



TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 2010 Activity Report

- Tuscola Commissioners reviewed a **Huron County** Equalization Report showing approximately **\$390,000 in additional property tax revenue was generated from two wind farms** (78 generators) for Huron County government – this new revenue source helped this county to minimize budget cuts – also the Intermediate School District and certain townships in Huron County have gained significant new revenue from these wind generators to help sustain services – **parts of Tuscola County are also identified with significant wind energy potential** that could **provide critically needed revenue to county/local government** – proper planning for wind energy along with stepping-up implementation for revenue generation is important
- A **draft Airport Zoning Ordinance** will be discussed at a **public hearing** to be held on Feb. 3, 2010 by the County Planning Commission at 4:00 P.M. in the County Annex Building
- The Board of Commissioners, Sheriff and Court are reviewing a **potential Tether Program** for prisoners to help reduce the on-going jail overcrowding situation
- The County Treasurer presented the year-end **2009 investment earning report** showing that this source of revenue is **dramatically lower compared to the previous two years** – the 2010 budgeted amount for investment revenue may have to be reduced because of this declining trend – total earnings from all sources in 2007 was \$614,683 compared to \$259,642 in 2009
- County Officials are developing ballot language for **renewal of the Road Patrol and Senior Citizen millages** – these millages can only be used for Road Patrol and Senior Citizen purposes – the Road Patrol is .9 mills and pays for the seven day per week 24 hours per day public safety provided by the Sheriff Road Patrol – the Senior Citizen is .2 mills and used for senior citizen programs including home delivered meals, senior transportation, geriatric programs, senior flu shots, etc. – the **public votes** on these millage renewal questions in **August of 2010** – these millages have been **renewed four previous times**
- County officials are reviewing the **advantages/disadvantages of elected versus appointed road commissioners** – a **hearing will be held on February 24, 2010** for public input on this matter
- 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** the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) – in order for the property owner to qualify for this insurance the local unit of government where they reside must have approved a resolution and agreement to participate in the program – **for further information please contact Les Thomas who is the NFIP State Coordinator** at 517-335-3448 thomasl@michigan.gov
- The federal government has initiated a major program to make critical **improvements to the Great Lakes** called the **“Great Lakes Restoration Initiative”** – Tuscola County has made application for **federal funding** under this program with Bay, Arenac and Huron Counties to **control invasive vegetation, upgrade septic systems and improve agricultural run-off** – this is a multi-year federal program and funding application will be made in other rounds so that positive environmental and economic improvements can be made to Saginaw Bay and the Great Lakes

