to solve many county office space problems – details are being planned – currently the Controller, Information Systems, Equalization, Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Michigan State University Extension would move to this building, the Annex Building would be used by the Prosecutor and the Friend of the Court would be relocated to the Courthouse
- Landmark/Harrison Architects have been hired to develop **alternative jail expansion plans** within the financial capabilities of the county – any jail expansion plan would have to be “revenue neutral” whereby both capital and operational costs for a jail expansion are paid with new sources of revenue and without general fund appropriations
- The Board of Commissioners’ organizational meeting was held and **Gerald Peterson was elected as Chairperson and Thomas Bardwell Vice Chair** – Board meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 8:00 A.M. (unless there is a meeting conflict). Further meeting information can be found on the county web site www.tuscolacounty.org
- **Effective July 1, 2008 the method of funding 911 will change** – the state approved a surcharge for all devices that can call 9-1-1 – prior to this legislation one surcharge was

applied to wireline phones (\$4.00/month in Tuscola) and another surcharge was applied to cellular phones (\$.29/month in Tuscola – other devices did not pay a surcharge – effective July 1, 2008 any device that can dial 9-1-1 will have a \$2.09/month surcharge applied –this is a stable and most importantly equitable funding system

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