

DRAFT
Agenda
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole
Thursday, April 16, 2009 – 8:00 A.M.
Annex Board Room (207 E. Grant Caro, Mi.)

Non-Committee

None this meeting

Finance

Committee Leaders-Commissioner Bardwell and Peterson

Primary Finance Items

- 1. Sheriff Recommendation Regarding Jail Medical Services Proposals (See A)**
- 2. Fremont Township Tax Bill/Tax Roll Changes (See B)**
- 3. Cohl, Stoker, Toskey Invoice**
- 4. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Stimulus Funding**
- 5. File Cabinet Purchase Request (See C)**

Secondary/On-Going Finance Items

1. Treasurer Bank Statement Reconciliation (Balanced through March)
2. Financial Planning Task Force – 2nd Meeting April 28, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.
3. Juvenile Placement Potential Changes and Cost to County **(See D)**
4. 14A Drain Calculations and Future Year Drain Cost Projections
5. Imaging Workflow System
6. Jail Overcrowding, Sentencing Guidelines and State Reimbursement
7. Associated County Health Department and Health Department Title V Funding
8. Potential Plan for Automation Fund
9. Dispatch/911 Issues
10. Behavioral Health Contract for Transporting Patients - \$8,000
11. State Revenue Sharing **(See E)**
12. Procedural Audit Implementation Status
 - Sheriff Department
 - Drain Commission
 - Register of Deeds

Personnel

Committee Leader-Commissioners Roggenbuck and Bardwell

Primary Personnel Items

- 1. Update NACO Caremark Prescription Program**

Secondary/On-Going Personnel Items

1. Circuit Court Personnel Policies
2. Probate Court Request to Extend Temporary Employee
3. Incorporate County Personnel Policies and Other key Personnel Information on the County Web Site
4. Department Head Meetings – Next Meeting April 23, 2009 – 10:30 A.M.
5. Employee Recognition
6. Open Meetings Act Discussion for Boards and Commissions – Corporate Council and County Prosecutor
7. Commissioner Luncheon to Honor Employees – May 8, 2009
8. Recycling Draft Appeal Letter Regarding 511 Work Crew
9. Employee Life Insurance Requested Change
10. Workers Compensation Potential Cost Saving Analysis

Building and Grounds

Committee Leader-Commissioners Petzold and Kern

Primary Building and Grounds Items

1. **Adult Probation Building Proposals**
2. **Energy Grant Update**
3. **Obtaining Bids for Energy Efficiency Program**

Secondary/On-Going Building and Grounds Items

1. Emergency Services Plan for County Operations
2. Mosquito Abatement Parking Stone Crete
3. Remodeling of Computer Operations Room
4. DHS Remodeling

Correspondence/Other Business as Necessary

1. Draft 2009 Work Program Update
2. Wind Energy Update
3. MAEAP Award (**See F**)
4. MTA Chicken Dinner (**See G**)
5. Airport Zoning Ordinance Development Update
6. Economic Development
 - County EDC Strategic Planning and CAT Integration – Next Steps
 - Michigan's Defining Moment Meeting 4-16-09 1:00 P.M., Tech Center
 - EDC and Enterprise Facilitation Strategic Planning Meeting
 - Enterprise Facilitation Update – 501c3 Status
 - Revolving Loan Fund
 - Economic Gardening
 - Rural Business Enterprise Grant 3rd Year Application
 - Coastal Zone Management Grant

Public Comment Period

Closed Session – If Necessary

Other Business as Necessary

Statutory Finance Committee

1. Claims Review and Approval

****Party will be in attendance to discuss agenda item.**

Note: Except for the Statutory Finance Committee, committee meetings of the whole are advisory only. Any decision made at an advisory committee is only a recommendation and must be approved by a formal meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Note: If you need accommodations to attend this meeting please notify the Tuscola County Controller/Administrator's Office (989-672-3700) two days in advance of the meeting.

Note: This is a draft agenda and subject to change. Items may be added the day of the meeting or covered under other business at the meeting.



Tuscola County Sheriff's Office

420 Court Street • Caro, MI 48723

Lee Teschendorf, Sheriff
Glen Skrent, Undersheriff

Phone (989) 673-8161
Fax (989) 673-8164

04/08/2009

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Michael Hoagland, County Controller

I have received the following bids for jail medical services from 07/01/2009 through 06/30/2010. Requests for pricing were sent to five providers with three of those sending a response.

Caro Health Plaza (Dr. Mahfooz) Requested services with physicians asst \$ 170,500.00

Health Professionals, LTD Requested services with physician \$ 65,807.84

Health Professionals, LTD Requested services with physicians asst \$ 58,736.55

Secure Care, Inc. Requested services with physician \$ 66,150.00

(NOTE: No bid with physicians asst)

My recommendation is two part:

If we keep the services of a physician Secure Care should be retained due to the very slight cost difference.

If we decide to use a physicians assistant, which we have done in the past with satisfactory results, Health Professionals should be contracted. This option will save the county \$ 7,071.29 on an annual basis.

Sincerely,

Leland Teschendorf, Sheriff

March 2, 2009

Mr. Leland Teschendorf
Sheriff
420 Court St.
Caro, Michigan 48723

RE: Jail Health Program

Dear Sheriff Teschendorf:

Caro Health Plaza is pleased to present this proposal for your review. We look forward to partnering with you to provide a jail health program for the inmates of Tuscola County Sheriff Department. The objective of Caro Health Plaza is to provide the best medical care possible for the inmates of Tuscola County.

Our proposal request \$170,500.00 in funding to provide health care for the inmates and TB (Mantoux) testing for the employees and inmates of Tuscola County Sheriff Department.

We appreciate Tuscola County and the Department of Corrections for taking an interest in the health of the inmates housed at the jail. Please give me a call at 989-672-2100 if you require any further information or have any questions concerning this proposal.

Thank you,

Naveed Mahfooz

Naveed Mahfooz M.D.
1525 W. Caro Rd.
Caro, Michigan 48723



Staffing & Cost Proposal for Inmate Healthcare Services for Tuscola County

Services Summary for Tuscola County Jail

Health Professionals, Ltd. (HPL) is pleased to provide the following Staffing and Cost Proposal Options for Tuscola County's consideration.

Option 1

HPL will provide Tuscola County with an onsite inmate healthcare program. The following price includes a healthcare staff of twenty-four (24) hours per week of onsite Licensed Practical Nurse and up to two (2) hours every other week of onsite physician services plus on call 24/7, all totaling 0.63 professional healthcare FTEs, professional and general liability insurance and training and education for the healthcare staff, as well as corporate management and oversight. HPL will charge \$5,483.99 (Five thousand four hundred eighty-three dollars and 99/100th) per month. The total annual price for a twelve (12) month contract will be \$65,807.84.

Along with the above staffing, HPL will provide inmate healthcare services described under scope of services and to include provision for onsite services, medication management, utilization management, professional and general liability insurance and training and education for the healthcare staff, as well as corporate management and oversight.

Option 2

HPL will provide Tuscola County with an onsite inmate healthcare program. The following price includes a healthcare staff of twenty-four (24) hours per week of onsite Licensed Practical Nurse and up to two (2) hours every other week of onsite physician extender (physician assistant/nurse practitioner) services plus on call 24/7, physician services one hour per month for physician extender oversight plus on call 24/7, all totaling 0.64 professional healthcare FTEs, professional and general liability insurance and training and education for the healthcare staff, as well as corporate management and oversight. HPL will charge \$4,894.71 (Four thousand eight hundred ninety-four dollars and 71/100th) per month. The total annual price for a twelve (12) month contract will be \$58,736.55.

Please feel free to contact any of our customers for reference information. Names and contact information will be provided upon request.

D. Citations by State or Federal Agencies

SecureCare has never been cited by any State or Federal Agency for non-compliance or administrative rule violations.

E. Insurance Requirements

SecureCare meets all insurance requirements and will provide certificates to Tuscola County upon request.

F. Corporate Status

SecureCare, Inc., is a Michigan owned business corporation. SecureCare was formally organized on October 22, 1992, to provide correctional medicine. SecureCare's particulars are as follows:

NAME: SecureCare, Inc.
ADDRESS: 3840 Packard Street, Suite 270
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

PHONE: (734) 975-8400
FAX: (734) 975-8493
WEBSITE: www.securecarehealth.com

V. Costs

SecureCare's proposed financial terms are built upon its health services proposal. Based on the available information, we believe our prices are reasonable and competitive. We feel you will continue to find that our overall proposal demonstrates the best ability to fulfill the requirements of the Tuscola County Sheriff's Office. Importantly, you will continue to find us readily accessible, knowledgeable, creative, easy to work with, and quality oriented.

SecureCare will continue to maximize the resources available from third party payers when applicable for those inmates with healthcare problems that need further evaluation or treatment than can be provided on-site. This shall include prescriptions, hospitalizations, and outpatient services. Tuscola County Sheriff's Office will be approached as the payer of last resort if third party payer reimbursement is not available or not applicable.

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In addition, if Tuscola County has an inmate that needs to be hospitalized or have services provided at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw, SecureCare will coordinate with Tuscola County so the County will be able to receive the significant discount savings available through SecureCare. (Please note – a patient / inmate is not sent / transferred to Covenant by SecureCare. The local hospital determines if medical needs are beyond their scope of service.)

For services presented in this proposal, for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010, SecureCare will be remunerated a total of \$66,150. Payments to be made in equal monthly installments of \$5,512.50.

From: Saved by Windows Internet Explorer 7

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2009 2:01 PM

Subject: printDocument

STATE EDUCATION TAX ACT (EXCERPT)

Act 331 of 1993

211.905b City or township in which no property taxes collected.

Sec. 5b.

(1) This section applies only to a city or township, or that portion of a city or township, in which no property taxes, other than the following, are levied in the summer of 2003 and any summer after 2003:

(a) The tax levied under this act.

(b) Village taxes.

(c) Beginning in the summer of 2005, that portion of the number of mills allocated to a county by a county tax allocation board or authorized for a county through a separate tax limitation vote, if that portion of the number of mills allocated to a county by a county tax allocation board or authorized for a county through a separate tax limitation vote were not levied before the summer of 2005.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), a city or township shall collect the tax levied under this act unless, before November 1, 2002, the legislative body of the city or township adopts a resolution declining to collect the tax levied under this act and, for a township, the treasurer concurs in writing with that resolution. Before November 1, 2002, if the city or township adopts a resolution declining to collect the tax under this act and, for a township, the treasurer concurs in writing with that resolution, the appropriate assessing officer shall send a copy of that resolution and, for a township, that concurrence to the state treasurer and the treasurer of the county in which the city or township is located. In January 2004 and each January thereafter, the legislative body of a city or township that has declined to collect the tax under this subsection may by resolution adopted by a majority of the legislative body rescind the earlier decision to decline to collect the tax. The city or township shall immediately send a copy of the resolution rescinding the earlier decision to decline to collect the tax to the state treasurer and the treasurer of the county in which the city or township is located. If a city or township collects the tax levied under this act pursuant to this section, that city or township shall retain \$2.50 for each parcel of property in that city or township on which the tax levied under this act is billed under this section from the tax collected under this act before transmitting the tax collected as provided in this act.

(3) Notwithstanding the adoption of a resolution by the legislative body of a city or township declining to collect the tax levied under this act as provided in subsection (2), in a city or township in which the state treasurer collected the tax levied under this act during the summer of 2006 pursuant to subsection (5), the city or township shall collect the tax levied under this act beginning in the summer of 2007 and each summer thereafter.

(4) A county that receives a copy of a resolution declining to collect the tax under this act and, for a township, a written concurrence as provided in subsection (2) shall collect the tax levied under this act pursuant to this section unless, before February 1, 2003, the county board of commissioners adopts a resolution declining to collect the tax levied under this act and the county treasurer concurs in writing with that resolution. Before February 1, 2003, if the county board of commissioners adopts a resolution

declining to collect the tax under this act and the county treasurer concurs in writing with that resolution, the county treasurer shall send a copy of that resolution and that concurrence to the state treasurer. In February 2004 and each February thereafter, a county board of commissioners that has declined to collect the tax under this subsection may by resolution, with the written concurrence of the county treasurer, rescind the earlier decision to decline to collect the tax. The county treasurer shall immediately send a copy of the resolution rescinding the earlier decision to decline to collect the tax and the written concurrence of the county treasurer to the state treasurer. If a county collects the tax levied under this act pursuant to this section, that county shall retain \$2.50 for each parcel of property in that county on which the tax levied under this act is billed under this section from the tax collected under this act before transmitting the tax collected under this act to the state treasurer as provided in this act.

(5) If a city or township does not collect the tax levied under this act pursuant to subsection (2) and if a county does not collect the tax levied under this act pursuant to subsection (4), the state treasurer shall, except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), collect the tax under the provisions of the general property tax act. The collection of the tax levied under this act is not subject to 1941 PA 122, MCL 205.1 to 205.31. The tax levied under this act collected pursuant to this subsection is subject to a 1% administration fee.

(6) All of the following apply to the collection of the tax levied under this act by a county treasurer or, except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), the state treasurer:

(a) Not later than June 1, the township or city for which the tax is being collected shall deliver to the county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, a certified copy of each assessment roll for taxable property located in the township or city. Each assessment roll shall include the taxable value of each parcel subject to the collection of the tax levied under this act. The county treasurer or state treasurer, as applicable, shall remit the necessary cost incident to the reproduction of the assessment roll to the township or city.

(b) Not later than June 30, the county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, shall spread the millage levied under this act against the assessment roll and prepare the tax roll.

(c) The county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, may impose all or a portion of the fees and charges authorized under section 44 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.44, on taxes paid before March 1. The county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, shall retain the fees and charges imposed under this subdivision regardless of whether all or part of the fees and charges have been waived by the township or city.

(7) In relation to the assessment, spreading, and collection of taxes pursuant to this section, a county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, shall have powers and duties similar to those prescribed by the general property tax act for township supervisors, township clerks, and township treasurers. However, this section shall not be considered to transfer any authority over the assessment of property.

(8) A county treasurer or state treasurer collecting taxes pursuant to this section shall be bonded for tax collection in the same amount and in the same manner as a township treasurer would be for undertaking the duties prescribed by this section.

(9) If a county treasurer or the state treasurer collects the tax levied under this act pursuant to this section, all payments from this state for collecting the tax levied under this act in a summer levy, and all revenue generated by the administration fee, shall be deposited in a restricted account designated as the "state education tax collection account". The county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, shall

direct the investment of the account. The county treasurer or the state treasurer, as applicable, shall credit to the account interest and earnings from the account investments. Proceeds in that account shall only be used for the cost of collecting the tax levied under this act. For a county collecting the tax under this act, the county board of commissioners shall appropriate sufficient money from the account to the county treasurer to cover the cost of collecting the tax levied under this act.

(10) The tax levied under this act that is collected by a city pursuant to this section on a date other than a date it collects city taxes shall be subject to the same fees and charges a city may impose under section 44 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.44, except that a city may impose the administration fee on the tax levied under this act that is billed in the summer even if the fee is not imposed on taxes billed in December. The tax levied under this act that is collected pursuant to this section on or before September 14 of each year by a city that collects school taxes on a date other than the date it collects city taxes shall be without interest, but the tax levied under this act that is collected after September 14 in each year shall bear interest at the rate imposed by section 59 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.59, on delinquent property tax levies that become a lien in the same year. All interest and penalties that are imposed prior to the date the tax levied under this act is returned as delinquent, other than the administration fee, shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit into the state school aid fund established in section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. If imposed, the administration fee shall be retained by the city.

(11) The tax levied under this act that is collected by a township on or before September 14 in each year shall be without interest. The tax levied under this act that is collected after September 14 of any year shall bear interest at the rate imposed by section 59 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.59, on delinquent property tax levies that become a lien in the same year. The tax levied under this act that is collected by a township is subject to the same fees and charges the township may impose under section 44 of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.44, except that a township may impose the administration fee on the tax levied under this act that is billed in the summer even if the fee is not imposed on taxes billed in December. All interest and penalties that are imposed prior to the date the tax levied under this act is returned delinquent, other than the administration fee, shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit into the state school aid fund established in section 11 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963. If imposed, the administration fee shall be retained by the township.

(12) For taxes levied after December 31, 2003, not later than June 1 of each year, the county treasurer shall deliver to the state treasurer a statement of the total amount of the state education tax levy of the prior year not returned delinquent that was collected by the county treasurer and collected and remitted to the county treasurer by each city or township treasurer, together with a statement for the county and for each city or township of the number of parcels from which the state education tax was collected, the number of parcels for which the state education tax was billed, and the total amount retained by the county treasurer and by the city or township treasurer as permitted by subsections (2) and (4).

History: Add. 2002, Act 244, Imd. Eff. Apr. 30, 2002 ;-- Am. 2004, Act 108, Imd. Eff. May 20, 2004 ;-- Am. 2004, Act 543, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2005 ;-- Am. 2006, Act 624, Imd. Eff. Jan. 3, 2007

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Michigan Compiled Laws Complete Through PA 7 of 2009

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TUSCOLA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

1500 Press Drive
Caro, Michigan 48723-9291
989-672-3748 Phone ~ 989-672-3724 Fax



©

TO: Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Michael Hoagland – Controller/Administrator

FROM: Jenifer Robb, Director
Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement

Date: April 14, 2009

RE: Request to Purchase Filing Cabinet

To ensure adequate filing space and the ability to lock some sensitive files, please take into consideration our request to purchase a new filing cabinet. The filing cabinet that we would like is a Hon four drawer lateral file, 42 inches wide, Hon item number 584LL. Pricing was checked with both our local vendor, Thumb Office Supply (\$779.00) and Office Depot. Office Depot was significantly less expensive at \$622.60 and is our vendor of choice for this item.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenifer Robb".

Jenifer Robb
Director

Attachments: County Purchasing Policy (see section 2.3)

Michigan Counties

OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

April 2009

Michigan Association of Counties



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES LAWSUIT SETTLEMENT COULD COST COUNTIES

By Ben Bodkin, MAC Legislative Coordinator



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Michigan Association of Counties web site address: www.micounties.org

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Last year the state Department of Human Services (DHS) was sued by an out-of-state child welfare group called Children's Rights. The group has sued about a half dozen states successfully in the past and the department wisely settled the suit out-of-court, which probably saved the state half the cost of the suit. As it is, the department will spend about \$250 million implementing the changes required in the settlement agreement. The problem, however, is that when DHS settled the suit with Children's Rights they never brought counties to the table to discuss the terms of the agreement. As half of the funding source for foster care and juvenile justice in the state, counties certainly should have been consulted before the agreement was reached. It seems the department agreed on your behalf to commit counties' checkbooks to up to \$32 million in new spending that can be calculated and more that can not be calculated.

Relative Placement

The calculable portion of the lawsuit for counties comes from the subject of relative placement. It has been DHS practice to place children who have been removed from the home with relatives, if at all possible. These so-called "relative placements" are generally

good for the children, because they provide a stable person who the child knows in the child's life. The problem has been that these placements are traditionally not licensed as foster care homes, because of the emergent need of the placement. The department has not followed its policy of licensing these placements, and so the Children's Rights made this issue a part of the suit.

There are about 7,000 unlicensed relative placements in Michigan. Because they are unlicensed, they currently are paid entirely through cash assistance, known as the Family Independence Program, or FIP. No county funds are expended on unlicensed relative placements. As a result of the settlement agreement, the department must make every effort to license these placements, which will require counties to pay for half the cost of the placement. As of last fall, DHS expected to be required to move 5,993 of the 7,000 cases to licensed placement. Of those, 43% should be eligible for federal Title IV-E funding, which would replace the county half of the funding requirement. This leaves roughly 3,237 cases that will be new to foster care and require 50% funding from counties. The foster parents qualify for either \$17.59 or \$14.24 per day, depending on the age of the child. If the case

(continued on pg. 14)

(Legislative Update...continued from page 1)

is managed by a private agency, that agency qualifies for \$27.00 per day to manage the case. The Governor recommended increasing the daily rate for private case management by \$10.00 per day to \$37.00 per day, because of the likely increase in caseworkers needed by the private sector as a result of the lawsuit. The most this portion of the suit could cost counties (if all of the placements were private, the daily rate were increased to \$37 per day, and the children all qualified for \$17.59 per day) is more than \$32 million annually. If the private agency daily rate remains at \$27.00 per day, the cost of relative placement tops out at \$26.3 million annually.

Other Costs of the Lawsuit

There are other areas in the lawsuit that will cost counties money, but the amounts are unable to be calculated. Under the settlement agreement, both the department and private agencies must reduce their caseload ratios for foster care case management to 15 cases per worker. This new 15:1 ratio will cost counties because the department will be forced to send more cases to private agency case management to meet the requirements of the new ratio. This shift in caseload from the department to private agencies will cost counties by adding the \$27.00 daily rate to every case that moves from public to private case management. Under the Governor's proposal, of course, that daily rate would go up to \$37.00 per case per day for all privately managed cases. No one has yet been able to calculate how many cases will shift as a result of the new 15:1 case management ratio.

Solutions

MAC has proposed two solutions to the problem, and has identified the money necessary to hold counties harmless under the settlement agreement. We need county commissioners to discuss these solutions with their legislators, because it will be difficult under the current economic circumstances to get new money, even if you identify it.

You may recall a few years ago the federal Congress passed the Deficit Reduction Act. Under that act, states were forbidden from using federal child support incentive grants to match regular federal child support appropriations. As a result, the Governor backfilled the federally created hole in child support enforcement matching funds with state General Funds (GF), to the tune of \$16.7 million annually. Fast forward to today. As a result of the federal stimulus package, and two year moratorium has been placed on the federal rule that banned matching the child support funds with child support incentive payments. So, the \$16.7 million in state GF appropriated for the current year (FY09), and recommended by the Governor for FY10 are no

longer needed to keep child support enforcement whole. The Friend of the Court Association (FOCA), a part of the county family of agencies, requires a small piece of the \$33.4 million to remain whole in another part of their budget, leaving about \$30 million up for grabs. MAC recommends using this money to help hold counties harmless under the settlement agreement.

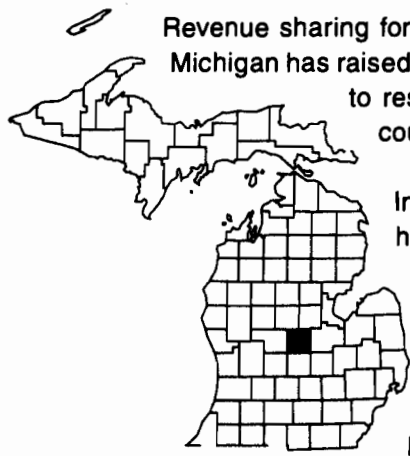
In addition to the funding source above, MAC believes that a full \$5 million in state General Funds can be saved from the partial closure and restructuring of the Maxey high secure detention facility. This savings would result in an additional \$2.5 million not previously recognized in the budget, bringing the total available for counties to \$32.5 million. If the private daily rate remains at \$27.00 per day, \$32.5 million may cover all of the costs associated with the lawsuit settlement for counties.

There are two ways to apply this savings to hold counties harmless. The preferred, but more difficult way would be to change the state/county match rate for foster care and juvenile justice from 50% / 50%, to whatever \$32.5 million would get as a state-side match increase, so if it results in a state/county match of 60% / 40%, just as an example, we have a policy change that results in counties being held harmless from the lawsuit costs not only in the coming year, but in the future as well. This solution requires not only us getting the money we identified, but also passing separate legislation to change state statute establishing the state/county match rate. The other solution would be to simply appropriate the money in the budget with boilerplate indicating that counties will be held harmless from the lawsuit settlement. This solution, of course, requires counties to fight each year thereafter to keep the money in the budget, statute would not require it. MAC is pursuing both solutions in order to keep all options on the table.

At the time of writing this article, the Senate had recommended including a line item in the budget for the purpose of holding counties harmless. This line will allow the discussion of how to hold counties harmless to continue to the end of the budget process. Unfortunately, no money was appropriated to the line beyond a simple placeholder amount. We have been told that a decision will be made on what to do with the money MAC identified after the child support enforcement money is released in the current year budget through the budget supplemental process. Meanwhile, we need to begin work trying to get the House to include the money in the budget for counties. Please contact both your Senators and House members and ask them to hold counties harmless from the DHS lawsuit. MAC has identified the money, now we simply need a commitment from the legislature. If the state does not want us at the table for negotiations, it should not be able to use our checkbook to cut the deal.

COUNTY REVENUE SHARING IMPACT AND CONCERNS

Brian Smith, Gratiot County Administrator



Revenue sharing for the counties is again in the spotlight, because the current financial situation of the State of Michigan has raised the possibility of the State's potential failure to resume revenue sharing to the counties. Failure to resume revenue sharing would result in severe cuts or elimination of services provided by the counties.

In fiscal year 2008, Tuscola County's temporary reserve ran out and the State of Michigan did honor the contents of PA 357 of 2004. In fiscal year 2009, 5 more counties (Ionia, St. Joseph, Houghton, Montcalm, and Gratiot) will run out of reserves with the State of Michigan again budgeting the necessary funds to cover these counties.

In fiscal year 2010, there are an additional 12 counties that will run out of temporary reserves: Saginaw, Alpena, Branch, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Jackson, Wayne, Calhoun, Bay, Ottawa, Hillsdale, and Van Buren. The total cost to the State of Michigan for fiscal year 2010 is \$49 million.

Finding the funds for fiscal years 2008 (\$85,000) and 2009 (\$2 million) was relatively easy, but now for fiscal year 2010, with the State of Michigan dealing with yet another budget crises, the funding is not guaranteed. Gratiot County is very pleased that Governor Granholm has included \$49 million in revenue sharing to the counties in the executive budget presented in February, but more work needs to be done to make sure that it remains in the budget.

The impact to Gratiot County if the \$49 million is cut from the final budget, would be severe to say the least. Gratiot County's portion of the revenue sharing is 9.32% of the county's general fund. During March's Gratiot County Finance Committee Meeting I presented what would be at risk if the county loses its revenue sharing:

County share of Economic Development
County share of community airport
MSU Extension
Road Patrol Deputies
Secondary Road Patrol
Emergency Services
Animal Control
Veterans Counselor

Total elimination
Total elimination
Total elimination
9 positions eliminated
Total elimination
Total elimination
Total elimination
Total elimination

* The elimination of 9 deputies from Road Patrol plus 2 deputies from Secondary Road Patrol is 68% of Gratiot County's total road patrol staff.

The list that I shared may or may not be the same the individual counties may prepare, but the point is that failure to restore revenue sharing, whether your county is large or small, would be devastating. Again it is very important that all county commissioners and other officials continue to strongly support the budgeted appropriation for county revenue sharing in fiscal year 2010 by contacting your state legislator(s).

We Want to Profile Your County in our Newsletter-M.A.C. Wants to Share Your Counties Accomplishments and Events

Please send us a (one page single space max) document updating us on what is happening in your county. We want to share your local events and accomplishments with the entire membership. Please include your counties name and a contact person for the article. We also welcome photos sent electronically with the captions indicating who is in the photo with appropriate titles and the name of the event.

Please send your county profile to Karen Currie at currie@micounties.org. Feel free to call Karen at 616.706.2282 with your questions.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LANSING

DON KOIVISTO
DIRECTOR

April 10, 2009

Mr. Tim Howell
Mrs. Kathy Howell
Howell Farms
1980 North Bradleyville
Fairgrove, MI 48733

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Howell:

On March 9, 2009, Mr. Tom Young from the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) visited your farm located at 7740 Deckerville Road, Fairgrove, Michigan, to verify your farming operation through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). This visit was made at your request to complete the verification requirements of the MAEAP Farmstead System.

After reviewing your Farmstead Improvement Action Plan and the required components of your Farm*A*Syst, MDA staff has verified that you have met all of the requirements set forth by the MAEAP Farmstead System.

The MAEAP Farmstead System verification is valid for three years from the date of the farm visit. This verification is approved on the basis that you have disclosed to the best of your knowledge, all requested information pertaining to your Farmstead Improvement Action Plan. We understand that you intend to implement and manage the Farmstead as reviewed and follow the applicable Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs). Changes in your farming operation may necessitate a review of your Farm*A*Syst. Verification in good standing is contingent on updates as necessary as conditions change on your farm as well as staying in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and following the practices you have outlined. Farms with livestock that expand must be verified through the Site Selection and Odor Control for New and Expanding Livestock Operations GAAMPs to remain in good standing as a MAEAP verified farm.

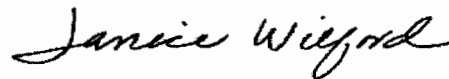
The MAEAP verification sign is available at cost from the Grand Traverse Conservation District. Enclosed please find an Order Form and a list of MAEAP partners that are offering their members a rebate. We encourage you to display a sign proudly at your verified site as a sign of your commitment to agricultural pollution prevention and successful completion of the MAEAP Farmstead System requirements. If you received a sign at the time your facility was verified, you may use this form to order additional signs.

Mr. Tim Howell
Mrs. Kathy Howell
April 10, 2009
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Congratulations on your accomplishment. Your participation in MAEAP is proof that the combined efforts of committed individuals, organizations, and agencies can foster voluntary change in the agriculture industry.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Janice Wilford
Program Manager, MAEAP
(517) 241-4730

JSW:ldl

Enclosures

cc: Ms. Ruth Spencer, Gilford Township Clerk
Mr. Steve Schaub, Groundwater Technician
Ms. Delores Damm, Chair, Tuscola Conservation District
Mr. Gerald Peterson, Chair, Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Hal Hudson, Tuscola County Extension Director
Mr. Steven Chester, Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Mr. Don Koivisto, Director, MDA
Mr. James Johnson, Environmental Stewardship Division Director, MDA



March 10, 2009

ATTN: ALL TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

I am sending this letter to the clerks and asking them to please pass it along to the rest of your board.

The Tuscola County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association annual April dinner will be held Thursday, April 30, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Richville American Legion Hall on M-46.

The tickets are \$6.00 each. Make any checks payable to Tuscola County Chapter of M.T.A. and mail them to Mary Warren, 8935 Birch Run Rd., Millington, MI 48746.

You don't need to call for reservations. Just send your check and I will send your ticket.

RESERVATION MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 21st. PLEASE DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.

If you have any questions, call Mary Warren at 989-871-2022 or 871-2360.

Mary C. Warren,
Secretary