

Draft
TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 30, 2015 Minutes
H. H. Purdy Building

Commissioner 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 30th day of July, 2015 to order at 7:30 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer – Commissioner Allen

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Bardwell

Roll Call – Clerk Jodi Fetting

Commissioners Present: District 1 - Roger Allen, District 2 – Thomas Bardwell, District 3 - Christine Trisch, District 4 – Craig Kirkpatrick, District 5 – Matthew Bierlein

Commissioner Absent: None

Also Present: Mike Hoagland, Clerk Jodi Fetting, Mary Drier, Tisha Jones, Mike Miller, Eean Lee, Register John Bishop, Sandy Nielsen, Senator Phil Pavlov, Justin Huffman, Joe Bixler, Heather Middleton, Laurie Miklovic, Penny Turner, Amy Koch, Henry Wymore, Paige Wood, Ann Hepfer, Mike Joslyn, Michelle Joslyn, Dave Osentoski, Shawn Petri, Pat Gettel, Jim Bowman, Jana Brown, Jackie Gardner, Judy Campbell, Jerry Noble, Janet Swarthout, Jennifer Maley, Debbie Rohlfs, Taylor Hawks, Joseph Delong, Katie Cooper, Grant Gettel, others were present that did not state their names.

Adoption of Agenda -
15-M-121

Motion by Allen, seconded Bierlein by to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion Carried.

Action on Previous Meeting Minutes -
15-M-122

Motion by Allen, seconded by Kirkpatrick to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 20, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comment Period -

- Senator Phil Pavlov introduced himself to the Board. Senator Pavlov is a candidate for United States Congress in 2016.
- Pat Gettel, Wells Township, asked the Board for explanation as to why they are considering to cut the funding for MSU Extension.

-Jim Bowman, Ellington Township, expressed his concern that the current budget is going to fund EDC but not MSU Extension. He feels the local farmers are larger contributors to the local economy and their funding is getting cut. He questioned why action wasn't sought to recoup money from lawsuit.

-Paige Wood, Fremont Township, encouraged the Board to explore other paths to solve the issue at hand rather than eliminating MSU Extension. 4-H has been a huge part of her life.

-Henry Wymore, Fremont Township, asked if agriculture land can be reassessed that has been tiled which would increase the value of the land and tax base. Fremont Township did this and saw an increase in revenue.

-Amy Koch, Kingston Township, feels the MSU Extension program is important because it is a program that is available for all of the youth in the County. The 4-H program gives an opportunity to youth to see what is available to them. 4-H is a program that gives youth an opportunity to be successful before a problem exists.

-Mike Joslyn, Almer Township, asked the Board to vote no on the elimination of MSU Extension today. He asked the Board to seek a millage and allow the supporters to work on passing that.

-Judy Campbell, Fairgrove Township, volunteers for 4-H as she feels it is important to mentor and teach children in areas that schools do not have available.

-Shawn Petri, Almer Township, feels that 4-H has provided many opportunities to his family that his children would not have experienced without the program. Also, the FFA program at Tuscola Technology Center has a waiting list for youth that want to participate in the program.

-Jane Ignash, Elmwood Township, asked if there is opportunity for employees to work from home to eliminate the need for brick and mortar buildings and upkeep of them.

-Jerry Noble, Fairgrove Township, supports the 4-H program. He thinks the Board needs microphones to allow the audience to be able to hear better.

-Janet Swarthout, Indianfields Township, asked the Board to not eliminate MSU-e and allow the opportunity for a millage.

-Jackie Garner, Denmark Township, provided the following information regarding the 2015 fair.

- 500 youth were involved
- 144 buyers were at the fair
- The large livestock sales totaled \$225,000.00
- Small livestock sales totaled \$15,000.00
- 550 animals were on the grounds at the fair
- 214 poultry were off-site
- 8,500 volunteer hours

-Jennifer Maley, Indianfields Township, her son has learned so much by being involved in the 4-H program.

-Debbie Rohlf, Fairgrove Township, encouraged the Board to continue to fund the MSU Extension program.

- Taylor Hawks, Millington Township, 4-H teaches morals and work ethic that would be difficult to learn otherwise.
- Jeff Delong, Elkland Township, would like time to look at solutions for 2016 funding and the ability to seek a millage.
- Katie Cooper, Millington Township, is interning at MSU Extension and has learned so much about all of the programs offered by the program not just 4-H and the importance they have on the entire county.
- Grant Gettel, Wells Township, thanked the Board for allowing everyone that was in attendance an opportunity to speak and express their concerns.
- Jackie Garner invited the Board to the 4-H Banquet Dinner on August 29, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Caro.

Recessed at 9:33 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:47 a.m.

- Libbey Venema, Novesta Township, 4-H helped her discover her passion of agriculture. Being involved in the 4-H program has provide her scholarship opportunities that would not have been available otherwise.

Consent Agenda Resolution -
15-M-123

Motion by Kirkpatrick, seconded by Trisch that the following Consent Agenda Resolution be adopted with the removal of Agenda Reference A.

Agenda Reference: A - Item Removed from Consent Agenda

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15

Description of Matter: Move that because it is not a legally mandated service, funding for MSU cooperative extension be eliminated from the 2016 county fiscal year budget. Also, a .1 of a mill special purpose millage funding request be made at a regularly scheduled election in 2016 to determine if the public votes to re-establish funding for this operation for the 2017 county fiscal year and future year budgets.

Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Agenda Reference:** B
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move to establish a capital improvement fund contingency reserve of \$800,000 and restrict the use of these funds for emergency situations. Also, until adequate annual funding can be achieved to properly maintain county buildings and grounds, the 2015 budgeted capital improvement projects (identified in the June 4, 2015 memo from the County Building and Grounds Director) are postponed.
- Agenda Reference:** C
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that meetings with the Chief Judge be scheduled to discuss the potential of increasing court fines/costs revenue for the 2016 county fiscal year budget to help defray court and security operating costs which have incurred inflationary increases.
- Agenda Reference:** D
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move to begin in early 2016 working with the county health insurance agent (Dan Skiver - Brown and Brown) to determine alternative methods of making reductions in employer health insurance costs during 2016 to achieve targeted employer cost reduction levels for the 2017 fiscal year budget (reduction amount to be determined later by Board of Commissioners).
- Agenda Reference:** E
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that the \$18,000 which was inadvertently budgeted in the Medical Examiner contractual line item be authorized for transfer to the Medical Examiner part-time line item.

- Agenda Reference:** F
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that the bid for the purchase of a recycling trailer as part of the P2 grant be awarded to Protainer for an amount of \$17,750.00 (price includes delivery).
- Agenda Reference:** G
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that the two year HVAC maintenance contract for various county buildings be awarded to Johnson Control for an amount of \$11,878.
- Agenda Reference:** H
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that the county hiring freeze be temporarily lifted and concur with the appointment of Amanda Berlin to the vacant dispatcher position (contingent upon satisfactory physical).
- Agenda Reference:** I
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/27/15
- Description of Matter:** Move that the County Clerk be authorized through social media and other appropriate methods to fill a vacancy on the Region VII AAA Advisory Council.

-Michigan State University Extension (MSU-e)-
Board discussed the option of discontinuing MSU-e or the option of seeking a millage. Joe Bixler explained the need for continuing the MSU-e programming.

15-M-124

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Allen that the following actions be taken regarding funding Michigan State University - Extension Service.

1. Conduct an election in March of 2016 and ask for a special purpose .1 (1/10th) of a mill to fund the county share of Michigan State University - Extension Service costs. (Total costs of a special non-scheduled election is approximately \$60,000 this added cost is avoided by conducting the election at the already scheduled Presidential Primary election in March of 2016).
2. Continue funding for all MSU-e programs in 2016 until the March election (estimated 9 weeks).

3. If the millage passes restore Michigan State University - Extension Service to full funding levels for the remaining period of 2016 by providing a loan from general fund balance to be repaid based on a repayment schedule with funds from future year MSU-e millage levies. (Corporate Council has stated in a legal opinion this type of loan arrangements is legal).
4. If the millage fails county funding for Michigan State University - Extension Service will be discontinued effective immediately. (Michigan State University - Extension Service is not a service that the county is required to provide according to state law).

Matter discussed. Joe Bixler asked the Board to support the motion.
Motion Carried.

New Business -

-Municipal Employees Retirement System Delegate -

15-M-125

Motion by Bierlein, seconded by Allen that Erica Dibble, Human Resources Director, be appointed as the officer delegate to the Municipal Employer Retirement System and authorization is given to attend the annual conference.
Motion Carried.

15-M-126

Motion by Trisch, seconded by Allen that Heidi Chicilli, Sheriff's Secretary, be appointed as the employer delegate to the Municipal Employer Retirement System and authorization is given to attend the annual conference. Motion Carried.

-Hotel/Liquor Tax Funds -

Currently, the liquor tax that is collected is distributed to counties across the state. In Fiscal Year 2016 and forward, the liquor tax will be distributed to the county the tax is collected in.

-Update Regarding Vanderbilt Park Financials -

The Parks and Recreation Board is working on a grant request to make improvements to the park. Although, they do not feel that the park will be able to become self-sufficient.

-Thumb Works Board Appointments -

-The following people have been recommended to be appointed to the Thumb Works Board: Mark Ransford, Shelli Herford and John Welke (alternate). Commissioner Bierlein asked the other Commissioners if they concurred with the recommendations. The Board agreed with the recommendations and Commissioner Bierlein will present at the next Thumb Works meeting.

Old Business -

-Commissioner Bardwell expressed his concern with the financial plan and what the next step moving forward will be. What other non-mandated services are being looked at to be eliminated. Discussion included EDC and Vanderbilt Park.

Correspondence/Resolutions -

-US Senator Stabenow is holding a forum on August 11, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Frankenmuth Brewery to provide an update on efforts to protect the Great Lakes and waterways.

-MAC Conference is on September 20-22, 2015 in Grand Traverse.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTSALLEN

Dispatch Authority Board - Sandy is requesting to replace 2 CAD Servers at the Dispatch Center. Logisys -\$9,992.00; Zimco - \$14,837.71. Eean explained the difference in the quotes is due to a better quality of server which is more reliable.

15-M-127

Motion by Allen, seconded by Kirkpatrick to authorize Dispatch Director to purchase 2 CAD Servers from Zimco in the amount of \$14,837.71 to be paid for from the 911 Surcharge Budget. Motion Carried.

County Road Commission

Board of Public Works

Senior Services Advisory Council - Update provided.

Mid-Michigan Mosquito Control Advisory Committee

Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative - Seeking a grant for Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties.

Parks & Recreation - Looking to apply for a grant.

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

KIRKPATRICK

Board of Health - Concerned has been expressed to Senator Green and Representative Canfield in reference to SB423.

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Dept. of Human Services/Medical Care Facility Liaison - An open house is being planned for the small houses in September. Margot Roedel invited the Commissioners for a tour.

Land Acquisition - Senator Green would still like Tuscola County to acquire the land.

MI Renewable Energy Coalition

MEMS All Hazards

MAC-Environment Energy Land Use

Oil/Shale Work Group

Cass River Greenways Pathway - Clean-up was from Dixie Highway to Bridgeport. Riverbank Reinvestment assistance has been sought to improve the Cass River in Tuscola Township.

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Tuscola In Sync

NACo - Energy, Environment & Land Use

GIS - May need to look at the fee structure and make adjustments if necessary.

BARDWELL

NACo

NACo Rural Action Caucus

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

Caro DDA/TIFA - No update.

MAC Economic Development/Taxation

MAC 7th District

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

TRIAD

Human Services Collaborative Council

BIERLEIN

Thumb Area Consortium/Michigan Works - New proposal has been presented to the Governor for approval and signature.

Human Development Commission (HDC)

Tuscola 2020

Recycling Advisory Committee

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Great Start Collaborative Council - Looking at fundraising ideas for 2016.

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Tuscola In-Sync

MAC Board of Directors - Preparing for the Conference.

Human Services Collaborative Council

Region VI Economic Development Planning

MAC-Economic Development & Taxation

TRISCH

Board of Health

Planning Commission

Economic Development Corp/Brownfield Redevelopment

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Behavioral Health Systems Board

Animal Control

Solid Waste Management - Close to completion.

Thumb Works

Closed Session - None

Other Business as Necessary - None

Extended Public Comment -

-Amy Koch expressed concern if putting additional millage requests on the March ballot to be sure there is community support for the issue. Her concern is if other issues are put on the ballot without support then the community may not support the other issues.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Jodi Fetting
Tuscola County Clerk