

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 1, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 1, 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, 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 Invocation was presented by Pastor Len Schoenherr of Marshall United Methodist Church followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Comr. Haadsma.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the agenda of the December 1, 2011 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Regular Session

"Moved Comr. Behnke, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2011 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

B. Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2011 Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Chuck Asher, 961 Glencroft Lane in Battle Creek, stated he had helped on senior millage renewals and hosted celebration parties. He stated millages are traditionally easy to renew because everyone is for supporting our senior citizens. He claimed he was not in favor of the component of outsourcing jobs to Kalamazoo County and he believed money going to other counties could make it harder to pass millages. He stated he worked for Community Action in the best job of senior transportation. Asher stated there was a relationship between the dispatchers and the clients, and the drivers played a vital role in that too. He stated when you deliver services to seniors, it was all about the relationships and their clients spoke highly of their dispatchers. He stated he wished the Board would reconsider taking services away from Community Action.

A citizen stated he wanted to respond to why there weren't any public comments at the last meeting. He claimed people had been belittled by the previous Board members and no one would answer people when they talked. He stated no one wanted to come and speak when no one would answer the questions.

George Gray, 111 Academy, stated he worked for Community Action and he asked the Board to take another look at the vote. He stated the dispatcher did a good job and some seniors didn't have anyone to talk to other than the dispatcher. He believed Community Action was more compassionate with the seniors and asked the Board to take another look at the vote.

Michelle Williamson, works at Community Action and lives at 147 Potters Court in Battle Creek, stated her grandmother used the meal service and transportation provided by Community Action so she had a long history with them and they had been very important to her. She believed the recommendation the Senior Allocation Committee made was not the most effective and she asked that the Board reconsider. She stated Community Action's dispatch is service oriented and people are more important than technology. She claimed the Community Action dispatchers interacted with clients to a degree that they helped forward information to the drivers. Williamson felt technology didn't allow for the best client needs and the little things that were allowed through the dispatch program were things they took great pride in. She stated the senior millage was supposed to help the seniors get the best service and that was what Community Action provided. She stated with the changes one organization was directing another's employees and she believed these policies overlapping would cause problems. She stated the dispatchers knew the clients and because of that personal knowledge, they could make reference to other programs. She stated she knew change was hard no matter whom it was, but she wasn't sure this change was worth it. She asked the Board to vote to award all of the services to Community Action.

Melinda Weaver, 20112 Partello Road, Marshall, stated she was one of the first people to start dispatching at LifeCare. She stated it was difficult because the drivers didn't work with you. She stated at Community Action the drivers go above and beyond to meet the senior's needs. She stated the Community Action dispatchers were good with the seniors and they needed the dispatchers to help them. She claimed the drivers and dispatchers worked together to help the seniors. She stated she would like the Board to look at what was best for the seniors and not the money.

Jacqueline Dehaan, 48 North Union, Battle Creek and the outgoing CEO at Guardian Finance Services, thanked the Board for the ongoing support of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee. She stated she appreciated how hard it was to make the hard decision and how hard everyone rises. She stated they had seen an incredible rise in the vulnerability of the seniors they take care of and the number of people willing to take advantage of them and she appreciated the Board taking these steps.

Sheryl Grimes, 346 Lyon Lake Road, stated as a taxpayer in Calhoun County, she was concerned her tax dollars were going to Kalamazoo County. She stated she worked for Community Action supervising drivers and she watched the relationship the drivers had developed with seniors. She stated the seniors called and told her how much they appreciated and trusted the drivers. She claimed the seniors were very leery of strangers and the proposed changes could cause a lot of fear. She asked Board to reconsider.

Amanda Schmidt, 1273 Arms, Marshall, stated as a Calhoun County taxpayer, she was not in support of the proposed changes. She stated as an employee of Community Action, that they have 12 years of experience and in the current economic climate they were exceeding their contract expectations. She stated the rate they offered was only a reference point, the maximum they were allowed to be reimbursed. She claimed they used the remainder to provide additional meals. She stated Community Action not only exceeded in numbers but also in loyalty and compassion. She stated seniors are resistant to change and no one could assign a monetary value to the relationships Community Action employees had with the seniors. Schmidt relayed survey information regarding what Community Action had provided and what was contracted, stating they had exceeded expectations. She claimed they knew they were doing a great job when the senior can answer their door and accept the meal.

Paul Dogan, 1270 Arms, stated his wife was a Community Action employee and was too emotional to speak so he read her letter. He stated she had been employed with Community Action for 8 years and a dispatcher for 3 years. He stated she believed they had made a difference and they tried to provide compassionate service. He read that she claimed that in many cases, the dispatcher may be the only person to talk to them on any given day so the dispatchers listened and tried to change schedules to help when the seniors needed it. He stated she believed Community Action provided a delicate human touch that was critical and she didn't understand why there was a proposal to shake up the lives of our most vulnerable people. He read her claim that with the experience she had she could tell the change would be very difficult for the seniors to accept. He stated she asked the Board not to vote for the change, not just for her and their jobs, but for our seniors. He stated his wife came home every day and told stories about the elderly people she had helped.

Nancy McFarlane, 104 Lakewood, Battle Creek and CEO of Community Action, thanked all of Community Action employees. She stated you could feel their compassion and what they did for the seniors was with love and compassion. She stated she was once on a committee that did the same thing the Senior Millage Allocation Committee did, reviewed the information then made recommendations to the full Board, who had the option of going with another choice. She stated that ultimately it was the Board's responsibility to do due diligence. She stated she preferred her tax dollars be spent in Calhoun County. She claimed that on October 28, after the Senior Millage Allocation Committee reviewed the bids and she read the email from Carl (Gibson) she believed she was entering into contract negotiations. She stated she and her staff reviewed and matched the bid. She then reiterated that the people who work for Community Action do more; they cared and treated the seniors with dignity and respect. She asked the Board to award the bids to Community Action.

Karla Fales, CEO of the Area Agency on Aging, stated they provide transportation and meals for area seniors. She thanked the Board for the work they had done. She stated she had competing bids before, it was difficult and while it was always about the people, right now it had to be about the money as well because money for programs would continue to decrease. She stated that as a secondary transportation provider, they supported a secondary dispatch agent and more efficiency in dispatching technology. She stated drivers spend a lot of time on the road and they have to be more efficient. She stated everyone was concerned about the possibility of cuts. Fales stated the Area Agency on Aging offers a benefits counseling programs that is one of the highest rated in the state and the funding from the Senior Millage helps them. She stated all providers had a passion for the seniors but they didn't have the capacity to ignore funding. She applauded and encouraged the Board for making the hard decisions.

David Carroll, Director of Food Services for Senior Services of Southwestern Michigan, stated Senior Services came to Battle Creek to provide meals for Burnham Brook and were encouraged by the community to bid for the Senior Millage Allocation contract. He stated they had a high quality product and were unique because they cooked from scratch and provided high nutrition. He stated they also offered savings to the community. He stated they had a commitment to high quality meals and to their staff. Carroll stated he doubted very seriously any of the money would go back to Kalamazoo County, as Senior Services Inc. contract would cover a full staff at Burnham Brook. He stated their history in Battle Creek went back 13 years, as a Medicaid waiver agent and their senior volunteer program recruits volunteers at the Veterans Hospital in Calhoun County. He stated they had recently received approval from the Federal Government to provide a small stipend to volunteers for mileage. He claimed they had many Calhoun County connections, the kitchen staff at Burnham Brook would be recruited from the Battle Creek area, and they would be recruiting up to 100 volunteers in Calhoun County. He stated they would also offer health and wellness programs at Burnham Brook.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

There were none.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Holiday Season Impaired Driving Prevention Resolution

Res. 160-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Frisbie to approve the Holiday Season Impaired Driving Prevention Resolution as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

The resolution was read into the record by Comr. Todd.

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol (with at least one driver with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter or above) accounted for 32% of all motor vehicle traffic fatalities in 2009 (killing 10,839 people) and injure hundreds of thousands more every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the mid' December through New Year's holiday season is traditionally one of the most deadly times of the year for alcohol-impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, based on the current rates, three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol related crash at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, organizations across the nation are joining together to promote the "*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*" national public awareness campaign and law enforcement initiatives during the December 16, 2011 to January 2, 2012 time period;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim December 16, 2011 to January 2, 2012 as "Holiday Season Impaired Driving Prevention" in Calhoun. We call upon all citizens, government agencies, business leaders, hospitals and health care providers, schools, and public and private institutions to promote awareness of the impaired driving problem, to promote safer and healthier behaviors regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs, and to promote the awareness campaign this holiday season and throughout the year.

Pat Karr of Battle Creek Area Transit accepted the resolution and stated the title of the resolution had changed the title but it still constituted the same message, asking residents to be very careful when driving. She thanked the Board for their support.

C. Resolution of Support for House Bills 5125 and 5126

Res. 161-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the resolution in support of House Bills 5125 and 5126 as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

Comr. Headsman stated this merely gives the Board the option to decide what to do; it doesn't dissolve the Road Commission.

Comr. Frisbie read the resolution into the record.

WHEREAS the roads and bridges of Calhoun County are an essential part of its infrastructure, affecting our County’s ability to attract and retain businesses and investments that provide jobs and a solid tax base for the operation of County and local governments and which impact our citizens each and every day as they travel over them; and

WHEREAS the roads and bridges in Calhoun County have suffered from a lack of maintenance and lack of funds available for repair and refurbishment; and

WHEREAS the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners role is limited by current law to appointing and removing members of the Road Commission and the Board of Commissioners has no day to day oversight relative to the Calhoun County Road Commission; and

WHEREAS these two bills would allow the Board of Commissioners the *option* to dissolve the Calhoun County Road Commission by majority vote and allow the Board of Commissioners to assume the powers and duties of the Road Commission; and

WHEREAS HB 5125 and HB 5126 have been introduced with bi-partisan support and in regard to which Speaker of the House, Jase Bolger stated:

“These bills will empower elected county officials to a make the best decisions for their constituents regarding local roads. This is not a mandate from the state nor is it going to impact road dollars flowing to the counties. It is a prudent step designed to help improve efficiency in transportation work if needed at the local level” and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties supports this legislation as it provides for local control and choice relative to road issues; and

WHEREAS the change in structure would allow and encourage the investigation, review, and possible adoption of new and innovative ways of managing the road and bridge infrastructure in Calhoun County;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners, supports the passage of HB 5125 and 5126 and urges the Legislature and Governor Rick Snyder to take immediate legislative action to enact these bills into law and directs the Deputy Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the offices of Governor Rick Snyder, Senator Mike Nofs, Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, and Representative Kate Segal.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Letter of Interest for the Michigan GIS Sub-Grant Program of the ENHANCE 911 Act Grant

B. Resolutions

Res. 162-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. Haadsma to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Consent Agenda of the December 1, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. VanSickle stated the Road Commissioner Selection Committee had completed their work, thanked and announced the other members of the committee, fellow Commissioner Steve Frisbie, Athens Township Supervisor Steve Irons, Lee Township Supervisor Art Farmer, and Homer Township Supervisor Todd Wildt. He stated the committee was recommending Doug Wildt, Paul Egnatuck and Charles Monaweck to the Board of Commissioners. He stated Chair Kale would present his appointment, subject to Board approval, at the next meeting and their 6 year term will begin January 1, 2012. Comr. VanSickle stated 16 people applied, the committee narrowed it to 10 interviews, and then deliberated to reach a unanimous decision. He thanked the candidates for taking the time to apply and the committee members for their hard work.

Comr. Frisbie stated the 911 Committee (Consolidated Dispatch Governing Board) voted to pay off a construction loan of \$530,000 early to the City of Battle Creek. He stated it reduced the operating budget so they would seek a cut in the General Fund. He stated they continued to drive down costs.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. 2011 Equalization Apportionment Revision

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the first item was the revised apportionment report coming from the Equalization Director and Deputy Director. She reminded the Board they had approved the report in October and it was the official authorization to levy property taxes. She stated Pennfield Township passed a fire and police protection millage in the November 8 election and they wanted it to take effect on the winter tax role, which required the Board to approve the revision.

Res. 163-2011

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the revised 2011 Equalization Apportionment Report as presented."

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

B. Senior Millage Allocation Committee Funding Recommendations for FY 2012

Administrator/Controller Scott point out that attached to agenda is a memo from the Office of Senior Services noting the recommendation should be handled in two parts because Comr. Frisbie had indicated a conflict of interest with the portion of the contract related to LifeCare. She stated the recommendations were submitted in two parts so he was able to abstain from that part of the contract and vote on the remainder. She stated this was for all of the contracts that expire 12/31, the total was \$501, 291 and was supported by the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and Administration, in the capacity of assuring the bid was in compliance with a competitive process and purchasing policy.

Assistant County Administrator Wilcox stated he serves on the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and worked with Corporation Counsel to be sure policies were followed. He stated they received sealed competitive bids, upon bid opening they were checked to be sure they were compliant, and then forwarded. He stated this was the almost same process as was used the last several years. He stated this process is slightly different because they had 30 proposals to evaluate when normally there are 5 or 6 and normally there was only one award per contract, not several. He stated the agencies were competing for funding on different levels and for different goals. Wilcox explained there was a subcommittee selected by the Senior Millage Allocation Committee to review the proposals. He stated the subcommittee then split up the categories for review then shared and discussed. He gave credit to committee for their commitment to seniors. He stated they then forwarded their recommendation to the full Senior Millage Allocation Committee, who agreed. He stated that per procedure, appeals were offered and Community Action appealed to the full committee on two. He stated the full committee again met and decided to submit a request for information to both Senior Services, Inc and Community Action using the specific points they thought were of value raised by Community Action. He stated the subcommittee evaluated the information and further submitted the recommendation.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated it was a sealed bid process and there wasn't supposed to be an opportunity to rebid. She asked Wilcox to confirm there were many objectives considered and it wasn't just about the money.

Wilcox stated all bids are sealed by policy and though information is allowed by the Freedom of Information Act, purchasing does not normally share competitive information, and they do not consider that when making their decisions. He stated the policy was intended to give each vendor an equal opportunity so when Senior Services, Inc was asked to come in to further discuss information, they were required to invite Community Action to come in as well. He stated repricing is normally only allowed if there are changes in the services.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the discussion was focused on only the two contracts being recommended for different vendors but there are 15 other organizations that should also be recognized as being offered funding and will still offer similar levels of services.

Calhoun County Senior Services Manager Gibson stated 75% of the requests were for the same amount as requested in the past. He stated for the last couple years all of the bidders know the funds are limited so they don't ask for more from year to year. He commented that Community Action was given what they requested, other than in the case of the meals and transportation, as they have in the past. He pointed out that Community Action had also received increases in the past as well. Gibson introduced members of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and stated they did not feel they were making significant changes; they were trying to be more effective but still looking at expenses. He stated Calhoun County Senior Services was extending \$99,000 of their fund balance to keep the same level of service for one more year.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired why the dispatch and transportation services contracts were being recommended to be different agencies.

Senior Services Manager Gibson stated there needed to be an upgrade in technology to provide better control of delivery times. He stated it was not an impersonal process, it still relies on human interaction, and they had looked at the price and quality of services as well. He commented he had heard some concern that the dispatchers from LifeCare wouldn't be as "senior friendly" but they were already providing dispatching for seniors and 211. He stated 75-90% of the LifeCare's ambulance rides are for seniors so he didn't believe there was a question on their ability or customer friendliness.

Assistant Administrator Wilcox stated there were minimum service standards and the preferred method was to have dispatching separate from the service provider.

Senior Services Manager Gibson pointed out that Community Action currently dispatches for the Area Agency on Aging so they would be in the same situation with LifeCare. He stated other transportation providers may come into play as well.

Comr. Camp Seifke made a motion to separate for consideration two line items, the first being Community Action's congregate and home delivered meals and the Senior Services, Inc line item for home delivered meals to facilitate prompt passage and implementation of the rest of the recommendation.

There was no support for this motion and thus Motion FAILED.

Comr. Camp Seifke asked Wilcox to explain how the implementation of the changes would go forward. She stated Wilcox had commented it was not normal to have two vendors and it would be difficult and the details needed to be smoothed out. She stated the implementation was very different and very awkward and she didn't feel it was feasible.

Assistant Administrator Wilcox stated the tentative plan discussed was to transfer 60 seniors to the new services in the first 6 months, 90 in the next 6 months and 90 in the next 6 months so they would be phased in. He stated that was the reason they had asked Senior Services, Inc. to come in, because they wanted to be sure they had the best transition plan possible. He believed they had worked out a flexible and feasible implementation. He stated they had thought about splitting the congregate and home delivered meals but there was no efficient way to do that. He stated the only way to really make this work would be a coordinated effort to meet the needs of seniors. He stated he ran the numbers with the subcommittee and made sure everyone knew what they were recommending; the full Senior Millage Allocation Committee heard the recommendation and everyone felt it met the needs of the seniors. He commented that the Area Agency on Aging still did a significant amount of business with Community Action. He stated there may have to be a unique implementation but he believed that when talking about what would be best for the seniors, everyone can come up with good ideas.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that what was being asked of the Board was to approve the allocation of the funding and that the terms and implementation of the contract were in the very capable hands of Corporation Counsel, the Senior Millage Allocation Committee and Senior Services Manager Gibson. She stated they felt there was a very workable plan to take care of the seniors but the allocation of the funding was the focus of their approval.

Comr. Kale stated it was very obvious the people from Community Action were very passionate for what they did. He stated the purchasing process was a bid system and Senior Services, Inc. came in with a lower price and expected service levels. He stated he didn't like the fact that a day after a FOIA request, there was a pricing adjustment from Community Action. He commented that it may be legal but he didn't think it was fair. He stated that Senior Services, Inc. had been around for 40 years so they were doing something right. He stated they came in with an efficient, cost attractive price and he was disappointed that their prices were met after a Freedom of Information Act request. Comr. Kale noted the Senior Millage Allocation Committee was very passionate about what they do and the seniors too but they also knew they needed to care about the finances. He thanked them for their time and effort and stated he had all the confidence in the world in them and he believed the Purchasing Department did their work smart and efficiently. He was assuming that some time down the road it would go out for bid again. He stated he hoped there would be a lot of cooperation to make this as easy as possible for the seniors and the transition would be smooth.

Comr. Camp Seifke thanked the Senior Millage Allocation Committee for their time, knowledge and passion. She believed the County should remain consistent of being supportive to more than one vendor, supportive of public and private business coordinating services when possible. She stated she didn't differ with the finances but believed there should be a chance for Community Action to improve their services and she differed with the idea that there was a phase out and accepts many of the other variations. She stated she didn't know why there was negativity about the price adjustment and Community Action was on the same par with Senior Services, Inc. redefining the service area.

Res. 164-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt for approval the following Recommendation #1 totaling \$2,451,711 for January 1 through December 31, 2012, for funding of senior services in Calhoun County and authorize the preparation of contracts and/or amendments to contracts, as appropriate, for the Board Chair’s signature totaling \$2,451,711 for the bidders.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5 (Todd, Frisbie, VanSickle, Kale, Behnke), No – 2 (Haadsma, Camp Seifke). Motion CARRIED.

Comr. Frisbie announced he had a conflict of interest and would not be participating in the vote.

Res. 165-2011

“Moved Comr. Behnke, supported Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt for approval the Recommendation #2 of \$49,580 for Lifecare Ambulance for January 1 through December 31, 2012, for funding of senior services in Calhoun County and authorize the preparation of a contract and amendments for the Board Chair’s signature totaling \$49,580.”

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5 (Camp Seifke, VanSickle, Kale, Behnke, Todd), No – 1 (Haadsma), Abstain – 1 (Frisbie). Motion CARRIED.

C. Kalamazoo and Calhoun County Household Hazardous Waste Agreement

Administrator/Controller Scott stated Item 12C was the renewal of contract from Kalamazoo County for disposal of household hazardous waste. She stated the agreement was a collaborative effort with Kalamazoo County. Calhoun County will provide a maximum of \$6000 per year, depending on volume, to Kalamazoo County for services at the Household Hazardous Waste Center.

Res. 166-2011

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the agreement between Kalamazoo County by and through its Health and Community Services Department and the Calhoun County Board of Public Works by and through its Solid Waste Department for household hazardous waste disposal as presented.”

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

D. Drop Off Recycling Contract with Republic Services

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this was a 3 year contract renewal and Republic Services was the incumbent.

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the contract with Republic Waste to provide drop off recycling services from 2012 – 2014 as presented.”

Comr. Frisbie inquired if the County Purchasing Department was involved in this bid to which Assistant Administrator Wilcox replied no.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Road Commission, as a separate entity, had their own purchasing policy.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired what services were provided for the townships.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the drop off container was at the Road Commission and was open to the public to drop their recycling off.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated there had been a recycling container delivered to Athens and it had been provided by the Road Commission. She inquired if this was part of this contract and if that was what would be voted on.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated she was unsure if the delivery service was provided for in this contract.

Comr. Frisbie stated he had concerns and agreed with Comr. Camp Seifke, the Board should have more information to make a good decision.

Comr. Haadsma inquired if Republic Services was located in Calhoun County and did they have service in Calhoun County. Wilcox noted Republic Services owned C&C Landfill in Convis Township.

Res. 167-2011

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported by Comr. Frisbie to table item 12.D. until the December 15, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting to allow staff to gather more information regarding the Republic Services drop off recycling contract from the Road Commission.

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

E. 2012 Blue Cross Blue Shield Schedule A Renewal

Administrator/Controller Scott stated this item was the renewal schedule with Blue Cross Blue Shield and it outlined the cost to administer claims for employee health insurance. She stated there was an administrative fee then another for stop loss premium, on a per employee basis. She stated the budgetary impact describes a \$90,000 increase, but we would pay them over \$800,000 in total for the year for claims administration and the stop loss premium. She stated there is a master contract but we renew the Schedule A each year, and this contract was for the 2012 fiscal year.

Res. 168-2011

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the 2012 Schedule A of the BCBS Administrative Services Contract for January – December 2012.”

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

F. 2012 County Budget Adoption

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the budget had been discussed in the Committee of the Whole meeting with the Board. She thanked the Budget Committee for their hard work and acknowledged they had to make difficult decisions. She believed the County was positioned well going into the future, and though we will face structural deficits in the future, we are more in line with the revenue reductions we may see in the future. She recognized the hard work of Financial Analyst Pam Kline, the Executive Committee and the hard work and decisions made by the Judges and Elected Officials, including Jeff Albaugh and Sheriff Al Byam, who attended the meeting.

Chair Kale read the resolution into the record.

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act for Local Government, MCLA 141.121, et seq., require that each unit of local government adopt a balanced budget for all required funds; and

WHEREAS, the Calhoun County Budget Committee and Board of Commissioners ("Board") have reviewed the 2012 Administrator/Controller Recommended-FINAL budget and budget requests for 2012 from the various departments, agencies, offices and activities, including the courts, which by law the Board must finance or assist in financing; and

WHEREAS, the Board has taken into consideration the fact that there are certain required functions of County Government or operations which must be budgeted at a serviceable level in order to provide statutorily and constitutionally required services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined the maximum authorized 2012 millage rate and estimates the property tax revenue generated to be as follows:

General Operating 5.3779 mills \$17,488,491
Medical Care Facility .2482 mills \$ 835,578
Senior Services .7452 mills \$ 2,576,861; and

WHEREAS, the Board shall order that money raised by taxation, within statutory and charter limitations, to be paid into the funds of the local unit; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the 2012 Administrator/Controller Recommended-FINAL Budget and believes the same to contain funds sufficient to finance all mandatory County-funded services at or beyond a serviceable level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2012 Calhoun County Budget, dated December 1, 2011 and as set forth in the attached documents, is hereby adopted on an account group level for the General Fund, Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Projects Fund, subject to all County policies regarding the expenditure of funds and the conditions set forth in this Resolution. The County Administrator/Controller shall monitor each fund on an activity and an account group basis and also provide appropriate interim financial reports.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #1 that no budget transfer to or from personnel services, fringe benefits, supplies, other services and charges, or capital outlay account groups shall occur unless in accordance with the Board Policy #275 and/or the 2012 Courts' Budget Operations Policies, and only after approval by the County Administrator/Controller; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #2 that any increase in wages or salaries, above those set forth in the salary wage schedule, or a newly created position, shall only be made according to the 2012 Courts' Budget Operations Policies or by resolution or motion of the Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #3 that it is the responsibility of every Department Head/Elected Official to ensure that spending within each account group within each business unit does not exceed the amount appropriated. In turn, the County Administrator/Controller will oversee this operation and will expect to be informed by the Department Head/Elected Official of any anticipated budget variances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #4 that unspent balances of previously authorized capital improvements or construction projects not completed by 12/31/2011 are hereby re-appropriated for 2012. Any such carry-forwards will be presented to the Board of Commissioners as an informational item at a future meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #5 that all Judges, County Elected Officials and County Department Heads shall abide by the Purchasing and Budget Policies, as adopted and amended from time to time by this Board, for all purchases made with funds appropriated by the Board of Commissioners and that these budgeted funds are appropriated contingent upon compliance with the Purchasing and Budget Policies, and the County Clerk shall not be authorized to make payment of any claims not in compliance with such Purchasing Policies and monies so budgeted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #6 that the attached Fee Schedule (Exhibit A) is hereby established to be effective as noted;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #7 that the attached Position Allocation schedule (Exhibit B) is hereby established to be effective as noted, and/or according to the 2012 Courts' Budget Operations Policies, and shall limit the number of employees who can be employed and no funds are appropriated for any positions not on said schedule; further, that certain positions on said schedule which are supported in whole or in part by a grant, cost sharing or other source of outside funding, are only approved contingent upon the County receiving the budgeted revenues and, if not received shall be considered eliminated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #8 that this budget includes wage increases of 1% for 2012 for Court non-union employees, (according to 2012 Court Non-Union compensation Directive), a 1% increase to the current pay scales for County non-union employees, but employees will continue to be paid according to the pay scale (excluding Elected Officials and their Deputies), and estimated pay rates for employee groups with contracts that have not been settled as of December 1, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #9 to set the Board of Commissioners total annual salaries for 2012 as follows:

Chairperson of the Board: \$10,928.30 + \$2,614.00 additional = \$13,542.30

Vice Chairperson: \$10,928.30 + \$871.00 additional = \$11,799.30

Other Commissioners : \$10,928.30 ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #10 to state that Board of Commissioners who served during the term of office beginning January 1, 2009 at 12:00 noon to 11:59 a.m. on January 1, 2011, are eligible to participate in benefit elections, for the completion of the elected term commencing January 1, 2011 at 12:00 noon and ending on January 1, 2013 at 11:59 a.m., in the employees' health, dental, vision, life insurance and retirement plans under the same provisions as other elected officials, including any premium co-pay requirement. Calhoun County Commissioners who were first elected for a term of office beginning on or after 12:00 noon on January 1, 2011 are not eligible to participate in said benefit plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #11 to set the Elected Officials (excluding Judges and Board of Commissioners) annual salaries for 2012 as follows:

Prosecuting Attorney: \$102,059.13

Sheriff: \$ 88,332.23

Treasurer: \$ 74,546.37

Clerk/Register of Deeds: \$ 74,546.37

Water Resources Commissioner: \$ 62,562.94; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #12 that all Judges, County Elected Officials and County Department Heads will hold any position vacancy that occurs during 2012 fiscal year open for the appropriate duration of time to properly compensate for vacation and/or sick payouts in order to ensure budgetary savings are achieved, provided that the Judges and Elected Officials can still perform their mandated functions at a serviceable level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED #13 that unless otherwise directed by the Board of Commissioners, the Administrator/Controller is authorized to make reductions in any department each time a substantial reduction is made or shortfall occurs in Federal, State or local funds. The affected Judge, Elected Official or Department Head shall submit a reduction plan to the Administrator/Controller within fourteen (14) days of receiving notice or learning of the need for such reductions, with the plan to include the expected impact on staff and on services to the public.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the Comrs. didn't take a pay increase and only Comrs. Camp Seifke, Todd and Haadsma were eligible for benefits.

Res. 169-2011

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby adopt the 2012 General Appropriations Resolution and the 2012 Calhoun County Budget as presented.”

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

Comr. Frisbie stated the Budget Committee talked in length about what was included in the resolution and the reaction to decreasing revenues needs to be swift because it affects our overall budget. He stated they believed concerns were addressed with the resolution.

Comr. Todd commented he was glad Comr. Frisbie pointed out that elected officials were dedicated to what they do, because looking through the list of elected officials’ salaries and there was a lot of money for someone who didn’t return phone calls.

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

A resident thanked the Board for allowing him to speak from his seat, as he is uncomfortable speaking in front of everyone.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Haadsma commented that he appreciated the last paragraph in the budget resolution because it gives the flexibility required to manage revenues and expenses.

Comr. Frisbie stated they would be remiss not to say that this budget did not affect people. He stated it made decisions even tougher when people were affected.

Comr. Kale stated the budget decisions were very tough and they didn't just sit in there and talk about numbers. He stated there was a real concern about the impact on people. He stated it was tough but the numbers dictated what they had to do. He told a story of when he was first in a position of leadership, he was told it wasn’t just the employees on the floor that he supervisors, but rather he had families relying on him and that stuck with him.

Comr. Todd stated we are in tough times; he thanked the folks at Senior Services for their integrity and thanked Community Action for their passion. He claimed he had to seek the Lord for what direction to take in the vote for the senior allocation. He stated he was glad the folks from Senior Services of Southwest Michigan spoke. He stated it was really about relationships in everything you do and just like in personal finances, a company should be willing to make the sacrifice to provide the same quality service and come in at a competitive price. He thanked the Senior Millage Allocation Committee for their time and tough decision. He stated for him the deciding factor was cost and the integrity of service.

Comr. Kale asked Sheriff Byam about the upcoming Food Bank of Southwest Michigan Celebrity Server Event on December 7. The Sheriff stated they would offer a good meal at the Battle Creek Country Club and he would be on hand to serve everyone.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res. 170-2011

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Claims Payable Listing for November 11 – 23, 2011 in the amount of \$1,151,721.82.”

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

17. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Res. 170-2011

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. Camp Seifke to retire to closed session for labor negotiations with the appropriate staff.”

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

18. APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LABOR COUNCIL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Res. 171-2011

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported Comr. Behnke to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the collective bargaining agreement with the Government Employees Labor Council for the period of January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

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

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

cam

Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Clerk
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners