

**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners**  
**December 15, 2011 Minutes**  
**H. H. Purdy Building**

Chairman Thomas Bardwell called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the H.H. Purdy Building in the City of Caro, Michigan, on the 15th day of December, 2011 to order at 8:30 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer by Commissioner Peterson  
Pledge by Commissioner Kent

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

District #1 Roger Allen, District #2 Thomas Bardwell, District #3 Tom Kern,  
District #4 Roy Petzold, District #5 Gerald Peterson

11-M-274

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to adopt the agenda as amended.  
Motion carried.

11-M-275

Motion by Allen seconded by Kern to approve the minutes of the  
11/23/2011 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Brief Public Comment – Clare Fryers, Village of Mayville appeared to state he  
was in favor of the passage of the ORV Ordinance.

11-M-276

Motion by Peterson seconded by Allen to approve the following Consent  
Agenda Resolution:

Move to approve the 2011 budget amendments as defined in Attachment  
A of the November 23, 2011 Committee of the Whole agenda and authorize  
implementation of said budget changes. Motion carried.

8:30 a.m. – ORV Ordinance Public Hearing

Arnold Rogers appeared regarding the ORV Ordinance. He inquired whether  
there would be a response to non-emergency calls.

Mike Tuckey with the Road Commission appeared to state that townships have  
the right to opt out and the Road Commission can close roads to this type of  
activity. The Road Commission Board was fearful that ORV operators would not  
be aware of any restrictions.

Clare Fryers inquired about altered golf carts as the ordinance does not allow golf carts.

Joe Green appeared to state he was in favor of the ORV Ordinance.

Eugene Kaake appeared to state he was in favor of the Ordinance

Donald Clinesmith appeared to state he was in favor of the Ordinance. He is concerned about enforcement.

Gerald Brown appeared with questions concerning the ordinance.

Pat Sheridan appeared seeking clarification regarding signage.

Lucas Weber stated people should be allowed to ride whatever means of transportation they have.

Julie Matuszak appeared regarding ways to communicate road restrictions.

Hearing closed at 9:23 a.m.

9:30 a.m. – 2012 County Budget Public Hearing

11-M-277

Motion by Kern seconded by Allen to approve the 2012 General Appropriations Act adopting the 2012 County Budget with changes, if any, as decided at the December 15, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting. Roll call: Kern, yes; Petzold, yes, Peterson, yes; Bardwell, yes; Allen, yes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing closed at 9:40 a.m.

11-M-278

Motion by Kern seconded by Allen that per the November 29, 2011 letter of request, to reappoint Tina Middaugh to the Board of Health for another term. Motion carried.

11-M-279

Motion by Kern seconded by Allen that per the December 13, 2011 letter of request, to reappoint Kelly Whittaker to the Department of Human Services Board. Motion carried.

11-M-280

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson that the County Clerk be requested to advertise to fill the vacant position on the Board of Public Works. Motion carried.

Information Technology Update – Eean Lee with Zimco

Recess at 10:11 a.m.

Meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Potential Combining of County Clerk and County Register of Deeds Public Hearing

Karen Goodchild, Fairgrove Township Clerk and president of the local clerks' association, appeared to state the members of the association is against the combination.

Tim McDonnell, immediate past president of the Michigan Land Title Association, appeared to state the association is not in favor of combining the offices.

Joyce Watts, Allegan County Clerk/Register of Deeds, appeared to make the board aware of the downside to combining. She further stated there was no cost savings realized.

Susan Kaltenbach, Saginaw County Clerk, appeared to state the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners decided in February not to combine offices.

Jodi Fetting, Chief Deputy Clerk, appeared to ask the board not to combine the offices.

Judy Adams from Vassar appeared to state she is against the combining of the offices.

Joann Tauber, Novesta Township Clerk and assessor, appeared to state she is not in favor of combining the offices.

Bambi Sommerlott, Hillsdale Register of Deeds, and president of the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds, appeared to urge the board to not combine the offices.

Norma Wallace, former Elkland Township Clerk, and current county canvasser, appeared to state she is not in favor of combining the offices.

Robert Mantey, Drain Commissioner, appeared to state combining the offices does not make sense.

Barb Tanks, Watertown Township Clerk, stated she takes issue with removing an elected official.

Chuck Heinlein, incoming Denmark Township Clerk, asked the board not to combine the offices.

Eean Lee, IT Coordinator, outlined the effect on his department should the two offices be combined.

Margie White, County Clerk, identified a number of reasons the combining of the offices would be detrimental to the constituents the offices serve.

Dan Grimshaw, Register of Deeds, stated he is not in favor of combining the offices.

Mary Warren, Arbela Township Clerk, stated Lansing is pushing counties to combine and to not listen to the state.

Public Hearing closed and meeting recessed at 12:09 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 1:15 p.m. Commissioner Kern was absent.

Ione Vyse, Airport Administrator, presented her annual report. She is seeking reappointment.

11-M-281

Motion by Peterson seconded by Allen to receive and place on file the Airport Zoning Administrator's Annual Report. Motion carried.

11-M-282

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson that per the November 19, 2011 letter of request from Future Youth Involvement, authorization is given to use the Courthouse lawn for the Cardboard Sleep-Out on May 19-20, 2012. Motion carried.

11-M-283

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve the Local Bridge Millage transfer request of \$15,924.00 as identified by Voucher #06-11 dated December 8, 2011, for transfer from the Bridge Millage Fund to the Road Commission General Fund. Motion carried.

11-M-284

Motion by Allen seconded by Peterson to approve the Primary Road Millage transfer request of \$25,763.14 as identified by Voucher #06-11 dated December 8, 2011, for transfer from the Primary Road Millage Fund to the Road Commission General Fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Kern entered the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

11-M-285

Motion by Allen seconded by Petzold that per the December 7, 2011 letter of request from the Equalization Director, to authorize Walt Schlichting to carry over vacation days from 2011 that he was unable to use in 2011 because of the extra time required to transition to the new BS&A software. Motion carried.

11-M-286

Motion by Allen seconded by Kern to approve the resolution establishing the Wisner Township Water Distribution System and Contract and authorize all appropriate signatures. Motion carried.

11-M-287

Motion by Allen seconded by Petzold to receive and place on file the December 12, 2011 letter of retirement from Mari Young in the Controller/Administrator's office with said resignation to be effective February 3, 2012. Motion carried.

11-M-288

Motion by Kern seconded by Peterson to lift the county hiring freeze and authorize posting/advertising to fill the budgeted part-time Fiscal/Personnel Analyst position which will become vacant after February 3, 2012. Motion carried.

11-M-289

Motion by Kern seconded by Allen that per the December 14, 2011 letter of request that \$150 be transferred from the Probate Court budget 101-148-000 (Contractual) to 101-148-705 (Salaries Temporary) to cover employee leave time Motion carried.

Extended Public Comment – none

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Margie A. White  
Tuscola County Clerk