

TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS September 2008 Activity Report

- The County Board recently approved a lease with the state to use the Human Service Building – revenue generated from this lease is critical to balancing the 2009 and future year county budgets – the County Board of Commissioners and staff successfully negotiated this favorable 20 year lease which is significantly beneficial for the county
- Cy Thomas was recently appointed as the Enterprise Facilitator to provide service to any individual or business in Tuscola County – Cy is a small business owner in Tuscola County and he is available to provide free confidential business coaching and related assistance to any individuals or current/prospective business owners in Tuscola County following the Sirolli Institute Model of Enterprise Facilitation – Cy can be contacted directly at (989) 325-1013 – the Enterprise Facilitation web site is: <http://www.tuscolaenterprise.com/records.html>
- The county budget is under pressure – one of the significant factors is the cost to house prisoners in other county jails – prisoners are housed in other jails to prevent overcrowding in the Tuscola county jail which has a capacity of 80 – expenditures to house prisoners in other counties are skyrocketing – the 2008 line item budget for housing prisoners in other counties is \$137,000 – after only eight months of the fiscal year, approximately \$140,000 has been spent – this is an average of approximately \$17,500 per month – if this level of expenditure continues for the remaining five months of the year, total costs to house prisoners in other counties would be \$210,000 which is double the amount spent in 2007– prior to 2006, costs to house prisoners in other counties were less than \$20,000 per year
- The State Senate recently passed S.B. 1550 which is important to Tuscola and all other Michigan counties because it corrects a flaw in the original legislature related to the suspension of state revenue sharing payments to counties in 2004 – essentially S.B. 1550 will enable the amount of state revenue due to counties to be calculated excluding amounts received by local Downtown Development Authorities/Tax Increment Finance Authorities – this is important to Tuscola County because it results in \$85,000 instead of \$19,000 due from the state for 2008 which is Tuscola County's first partial payment year
- Several important sources of revenue essential to the operation of county government services are declining which is a significant concern and will increase the difficulty of balancing 2009 and future year budgets – major revenue sources that have been experiencing declines and are tracking well below the 2008 budget include: interest earnings on investments, delinquent taxes, diverted prisoner revenues paid by the state, District Court and Register of Deeds fees – most of these essential revenue sources have been declining for several years – the Board has minimal, if any, control over the decline
- Problems caused by the above described declining revenue sources could be further compounded by discussion by state officials of significant changes in the property tax system and corresponding revenue declines and the inability of the state to determine how Dispatch/911 operations would be funded

- Significant progress is being made on the development of a practical emergency procedure guide for county operations – this work is being led by the County Emergency Services Director and is intended to help safeguard employees and the public by understanding procedures during such emergency situations as: tornadoes/thunderstorms, bomb threats and fires

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Contract settlements
Soldiers and Sailors Relief costs up
Adult probation
Mayville annexation
Optical imaging FOC – Clerk
Success Equalization sharing
Drainage costs about the same