

**CALHOUN COUNTY**  
**PROCEEDINGS OF THE**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

October 20, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 20, 2011 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, MI.

Chairman Kale called the meeting to order and requested the Deputy Clerk call the roll.

Present: Comrs. Behnke, Todd, Camp Seifke (arrived at 7:18), Frisbie, VanSickle and Kale

Excused: Comr. Haadsma

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox, Human Resources Director Kim Archambault and Deputy Clerk Chris McComb

2 and 3. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Comr. Kale made mention of the passing of Comr. Haadsma's mother, Florence Haadsma, and read her obituary. He stated that Board was thinking of Comr. Haadsma and he was in their prayers and they sent condolences.

A guest of Comr. Haadsma, Imam Hafiz Akbar of the Kalamazoo Islamic Center, led the invocation followed by Comr. Kale leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the agenda of the October 20, 2011 Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2011 Calhoun County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Nasim Ansari, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, invited the Board to the next Southwest Michigan Alliance for Region Three (SMART) Committee meeting on November 2 at the Kalamazoo County Airport.

Makaya Ortez, President of the Mayor's Youth Coalition of Albion, and several members attended to explain the Youth Coalition, consisting of youth 9<sup>th</sup> grade to college age who act as the voice of Albion youth to local government. She stated they are very active in community, work on several projects and try to make a difference for the future.

Comr. Kale recognized Albion Mayor Joe Domingo for his devotion to the youth of Albion. He also recognized Harry Bonner and Terry Langston of Substance Abuse Prevention Services in Albion.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

There were none.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Special Tribute to Joyce Spicer

WHEREAS, JOYCE SPICER joined the Albion Health Care Alliance in 2003 and is now the Executive Director, working to improve the health status of the community; and

WHEREAS, after majoring in Business Management at Kellogg Community College, Joyce has held many professional positions at various local companies including Corning Glass Works and Harvard Industries/Hayes-Albion; and

WHEREAS, JOYCE has served on numerous committees and boards in Calhoun County, including the Albion Public Schools Board of Education (20 years service), Substance Abuse Prevention Service (SAPS), Albion Community Foundation, Albion NAACP, Calhoun County Economic Development Corporation, Community Health Care Connection, Summit Pointe, Health Partnership Council of Advisors and many others; and,

WHEREAS, JOYCE founded Sisters Influencing Society, a group which mentors high school girls; and

WHEREAS, JOYCE has been recognized with such honors as the Athena Award, American Foundrymen's Chairman Award, Calhoun Area School Board Members Association Service Award, City of Albion Forks Award and is a Multicultural Hall of Fame member; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners and staff of Calhoun County appreciate the depth and breadth of knowledge, commitment to public service, and dedication, JOYCE SPICER has shown during the entire course of her career; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners wish to sincerely thank JOYCE SPICER for her years of community service and offer best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Comr. Kale read the proclamation into record. Ms. Spicer accepted the tribute and thanked the Board.

Res. 140-2011

"Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the special tribute to Joyce Spicer as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

B. National Business Women's Week

WHEREAS, working women constitute 72 million, or almost half, of the nation's workforce and strive to serve their communities, their states and their nation in professional, civic and cultural capacities; and

WHEREAS, women-owned businesses account for 30% percent of all U.S. business, generating \$1.9 trillion in sales and employing \$9.2 million people; and

WHEREAS, working women should be applauded for their contributions to the workplace and the financial stability of their families especially during the economic downturn when more women have become their family's breadwinner; and

WHEREAS, the major goal of Business and Professional Women's Foundation is to promote equity for all women and to help create better conditions for working women through the study and advocacy of social, educational and economic issues impacting women in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, since 1928, National Business Women's Week® has honored the contributions of working women and employers who support working women and their families.

WHEREAS, Albion Business & Professional Women's Club has supported Working Women since 1928.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim October 17 – 21, 2011 as:

*NATIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK®*

Comr. Kale read the proclamation into record. Carolyn Gilg and Mary Leonardson accepted for the Albion Business & Professional Women's Club.

Res. 141-2011

"Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 17-21, 2011 as National Business Women's Week in Calhoun County."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

C. Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute to Substance Abuse Council

WHEREAS, It is a distinct privilege to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Substance Abuse Council (SAC) and to commend all who have contributed to the success of this exemplary organization. From its modest beginning as an organization of concerned parents and students, SAC has become the leader in promoting a healthy Battle Creek, through the prevention and reduction of substance abuse. We offer our thanks to SAC on behalf of all who have benefited from its mission.

WHEREAS, The Substance Abuse Council has proven that caring, committed citizens can make a difference. In continuing the ambitious goals of its founders, SAC staff and volunteers have created a number of effective programs to battle substance abuse and have taken a leadership role in a broad range of community efforts. Indeed, the history of this fine organization is one of devotion and fortitude, encompassing long hours of research and advocacy regarding the development and adoption of best practice substance abuse education and cessation techniques.

WHEREAS, attaining the level of excellence reflected in the work of the Substance Abuse Council is attributed to a unity of purpose that brings together all the elements of a positive and compassionate environment. This unmatched success has allowed the SAC to serve as a facilitator for community wide collaboration in the battle against substance abuse.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Substance Abuse Council. May all who support its mission continue to attain success in serving Calhoun County far into the future.

Res. 142-2011

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve and accept into the record the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute to the Substance Abuse Council as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Joseph A. Campbell Co. IFT Revocation Notice
2. Notice of DNR Permit Application

B. Resolutions

Res. 143-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the October 20, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Todd stated the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee met and will be having a recycling bid from 2010 – 2014, currently with Republic. He stated they discussed doing business smarter and the possibility of purchasing a compactor for cardboard and have it hauled to get compensated for the material. He stated they were looking at more cost savings in the future.

Comr. VanSickle stated the Road Commissioner Selection Committee met. He stated they asked the Administrator/Controller and Corporation Counsel to sit in and help steer them on the legal direction to take and they will meet again to gather expectations and qualifications. He stated they would meet Tuesday, November 22 to interview candidates to be, then will continue the following Monday at 5:00 to accommodate those who couldn't make it to the earlier meetings. He stated November 29th would be the day they select their recommendation to the Board. He stated the schedule and all information would be posted on website as they go so the information is available to anyone who would like it.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Cognitive Interventions Agreement

Administrator/Controller Scott introduced the request from Community Corrections to renew the Cognitive Interventions Agreement for a fiscal year, coinciding with the State's fiscal year. She stated the fully funded program provided inmates group sessions and educational programs. She stated the

\$34,986 program could serve as an intervention that was educational for inmates and acceptance of the contract was recommended. She acknowledged Jerry Lambert, Community Corrections Manager, who was in attendance.

Res. 144-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Camp Seifke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the renewal of the contract Cognitive Interventions for a term of October 1, 2011 to September 20, 2012 as presented.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, 1 - Excused (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED

B. Local 9-1-1 Surcharge - Ballot Question

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the next item was prepared by Corporation Counsel on behalf of and at the recommendation of the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (CCDA), which is a separate governmental entity, and was a request for a surcharge issue to be placed on the August 2012 ballot for consideration by voters. She stated the initial five year plan called for the need to secure full funding for the dispatch center and this would put the surcharge on the ballot. She read ballot language and explained the lowest cost alternative was to put the issue on the August ballot. She stated this surcharge would fund the dispatch center for the period of July 1, 2013 - July 1, 2020, with monthly billings by providers to each service user on phone bills. She stated this is a County wide issue and the only way to get it on the ballot was to have the Board approve it. She stated if the surcharge is not approved by voters, the CCDA Governing Board would have to find alternative funding.

Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Center (CCDA) Director Troyer stated the recommendation was a result of many hours of work over the last year and a half. He stated the Governing Board of Directors began evaluating funding options immediately after the dispatch center opened in March 2010. He stated they began with 8 options and it narrowed down to 4. He stated they have held many forums for the public to voice their opinion on what funding option they would prefer. He stated they have worked diligently over the last year and a half and he highly encouraged the Board to consider.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the question was whether the Board supported the surcharge, but rather was being asked to put it on the ballot so the public can decide for themselves.

CCDA Director Troyer stated the only body who can authorize it for the ballot was the Board. He stated the CCDA was a separate legal entity.

Res. 145-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved that pursuant to MCL 484.1401b(1)(b), the ballot language approved by the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority in Resolution 2011-03, and incorporated by reference herein, be placed on the August 7, 2012 ballot for consideration by the voters.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated as a point of discussion that she believed the proper vote was no. She stated the CCDA has the authority to fund the \$3.7 million. She felt this was clearly a tax and her residents believed this was a primary service of government and should come out of their property tax dollars.

She stated she reviewed the tally sheet of the surveys and it was not conclusive. She stated she was comfortable voting no.

Comr. Behnke asked Comr. Camp Seifke when she mentioned this was a primary function of County government, where was she getting that information from.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated not County Government, but it was a primary function of government, coming out of property tax rather than a new tax given to residents or an increase in taxes.

On a roll call vote, Yes – 4, No – 2 (Camp Seifke, Todd), Excused – 1 (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED.

#### C. Land Bank – Administrative Services Agreement

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the next item was a one year administrative services agreement between the County and the Land Bank Authority, which is a separate entity. She stated the agreement is for administrative, purchasing and legal services and covers actual costs, as well as offering an additional \$5000 to offset indirect or additional administrative costs. She stated Corporation Counsel drafted this agreement and it was another one of the efficiencies created so services don't have to be found outside the county.

##### Res. 146-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the one year Administrative Services Agreement between Calhoun County and the Calhoun County Land Bank Authority.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED.

#### D. 2011 Apportionment Report

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the apportionment report, required by law to be taken up in October each year, came from Equalization and gave the authorization for placing property taxes on tax bills for tax authorities. She stated Equalization reviewed laws as opposed to what locals were proposing to ensure compliance with authorized millage limits. She stated Administration was recommending the Board approve as presented.

Deputy Equalization Director Hippensteel stated acceptance authorized locals to create tax bills. He stated there had been a revision to one Township then gave a brief description of the apportionment process. He stated there were approximately 50 taxing units, with the BOC being the final taxing unit. He stated the final report was subject to change after the November elections and if there were changes it would be amended and brought back.

##### Res. 147-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approves the 2011 Apportionment as presented with the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.36 requires each Township Clerk to submit to the County Clerk

on or before September 30 each year a statement which sets forth the amount of money to be raised in the Township by taxation; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.37 requires the County Board of Commissioners to hold an apportionment session and approve an Apportionment Report in October of each year; and

WHEREAS, at the annual apportionment session, the County Board of Commissioners must examine documents and records submitted to the Board that show the amount of money to be raised by ad valorem levies in each Township for school, highway, drain, Township, and all other purposes as authorized by law and authorize and require the correction of any defects or omissions with regard to those levies; and

WHEREAS, the action of the County Board of Commissioners concerning the spread of these levies is final, except in situations where a change is made to the equalization of the County through an equalization appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal; and

WHEREAS, the Apportionment Report approved by the County Board of Commissioners for 2011 will be the official authorization for approximately 50 taxing authorities within the County to levy property taxes in 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Equalization Department has prepared an Apportionment Report for consideration by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Apportionment Report, if approved, will provide final authorization for the levy of property taxes upon which taxing authorities depend to provide educational, health, economic development, public safety, and other services which are important to the well-being of the county's economy and Calhoun County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2011 Apportionment Report showing the millage levies apportioned to various taxing authorities in Calhoun County for the year 2011 is hereby approved in accordance with Michigan Compiled Law 211.37; and

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED

E. Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act of 2011

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the new Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act, or Public Act 152, was a law intended to limit the amount public employers were allowed to pay for employee health care. She stated there were three options but the default option was a “hard cap” limit under Section Three that would limit single coverage to \$5,500, double coverage to \$11,000 and family coverage to \$15,000. She stated that by a 2/3 vote of the Board, the County could opt out. She stated the other option was to choose the 80%/20% option, Section 4 of the act. She stated for this option, all of the County’s estimated insurance costs were added up then the County would pay 80% of that amount. She stated the remainder would be distributed to the employees however necessary. She stated for the past couple of years there has been a lot of strategy presented to limit the county's insurance costs and more than 1/3 of employees were paying well over the 20% so we were on our way to this type of strategy. Administrator/Controller Scott stated this accelerated savings, with an estimate

for implementing in 2012 at \$100,000. She stated the law would not apply to the 2/3 of our employees who have union contracts but when contracts are renewed they have to follow the limits. She stated the County tries to treat employees the same and this will create an internal inequity but they thought this was the right thing to do, given the circumstances. She stated Administration would like the board to approve the 80/20 option and open enrollment for insurance begins at the beginning of November so this needed to be put in place.

Comr. Frisbie inquired if the option choice was something that could be reviewed annually.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the options would need to be reviewed annually because as employees choose higher deductible plans, costs will go down and we may be able to choose a different option.

Res. 148-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts Section 4 of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act of 2011.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED.

F. September 2011 Financial Statements

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Financial Statements were showing we were on track with projections with the exception of monitoring expenses in the jail, where inmate medical costs were trending \$200,000 over budget and personnel costs were projected to exceed budget. She stated things should balance but they were watching expenses very closely to make sure we end with a balanced budget.

Comr. Kale inquired if the County was still expected to end the year with a fund balance of 9.78%.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that they were expected to make it within target but only because of revenues exceeding budget in certain areas including from the Firekeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board.

Res. 149-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept the September 2011 Financial Statements for informational purposes.

On a voice vote. Motion CARRIED.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Todd stated the Urban League Guild would be hosting the "Rise above the storm" gospel concert at 6:30 in WK Kellogg Auditorium, with tickets for \$15. He stated there would be a performance by L'Andria Johnson, winner of BET's "Sunday Best" singing competition show in Season 3. He stated doors open at 5:30 and tickets were available at the door.

Comr. Todd stated the NAACP Senior Branch Freedom Fund dinner would be at Battle Creek Country Club at 6pm on October 28, tickets were \$65.

Comr. Behnke thanked the 911 Committee for their work and challenged the municipalities that are currently funding dispatch to present a resolution to show how they will give the money back to their residents. He stated he feels strongly that unless there is action from the municipalities, this will fail and no one was in the mood to increase taxes. He stated he was being the check of reality they probably need for this ballot initiative.

#### 15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

##### Res. 150-2011

"Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Claims Payable Listing for September 30-October 13, 2011 in the amount of \$8,541,226.29."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 6, Excused – 1 (Haadsma). Motion CARRIED

#### 16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Todd wished a Happy Birthday to Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott.

Comr. Kale reminded everyone that National Take Back Day was October 29 and would be county wide. There will be a take back station at Walmart and Rite Aid in Battle Creek as well as the Forks Senior Center and Sheridan Township Hall where you can give back unused medications for proper disposal.

Comr. Kale wished Administrator/Controller Scott a Happy Milestone Birthday and presented her with a gift card.

Comr. Todd congratulated the Treasurer's Department Land Bank for meeting guidelines for Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 once again in October. He stated they were again within the boundaries set and were one of the only Counties in the state.

#### 17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman  
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

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Clerk  
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners