

## TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - December 2008 Activity Report

- The County Board signed a contract with American Messaging, Inc. to install pager transmitters that are anticipated to improve pager coverage in the northern and western areas of the county – a location for another transmitter in the Reese area is under review – an outlay for these coverage improvements of \$40,000 has been budgeted by the county
- Although specific requirements of a federal economic stimulus package have not been identified – the County and local units of government realize funding is linked to having a plan and demonstrating need – an initial potential projects list has been prepared by the County and local units of government – 30 projects have been identified to date – if your governmental unit has a project that you may want included you may contact Glen Roth at the Tuscola County Economic Development Corporation 989-673-2849
- With the assistance of the Emergency Services Director, the county is making substantial progress in the development of a county government emergency preparedness plan – an emergency procedure guide has been developed and grant funds from the county insurance company are being pursued to purchase defibrillators and weather radios – emergency training exercises are being planned for this spring
- The draft 2009 county work program was discussed at the Board meeting on January 5, 2009 – work program initiatives include: future year financial planning, maintaining state revenue sharing payments, monitoring changes in property values, review of drainage costs and 14A calculations, bond rating preservation, recycling program improvements including implementation of the clean sweep program, housing for Adult Probation, implementation of electronic employee time recording system, potential Register of Deeds computer hardware-software changes, fundraising for economic development, potential of establishing a land bank, additional economic development initiatives such as value added agriculture and wind power and implementing pager coverage improvements
- It is important that local units of government continue to stress to state officials that continued state revenue sharing (SRS) payments are critical to the County and local governmental units providing vital state mandated and other local services – as more counties exhaust roll forward funds, demands on the state budget will increase – in 2009 the state re-established SRS payments to five counties for about \$5 million, by 2010 SRS payments will increase by \$40 million and for 2011, payments will be approximately \$113 million – these state obligations are occurring when the state finances are declining
- The county was fortunate to receive grant funds from the United States Department of Justice for the purchase of additional bullet proof vests for Sheriff Department employees
- The Tuscola County 2007 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report received the Excellence in Financial Reporting award for the seventh consecutive year – this award is provided by the Government Finance Officers Association and is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment

represents a significant accomplishment by its government and management that financial operations are in order

- Jerry Peterson was re-elected as Chairperson of the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners for the seventh consecutive year at the Board of Commissioner's Organizational meeting on January 5, 2009 – Tom Bardwell was elected as Vice-Chairperson – Board meeting dates are posted on the County Web Site and in county buildings

Prepared by: Michael R. Hoagland, Tuscola County Controller/Administrator 989-672-3700