

## **TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - October/November 2008 Activity Report**

- Pager coverage problems are being addressed through the use of three additional towers with one in Cass City, Unionville and the Reese areas – the County Board of Commissioners has authorized funding to resolve this public safety issue – tower sites have been located in Cass City and Unionville – potential sites in Reese are still under review – sites will be activated after contract language is finalized
- The County recycling program is being expanded through the implementation of the Clean Sweep Program which will enable the recycling of household hazardous waste products for Tuscola County residents year-round rather than the current two times per year – further information can be obtained by contacting Kate Neese (Recycling Coordinator) at 672-1673
- The County Board of Commissioners recently prepared a resolution in support of a traffic light at the corner of M-81 and Deckerville Roads which is a high accident area
- Genesee County officials recently explained the benefits of the Land Bank program – essentially this program brings foreclosed tax-reverted properties back into productive use to enhance neighborhoods and strengthen communities – research will be conducted to determine the benefit/cost of implementing this type of program in Tuscola County
- Tuscola County, along with numerous counties throughout the state, is struggling to balance the County Budget – at the November 25, 2008 Board of Commissioners meeting the 2009 County Budget was adopted with an all funds budget of \$43,942,431 and a general fund budget of \$12,777,000 – a brief summary of the general fund budget is as follows:
  - Major revenue sources are flat or declining
  - Traditionally property tax revenue has been a stable source of revenue, but the rate of increase in this essential source of revenue has slowed for 2009
  - Non-recurring funds estimated for use to balance the 2009 general fund budget are \$594,000 which is more than twice as much as used in 2008 – without the 267,500 in new revenue from the lease of the Human Services Building, the budgeted use of non-recurring funds would have been over \$860,000
  - Costs to house prisoners in other county jails has increased because of overcrowding in the Tuscola County jail
  - County drainage costs continue to increase
  - The budget includes the addition of a corrections officer, data workflow system for the Friend of the Court and County Clerk, increased appropriation to the Health Department for immunizations, increased appropriation for child care costs and a 2.5% wage increase for union and non-union employees
  - 2009 budget preserves current service and staffing levels, but if flat or declining revenue trends do not reverse themselves, balancing the 2010 budget will be even more problematic

- Tuscola County recently received information that the Governor is reviewing an executive order budget cut of between \$300 million to \$600 million to balance the 2008/2009 state budget – details have yet to be received to determine the impacts of this budget cut on county and local government
- According to the U.S. Census, the 2007 population estimate for Tuscola County was 56,805 which is a decline of 1,461 or 2.5% from the year 2000 population of 58,266

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