

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

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, February 2, 2012 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. Todd, Haadsma, Camp Seifke, Frisbie, VanSickle and Kale

Staff Present: Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, Assistant County Administrator Brad Wilcox Corporation Counsel Richard Lindsey, 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 February 2, 2012 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 January 19, 2012 Special Session

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Haadsma to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 Special Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

B. Minutes of the January 19, 2012 Regular Session

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

6. CITIZENS' TIME

Linda Garcia stated she is the one person who represented the Republican Party for all of Calhoun County. She stated she attended State meetings quarterly and District meetings monthly and she attends the County Executive Committee. She stated she attended the meeting and got involved because she liked the idea of the public servant business and she represented the entire county at meetings, not just special interest groups. She stated she was sworn to represent the republic of the people of this county; she tried to do what's right and spoke truths. She believed it was a difficult time in this country to speak truths and be a public servant. She read a statement she had found online about what a public servant should be. She stated we needed a public servant to represent the people, not politicians and reminded the Board to vote for a public servant.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS

There were no comments.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Appointment of Commissioner to 1<sup>st</sup> District Seat

Comr. Kale stated the Board needed to fill District 1, a seat formerly held by Mark Behnke. He stated MCL 46.412 sets forth the requirements for filling a seat vacated during a term and Board rule 9.7 also specifies the process to be followed by appointing a Commissioner to fill the vacancy. He noted there were five very qualified candidates for the position: Nola Batch, Kathy Sue Dunn, Tina Renae' Perry, Leonardo Rivera and Teresa Schell. He stated as required by Board rules, the Application Committee, consisting of Comrs. Camp Seifke and Todd, met on January 19 with County Clerk Anne Norlander and reviewed the applications to be sure that each of the candidates met the statutory requirements and voted to forward all five names to the full Board for consideration. He invited each of the applicants to make statements to the Board and to allow the Board members to ask general questions. He stated the applicants would have a three minute time limit and they would go in alphabetical order by last name.

Nola Batch stated she was born and raised in Battle Creek. She worked for her father, moving up through the ranks in his office to become a broker in real estate and for 42 years they brokered the sale of commercial properties. She stated she knows the area and people well. She stated she also owned an outdoor power equipment center and a lawn maintenance company. She stated running her businesses gave her first hand experience of how government can help a small business grow and flourish and also, sadly, at times hinder it. She stated she would be a strong advocate of economic development. Batch stated volunteering in the community where she lived and worked was important to her. She noted she was a member of the American Business Clubs, Battle Creek Chamber of Commerce, Calhoun County

Land Bank, Battle Creek City Board of Canvassers and was a parishioner at St Phillip Catholic Church. She stated she chaired the Board of Directors at Charter Endeavor Academy, a wonderful school in District 1, was also a proud founder and President of the Calhoun County Republican Woman's Association.

Batch noted that she, along with others, was instrumental in saving the 2009 Cereal Fest from cancelation, but she was most proud to serve the Veterans on the Fort Custer National Cemetery Advisory Board where she co-chairs the cemetery's special events. She stated these activities had given her working knowledge of the community and she was retired and had time to devote to the task of County Commissioner. She asked the Commissioners for their vote to allow her the opportunity help them seek solutions that would benefit the residents of District 1 and all of Calhoun County.

Comr. Camp Seifke asked Ms. Batch to summarize the things she learned during the election when she ran for County Commissioner in 2006.

Batch stated the community is always interested in a government that governs the least. She felt that people want streamlined government.

Kathy Sue Dunn stated she was pleased to have the opportunity to speak and believed she would be the best choice to fill the vacancy in District 1. She stated if she was fortunate enough to be appointed, she planned to seek election for a full term in November. She stated she was interested in serving her neighbors and friends in District 1. She had lived in District One her entire life, raised her children there and her family business was also there. Dunn stated she had firsthand experience in job creation, business issues and the need to live within a budget. She stated she had extensive experience as a volunteer in many organizations, which had provided her the opportunity to connect with many people. She stated she was fair, open minded, used common sense in making decisions and believed she would work well with the county staff and Commissioners. She had enjoyed the process and getting to know all of the Commissioners, thanked them for their time and service and thanked her family for their support. She believed she was the right choice for the position and she would welcome the Board's support and their votes.

Comr. Camp Seifke asked if Ms. Dunn would elaborate on her position with the Neighborhoods Inc. Board.

Dunn stated she had served on the Board for five years and was just a member.

Comr. Camp Seifke asked Ms. Dunn if she had served on any committees.

Dunn stated there was a Development Committee that had been trying to raise funds but it was slow moving so they were waiting on some direction because Neighborhoods Inc. had gone through many changes in their Board of Directors.

Tina Renea' Perry stated she had lived in the District for 14 years, had a business there, her husband was a teacher there, and she had raised 6 kids, some still in school, there. She stated she was a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones and she had previously worked in the 911 Dispatch Center for 20 years. She stated she was a member of the Senior Millage Allocation Committee. She stated she did the budget coordinating for the Edward Jones regional meetings, taught investment classes to retirees through Kellogg Community College, she mentored at-risk children and managed millions of dollars in her

personal practice. Perry stated a typical work week for her was being in the community every day, developing report with her neighbors. She stated her first question was always, do you like your neighborhood and asks them to tell her about it so she hears about the issues surrounding her office and her home. She stated she heard of issues in areas of the district, her clients told her about everything, so she felt she had a good grasp on what was happening. She believed the roads and the Road Commission was one of the bigger things the Board was dealing with right now that she would like to be a part of. She stated collaboration between local governments and the bottom line, what could be done to benefit the most in the county. She stated she was interested in becoming more familiar with the rest of the issues. Perry stated she felt she needed to be more involved after the storm last year. She stated after the storm she saw Public Safety crews go above and beyond every single day but overall she did see some inefficiencies or flaws in the overall Emergency Management System and she wanted to be a part of making sure we were on task and moving forward to ensure county was prepared next time. She stated the storm was devastating to our community but on a larger scale it was pretty small when compared to other recent storms around the country. She stated she spent 20 years making life and death decisions instantaneously that affected both safety and the community and her current position as a Financial Advisor allows her to make a difference in the financial future of her clients and the people she works with. Perry noted that both careers had made her effective in making decisions that were difficult as well as capturing opportunities that would best suit the community. She stated wanted to be the voice of advocacy for her neighbors and friends, she would like to be a partner of the team (Board) and she hoped the Commissioners would agree.

Leonardo Rivera thanked the Board for allowing him to be there and considering him for District 1 Commissioner. He stated he was raised in Calhoun County, had lived in District 1 for 20 years, had been married for 22 years and had 3 kids. He stated he was a Battle Creek Police Officer for 26 years, retired and was currently the Lakeview School District Director of Security. He stated part of his role was not to just work with Administration; he worked with teachers, staff and students to teach them roles of law enforcement and believed with his expertise he could assist the Sheriff in keeping the County safe. He stated he believed some services offered by the County must be offered more efficiently and at a greater level and he felt he had the ability and perspective to make the changes that were right from the residents. He stated he had been out on the streets as a police officer and in the schools, he had heard the concerns of the public and he would continue to listen to those concerns. Rivera stated he was raised here in Calhoun County, he raised his family here and he believed with assistance they could make the county a safe place to live and work. He believed you had to look at the big picture of your community and a good, strong community has police and fire protection and people need to feel safe in order to want to live here. He stated as a County Commissioner he would do whatever he could to make sure what was spent was spent wisely, because it was the taxpayer's money and Commissioners represented the people. He believed the Commissioners had to make good decisions.

Teresa Schell stated she was interested in the Commissioner position because she would like to serve her community. She stated she was born and raised in Calhoun County, born in Homer, moved to Athens then Battle Creek. She stated she was a Registered Nurse and worked at the Oaks at Northpointe Woods. She stated she was humbled to stand before the Commissioners and her interests was the interest of seniors, senior services and how we create a place where people come to live to take care of their elderly parents instead of people moving their parents to where they are. Her idea was come home to Calhoun County. She stated the candidates were very well qualified and she knew the Board would get a good candidate.

Comr. Camp Seifke asked how long ago Ms. Schell started Mobility Transport and what it was like to start it up with a slow economy.

Schell responded that in 2007 they were part of JONAH and landed on the Economy Task Force. She stated one of their challenges was how to create jobs. She stated they figured out the niche of a handicap van service, started Mobility Transport and created jobs for 8 independent contractors to drive and supplement or create income for themselves.

Comr. Kale thanked all the candidates for taking the time to go through the process and put themselves out there. He stated he suspected the reason there weren't a lot more questions was that all of the Commissioners had spent a considerable amount of time talking with the candidates and a lot of their questions were answered before tonight. He stated the appointment would be a real difficult process. He stated they all knew some of the candidates from before and everyone he had met through the process were good human beings and though it would be difficult, that's what they had to do.

Comr. Kale reviewed the Commissioners would take one candidate at a time and vote yes for the approval of the candidate or no to oppose. He stated if the first candidate falls short of the majority of votes, which would be four, they would proceed with other nominations until they have a nominee that receives the four majority votes. He stated all five candidates are eligible for each nomination cycle, so if they had not received the four majority votes previously, they are eligible to be nominated again.

Res 14-2012

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby appoint Kathy Sue Dunn to the Board of Commissioners, representing District 1, for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2012."

Comr. Camp Seifke stated she did not know if candidates would stay for Commissioner comments so she wanted to say a few words. She stated this community was fortunate to have so many leaders who wanted to be involved. She stated all the candidates had real experience that brought a lot to the table and thanked them for putting themselves out there. She stated it sounded trite to just say thank you when they were putting themselves out there. She encouraged the candidates to serve on committees and boards and stated she looked forward to working with all of them in the future.

Comr. Todd stated he had been selected with Comr. Camp Seifke to review applicants to make sure they all were within the guidelines required by the law. He thanked all of them for their willingness to serve. He stated they all had areas of specialty and District 1 would be truly blessed. He stated the candidates were all tremendous human beings and we are fortunate to have them in our community. He stated there would be an election later this year and the voters could decide who would represent them but they had great choices. He thanked the candidates for touching base with him. He stated he measured the candidates from his personal beliefs and he had gathered a lot of counsel on who to vote for.

Comr. Frisbie stated he personally knew four of the candidates and he appreciated all of them. He stated the Commissioner's decision would be a major disappointment for four but it would bring great things for District 1. He stated any one of the candidates would be a great public servant. He thanked them again for participating and stated it was a pleasure to get to work with them.

Comr. Haadsma stated he knew all the candidates for the appointment; he had suggested two of them seek the appointment and appreciated the interest of all five. He stated he appreciated the sentiments of the other commissioners, when you are on a board you need to seek commonality and everyone was seeing the work of more than a week's time of discussion and contemplation. He stated he wanted to be sure the residents of Calhoun County knew the Board would continue to work together. He stated it was important for them to show unity and come together.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated she was going to do something difficult and be true to herself and vote no. She stated it had no bearing on her future ability to work with whoever is successful, likely to be Kathy Sue Dunn, but it was difficult to know she had spent all these hours talking to the candidates, close race or not, and it does not change that she looks forward to working with whoever is named.

On a roll call vote, Yes – 5, No – 1 (Camp Seifke). Motion CARRIED.

B. Resolution Supporting the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base

Comr. Kale read the resolution into record.

WHEREAS, Calhoun County since 1947 has been a proud partner with and staunch supporter and defender of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base; and

WHEREAS, The Battle Creek Air National Guard base is integral to Calhoun County's economy contributing \$22.2 million in total wages and salaries, a total of \$26 million in gross regional product to Calhoun County, and firefighters who act as first responders for crash and rescue to the WK Kellogg Airport and the City of Battle Creek; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense had previously committed to deliver no fewer than four C-27J aircraft to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard in Calhoun County;

WHEREAS, The C-27J cargo aircraft has carried out the medium-lift, intra-theatre airlift requirements of the Army and Air Force since 2007 and is unmatched in its ability to support the homeland defense, disaster response, and recovery missions of the Air National Guard; and

WHEREAS, The existing infrastructure, trained personnel, and investment at the Battle Creek Air National Guard base in Calhoun County is second to no other location in the nation for C-27J mission support, as well as being adjacent to the extensive Michigan Army Reserve and National Guard Fort Custer Training Center; and

WHEREAS, The loss of previously committed C-27J aircraft would cause significant harm to Calhoun County's economy and severely inhibit disaster response readiness in Michigan and in the United States for threats both natural and terrorist in origin; and

WHEREAS, Michigan and the 110th Airlift Wing is next in line among the states slated to receive C-27J aircraft; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge the United States Department of Defense to preserve its commitment to deliver no fewer than four C-27J cargo aircraft to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard in Calhoun County, as previously committed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of the Air Force and the United States Secretary of Defense, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Fred Upton and Representative Tim Walberg.

Comr. Kale stated Representatives Kate Segal and Mike Nofs have both drafted resolutions in support of the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. He stated 7.5% of employment in Calhoun County is tied to the military so this was a real concern. He stated the military just spent millions upgrading the base.

Comr. Haadsma stated it was a vital concern and he would support.

Comr. Frisbie stated the base has been there since 1947, our county is safe and what they offer in a resource. He stated the base has been completely updated and it would be a crying shame for the millions spent to go to waste. He stated the possibility of the base closing was overcome as a community before and he encouraged that tactic to be used again because the base was a vital part of our community.

Res. 15-2012

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the resolution supporting the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

1. Traffic Control Orders 12-BV-01A, 12-BV-01B and 12-BV-01C from Burlington Village

B. Resolutions

1. Reappointment to the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium  
(Term Effective February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013)

{a} Tiffany Eichorst, Environmental Services Coordinator

2. Reappointment to the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium Advisory Committee  
(Term Effective February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013)

{a} Tiffany Eichorst, Environmental Services Coordinator

Res. 16-2012

“Moved Comr. Frisbie, supported by Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Consent Agenda of January 19, 2012 as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS

Comr. VanSickle stated the Planning Commission met and had three items for action. He stated they approved the Leroy Township Zoning Amendment for medical marijuana, the Eaton County Master Plan amendment, and the Kunkle termination of their PA116. He stated there was a possibility Enbridge would be using soils from the Kunkle property but there was no agreement yet. He noted it was approved with the contingency that there was an agreement with Enbridge and the DEQ first.

Comr. Frisbie noted the Health Department had received two applications for the Health Board. He encouraged anyone interested in applying to go to the county website and fill out an application.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

A. FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board 2012 Administrative Services Agreement

Res. 17-2012

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, Supported by Comr. Haadsma to approve the following: Resolved, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the 2012 Administrative Agreement between the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board and Calhoun County and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Administrator/Controller Scott stated that the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB) had contracted with the county for Administrative Services since it was formed in early 2010. She stated it was a straight forward contract drafted by Corporation Counsel and the FLRSB had already approved it. She stated the agreement provided the county with \$25,000 for the General Fund and is a good example of intergovernmental collaboration, and so it's a win/win for both agencies.

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

### 13. CITIZEN'S TIME

Carl Gibson, Senior Services Manager, encouraged the Board to talk to Speaker Bolger on the large number of Bills regarding seniors that are in the house. He stated Representative Nofs initiated them in the Senate but they were still waiting for the House to move. He stated these Bills affect thousands of lives. He stated Speaker Bolger could move them forward.

Jerry (citizen in the audience) stated he had been coming to Board meetings for 30 or 40 years but he had never heard anyone talk about the State getting money back from the Federal government. He believed maybe someone ought to get on the phone and tell them they owe us.

### 14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Frisbie stated he had a good time at FireKeepers Casino without spending a dime. He stated they had a nice "Topping Off" ceremony; he appreciated all they do and thanked them for hosting.

Comr. Haadsma stated he attended a lunch by Area Agency on Aging where some of the prospects outlined as far as dollars coming to the State and to our community will be allocated for training of medical care providers for elders. He stated they were given important info and is confident Carl Gibson and Karla Fales would be watching these dollars intently.

Comr. Dunn thanked the Board for supporting her. She stated she looked forward to learning lots from all of them.

Comr. Kale stated he and Comr. Camp Seifke attended the Michigan Works meeting. He stated it was the second meeting the representative from Denso said they were having difficulty filling jobs, skilled and unskilled.

Comr. Kale stated he, Kelli Scott and Richard Lindsey were at the FireKeepers Casino Topping Off Ceremony as the Tribal leaders signed the last beam to be put on the structure and it was put in place. He stated it was a very interesting ceremony.

Comr. Kale stated he, Kelli Scott and Comr. Haadsma participated in the Calhoun County Challenge one year celebration. He noted professional baseball player Josh Collmenter was there.

### 15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

#### Res. 18-2012

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Claims Payable Listing for December 30, 2011 through January 12, 2012 in the amount of \$1,659,172.96."

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. Camp Seifke noted the Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society was holding a celebrity server lunch at Cornwell's Turkeyville from 12 to 1:30 on Friday, February 10, with proceeds going to the Calhoun County Fairgrounds for general and capital improvements.

Comr. Frisbie challenged Comr. Todd to a throw down challenge Friday, February 10 at Pennfield High School. He stated the Pennfield Exchange Club was sponsoring a pancake supper from 4-7 p.m.

Comr. Kale thanked Calhoun County Clerk/Register Anne Norlander for coming to the meeting to administer the Oath of Office to new Commissioner Kathy Sue Dunn.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

cam

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk  
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners