

## **TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS February 2008 Activity Report**

- Mike Green was tentatively selected as the Enterprise Facilitator for the Sirolli Program of Enterprise Facilitation by Board of Management Hiring Committee pending contract negotiations, approval by the Board of Management and approval by the County Board of Commissioners – there were 57 applicants for the position – it is anticipated the facilitator will be hired by April 1, 2008 – next steps in the process include the extensive training of the Facilitator and Management Board members by the Sirolli Institute during the week of April 7 – 11 and then networking of the facilitator to the community by the 50 Board of Management members through the introduction of the facilitator to at least 10 people in the community
- Tuscola County may be the beneficiary of an economic development program called “Economic Gardening” – the Small Business Association of Michigan (SBAM) is submitting a Rural Business Enterprise Grant to enable SBAM to access proven marketing databases (recently used in Littleton, Colorado) to help businesses in Tuscola County increase sales and grow -- this program is an extension of and adds another important tool to the overall comprehensive approach needed to rebuild the local economy – the program was supported by both the County Economic Development Corporation and County Board of Commissioners
- Recently the Board of Commissioners made the following appointments: Michael Zwerk to the County Road Commission Board of Directors, Joe Hembling to the County Board of Public Works and Bill Bushaw to the County Economic Development Corporation
- The County property, liability, vehicle insurance coverage was recently renewed with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) with a modest increase of approximately 2% – the county has benefitted from MMRMA grants provided to control losses such as camera and radio equipment for police cars
- The Board of Commissioners took action at their meeting of February 26, 2008 to abolish the bike trail license with International Transmission Company
- The Mosquito Abatement has been gearing up for the 2008 treatment program including the purchase of vehicles, treatment materials and equipment and hiring of personnel – renewal of the millage that funds this program easily gained approval in January of this year demonstrating the strong public support for this program
- Recent financial analysis shows that the joint arrangement with Sanilac County to provide animal control services in Tuscola County continues to be successful – when Tuscola County operated the program as a single county expenses exceed revenues requiring a general fund subsidy of \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year – now the program pays for itself – what other services could be operated with reduced costs by governmental units within Tuscola County and between counties?
- Housing prisoners is a state mandated function but it places great strain on the County Budget – unaudited jail expenditures were approximately \$1.9 million –

areas of the jail budget that are significantly increasing include: housing prisoner in other counties (\$107,000), overtime and prisoner health services (\$170,615)

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