



TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October/November 2009 Activity Report

- Difficult financial times are forcing rethinking and changes in how services are delivered – two recent outstanding examples of intergovernmental cooperation in Tuscola County are the signing of an agreement between the City of Caro and Tuscola County for the County Equalization Department to provide assessing services to the City of Caro efficiently and cost effectively which is advantageous to taxpayers and to City of Caro/County government – the second is the signing of an agreement with Huron County to share the services and cost of the Tuscola County Environmental Health Officer
- Significant changes have been made by the Federal Government in determining property that is in the floodplain and procedures that local units of government must follow for citizens to qualify for floodplain insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program – an important meeting will be held at the Tuscola Technology Center in Caro from 1:30 P.M. to 3:30 P.M. on December 16, 2009 for local and county government officials and from 4:30 to 6:30 P.M. on the same day to explain the changes to the public
- The 2010 county budget has been extremely difficult to develop with service and staffing reductions forced by declines in property tax revenue, state revenue sharing, interest earnings and other major county sources of revenue – the Board of Commissioners (BOC) are grappling with correcting an estimated \$1.0 to 1.3 million dollar deficit for 2010 and there is concern the situation may be worse for 2011 – staffing reductions have been made along with elimination of health insurance for commissioners, wage freezes for non-union employees, elimination of Courthouse Security, renegotiating various computer service contracts, new property assessing contracts and other line item budget reductions
- Tuscola County in conjunction with Huron and Sanilac Counties has made application for \$500,000 in grant funds to make county and local governmental offices more energy efficient – application was made to the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (Michigan Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program)
- After a financial analysis it was determined the Mosquito Abatement millage levy for the 2010 budget year could be reduced by .07 mills from the original .6316 mills to .5616 mills resulting in a total reduction in property taxes paid of approximately \$104,662 or an average of approximately \$3.50 per household
- Problems with the prisoner correction system continue – County jail overcrowding continues forcing the county to pay to house prisoners in other county jails – this situation has now been occurring for the past 4 or 5 years costing the county \$221,000 in 2009 – the state has discontinued paying the county for state prisoners housed in the county jail resulting in a revenue loss of \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year – Behavioral Health programs used to pay for county prisoner mental medical costs – these costs have now been shifted to the county further increasing county costs – with the State's decision to release state prisoners early local probation departments caseloads have increased putting more pressure on the local judicial and corrections system