

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS April 2008 Activity Report

- Recently the Board of Commissioners approved ballot languages to request renewal of the primary road, bridge, recycling and Medical Care Facilities millages in August of this year – all of the entities involved with these millages and corporate council have reviewed/approved millage languages from both the perspective of content and legality
- The county treasurer reviewed a quarterly investment report with the Board of Commissioners which shows a decline in interest earning rates compared to last year – comparing the first quarter of 2007 to 2008 shows an average decline in interest earning rates of approximately 1.4% which is significant considering the importance of investment earnings to balance the overall county budget – this trend needs to continue to be closely monitored with respect to current and future year budgets
- One of the new provisions in employee labor contracts was the implementation of a Health Care Savings Plan with the Municipal Employees Retirement System – county does not pay for health insurance upon retirement - this plan allows employees to save as pre-tax dollars to use for health care benefits upon retirement
- A recent analysis conducted by staff indicates that the amount of funds in reserve to pay accumulated employee sick and vacation payout upon retirement is inadequate – staff has recommended that the annual budget incorporate funding to be able to meet this obligation on a long-term basis – sick/vacation funding requirements will gradually decline because the county reduced sick/vacation accumulation and replaced this with short and long term disability coverage
- Commissioners recently authorized application for a Coastal Zone Management Grant to identify problems and implement solutions to make the northern coastal area of the county a point of destination and to increase tourism and economic development in this part of the county – this plan will position the county for grant funds to solve problems and complements the overall work being done by the Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative
- From 2006 to 2007 State Equalized Value (SEV) increased 5.06% compared to an increase of only 1.58% from 2007 to 2008 – the residential category which is the largest class of land actually declined which has not occurred in many years – SEV is the official measure of overall county worth, but no longer is used to determine property tax revenue which is now based on Taxable Value – Taxable Value growth has a cap under Proposal A – additional information can be obtained by contacting the County Equalization Director at 989-672-3833
- County Commissioners recently approved application by the County Road Commission for state and federal grant funds for the Thomas Road Bridge over the Allen Extension Drain and for the Legg Road Bridge reconstruction over the

White Creek Drain

- Two significant initiatives currently under study in the county include jail space needs and optical imaging – both of these are important new ventures – both are being analyzed from not only construction and equipment costs, but also annual operational costs – the Information Systems Director along with several department heads are leading the assessment of optical imaging while the Building and Grounds Committee and Sheriff Department are assessing jail expansion options

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