

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 3, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 3, 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 (arrived at 7:07), Todd, Haadsma, Camp Seifke, Frisbie, VanSickle and Kale

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

The Board held a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comr. VanSickle.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the agenda of the November 3, 2011 Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Camp Seifke to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2011 Calhoun County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. CITIZENS' TIME

There were none.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

Road Commissioner and Parks Trustee Chris Vreeland stated the Parks Board would be forwarding a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding salvaging trees from Kimball Pines that had been knocked down during the May storm. He stated the trustees had been deliberating between doing what they need to do to save money vs. doing what is best for the parks. He stated they will make a decision after they talk to the forester.

Mr. Vreeland commented on the changes to road funding brought up by Governor. He stated that roads could be built and maintained but funding needs to be there. He stated he had a list of links for the history of roads and it was on the Road Commission website. He stated there seemed to be questioning on if a Road Commission was necessary and the answer was that the functions were very necessary. Mr. Vreeland noted that his calculations on what could be saved if the Road Commission was absolved may approach \$40,000, which pales in comparison to the \$140,000 it takes to build a mile of road. He then stated gas tax revenues are going down and building roads cost money. He stated the Board of Commissioners already had the legal ability to increase accountability from the Road Commission.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Special Tribute to Lori Phillips

WHEREAS, LORI PHILLIPS is the Volunteer Coordinator and Regional Planner with Calhoun County's Emergency Management Division of the Office of Sheriff Allen Byam, which is overseen by Director Durk Dunham; and

WHEREAS, the Division's mission statement indicates that "the mission of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is to lessen the effects of a disaster, both natural and man-made"; and that "the Calhoun County Office of Emergency Management will coordinate and provide support to all agencies during the five phases of emergency management, including: Mitigation, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA) is dedicated to the promotion of health, safety, and the protection of lives and property by facilitating a coordinated response and recovery during emergencies and disasters throughout Michigan, with membership comprised of local and state emergency management professionals, state emergency response professionals, fire, law enforcement, public safety, representatives from private industry, and volunteer organizations; and

WHEREAS, LORI PHILLIPS was named Professional Emergency Manager of the Year by her peers at the Michigan Emergency Management Association's 2011 Fall Summit; and

WHEREAS, The Calhoun County Board of Commissioners appreciate the depth and breadth of knowledge, commitment to public service, and dedication Lori Phillips has shown to the people of Calhoun County, most recently exemplified through the key roles she played in planning and coordinating efforts in response to the July 2010 Enbridge oil spill and the May 2011 wind storms, both of which were declared local and state disasters impacting the safety, health and wellbeing of thousands of Calhoun County residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners wish to congratulate Lori Phillips for receiving a 2011 Professional Emergency Manager of the Year Award by the Michigan Emergency Management Association.

Res. 151-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the special tribute to Lori Phillips as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

Comrs. Camp Seifke and Frisbie presented the award to Ms. Phillips, who stated she is a very fortunate person. She stated she had 2 passions in her life, she had been a paramedic for over 25 years and emergency management support and she was fortunate enough to do them at the same time.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Van Buren County Resolution
2. State Disaster Contingency Fund Financial Assistance Award
3. Bedford Village Drain Day of Review of Apportionments

B. Resolutions

1. Battle Creek NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner Proclamation
2. Albion NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner Proclamation

Res. 152-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the November 3, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. Kale stated he attended a Michigan Association of Counties Transportation Meeting, where the big topic was House Bill 5125 and 5126. He stated he made the motion and there was a 9-2 vote in favor of counties having the option of taking over the duties of the Road Commission if they felt necessary.

Comr. Kale stated he attended a Southwest Michigan Area Region Three (SMART) meeting in Kalamazoo to discuss collaborative efforts. He stated there were 7 or 8 counties represented and they discussed a wide variety of topics.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Road Commissioner Selection Committee had received 8 applications and the deadline for submission was November 21. She stated the Committee would meet again on November 22 to narrow down the field for interviews.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated there was a meeting of the Legislative Liaisons Committee scheduled. She stated the four items of interest up for discussion would be the pending Road Commission bills, personal property tax proposals (the elimination of which would mean a \$3 million cut to our budget), proposed changes to the Uniform Budget and Accounting Act, and discussion of the addressing ordinance (to address the process to correct when roads are named inconsistently or incorrectly).

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the 2012 budget process was nearing completion. She reminded Commissioners that the County had started with a \$5 million deficit and then requested departments submit reductions to their budgets. She stated County Administration, with input from others, was working on structural changes to the county's operating budget that may offer more of a contingency against volatile revenue sources. She stated they were looking at defined benefit plans and there may be an opportunity for savings with Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS). She mentioned that PA152 required charging more to some employees for health insurance starting in 2012 and that would start with open enrollment next week. Scott stated Finance was looking at changes to the Purchasing Card system for efficiencies as well. She stated the budget deficit had been narrowed from \$5million to \$1million with one week left to wrap everything up. She stated staff needed to have a draft available on November 14 for the public hearing to be held on November 17 and the Commissioners would receive the draft before the public viewing. She stated was likely to be a handful of layoffs, some hours reductions and some areas were still looking at other options, such as furlough days. Scott stated there would be a Committee of the Whole meeting at 6pm on November 17, before the regular meeting. She mentioned some future agenda items may include Drug Court funding and the Michigan State University (MSU) Extension memo of understanding. She added the Parks Trustees would be bringing forth a proposal for harvesting trees from the storm out of Kimball Pines. She stated Administration was negotiating with 3 remaining union groups, they were working on finalizing the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) with the Emergency Management director and they were reviewing the purchasing policy.

A. Budget Adjustment to the Drain Fund

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Water Resources Commissioner was asking for a budget adjustment of \$765,000 to the Drain Fund. She stated the fiscal impact item was revised and resent, as well as a list for which drains were impacted. She stated the net impact to the General Fund was 0. She stated \$220,000 was detailed in a handout that listed expected expenses by drain; the adjustment also accounts for the \$420,000 balance to be carried over to the next fiscal year.

Water Resources Commissioner Cortright stated the drain list shows mostly maintenance projects as well as a couple petition projects. He stated the list of drains was what had to be borrowed on.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired how the \$420,000 was calculated.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated \$420,000 was the difference between revenue and what was spent and it would be carried over until next year.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired why Comr. Cortright was showing a spending plan of \$220,000 but borrowing \$765,000?

Comr. Cortright stated there were ongoing projects on the remaining \$420,000 would be rolled into next year.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated she felt the need to reiterate how much the Water Resources budget has grown over the last 2 years, as she believed it had tripled or quadrupled. She stated the Board of Commissioners had no control over how much is spent.

Res. 153-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the 2011 Budget Adjustments to the Drain Fund.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 3 (Todd, VanSickle, Kale), No - 4 (Haadsma, Frisbie, Camp Seifke, Behnke).
Motion FAILED

B. Employee Benefits Policy #340

Administrator/Controller Scott stated Administration had been trying to clean up policies and the next two items were a continuation of that process.

HR Director Archambault stated this policy applies to non-union employees, department heads and elected officials. She reviewed the changes made in the policy, such as removing compensation language that belongs in Policy #310 instead, changing language to comply with PA152, changing language to allow department heads to reduce hours on a temporary basis without a loss of benefits, removing layoff language and rewording to mirror union contracts to be consistent with the rest of the organization.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the changes to the benefits policy would result in structural budget savings, mostly due to reducing the county's share of employee health care costs in compliance with PA152.

Res. 154-2011

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the revised Employee Benefits Policy #340."

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

C. Employee Classification and Compensation Revision Policy #310

HR Director Archambault reviewed the proposed changes to the policy such as adding legal language to protect the county as things are used in practice, rewording the section on job classification to clean up the language, incorporating the wage and salary information from the benefits policy, removing the reference to five steps in the pay scale, updating the direct deposit information and removing the performance appraisal section.

Comr. Camp Seifke confirmed the five steps have been eliminated and that would be addressed through budgeting process but inquired if there was comparison between the non-union and union process, would they be consistent.

HR Director Archambault stated the unions negotiate their compensation each year. She stated this will allow for more flexibility in determining wages.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated Administration was not proposing to eliminate the 5 step pay scale; they just didn't want to be locked in to a process and not have the flexibility to make changes.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired if there was a timeline to develop a new performance appraisal process if the current process was eliminated.

HR Director Archambault stated she would like to bring a system to the whole county and it would take a while to develop.

Comr. Kale stated it was not just about appraisals, but that you need to start with the job description and work out and there are many different jobs in the county so developing a process could take a long time.

Comr. Frisbie agreed that developing a new process would be a huge undertaking but stated he heard commitment to keep moving forward.

Res. 155-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby the revised Employee Classification and Compensation Policy #310.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

There was none.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Frisbie clarified some information from the discussion during the 911 ballot vote and brought forward numbers for input. He stated he was not sure it was clear but there was substantial support, in that 56% of input received from governmental units and 41% from residents was supportive of the surcharge funding option. He stated the feedback received was overwhelmingly in favor of the device surcharge after more than 20 meetings with governmental units and the public throughout the County.

Comr. Frisbie stated he was excited about House Bills 5125 and 5126 and believed it gave local entities choices and they needed to act responsibly in moving forward.

Comr. Frisbie stated he would have supported the drain budget amendment if there had been documentation to support the whole amount.

Comr. Frisbie stated Pennfield, Harper Creek and Union City were all moving forward in district football and he wished them luck.

Comr. Todd thanked everyone who came to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Freedom Fund Banquet and thanked Comr. Camp Seifke for reading the proclamation.

Comr. Todd congratulated the local football teams and wished them good luck in their playoff journeys.

Comr. Haadsma stated he would have supported Agenda Item 12A but didn't because there was absence of data to explain why the Water Resources Commissioner was borrowing \$765,000 when only \$220,000 was allocated for this year. He stated he couldn't support it but it might be appropriate to resubmit with the proper documentation.

Comr. Kale reminded everyone to change turn their clocks back Saturday and to check the batteries in clocks and in smoke detectors.

Comr. Kale stated he went on a military tour and got to shoot in a simulator.

Comr. Kale stated he attended the NAACP dinner in Albion and they had a great speaker.

Comr. Kale commented on House Bill 5125 and 5126 and said we would be remiss if we did not evaluate all options available. He stated everyone owed it to their constituents to at least look at it.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res. 156-2011

“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 October 14-27, 2011 in the amount of \$3,986,952.78.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 7. Motion CARRIED

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

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

Clerk
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners