

## TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – August 2008 Activity Report

- On Tuesday, August 5, 2008 the following four special purpose county millages were renewed: primary roads, bridges, Medical Care Facility and Recycling – the public has made personal sacrifices during these difficult economic times in order to renew these millages –this positive vote is a tribute to the quality of service that is being provided by the Road Commission, Medical Care Facility and Recycling operations – in 2010 senior citizen and road patrol millages will require a public vote to determine if these millages will be renewed
- After county officials met with State Department of Treasury officials, state officials now agree that the state needs to calculate revenue sharing payments to counties excluding amounts received by local Downtown Development Authorities/Tax Increment Finance Authorities – this is important to Tuscola County and will result in \$85,000 instead of \$19,000 being paid by the state to Tuscola County during the first partial payment year – this change will only be able to be acted on after revisions in the current law are implemented by the legislature and governor – hopefully the legislative changes will be made before the end of the year – this is a matter of critical importance to all counties in the state
- The Tuscola County Board of Commissioners recently passed a resolution in support of M-138 being upgraded by the Michigan Department of Transportation to an all season road which is important to the economy of the area
- Members of the Enterprise Facilitation Board of Management are scheduling presentations to local units of government throughout the county to explain the benefits of enterprise facilitation and how this program complements the work of the County Economic Development Corporation and plays a vital part in helping to upgrade the area economy – if you have not already been contacted, a member of the Board of Management will be contacting your city, village or township soon to request to make a presentation at one of your upcoming meetings
- In order to continue to assure the safeguarding of public funds, the Board of Commissioners have approved supplemental audit work to protect the county and elected officials in the Register of Deeds and Drain Commission Offices with the changeover that will be occurring in these offices – auditor recommendations will be implemented
- The state has approved funding to purchase and implement what is called a reverse 911 system – essentially this is a computerized high speed telephone system that calls thousands of numbers in a matter of minutes to notify individuals of situations of concern including: natural disasters, weather problems, certain police matters impacting the public, etc.
- Development of the 2009 County Budget has started – with the exception of the property tax, major county revenue sources are flat or showing decline – at a recent presentation to the Michigan Association of Counties, State Senator

Cropsey stressed that Michigan is in the grips of what may be the worst economic conditions in its history experiencing eight consecutive years of employment losses centered on the critical automobile industry – he cautioned that the next two years may be worse with major cost cutting measures to the state corrections budget – these extremely difficult economic times mean it is essential that the county continue a conservative position in developing the 2009 budget

- Recently bids were awarded to Tuckpoint the Courthouse and replace the MSU parking lot to properly maintain county buildings and grounds

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