

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 1, 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 16, 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. Dunn, 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 in memory of Senator Mike Nofs' father 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 March 1, 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 February 16, 2012 Regular Session

"Moved Comr. VanSickle, supported by Comr. Frisbie to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 Special Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners as presented."

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED

B. Minutes of the February 16, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Dunn to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Calhoun County Commissioners as presented.”

6. CITIZENS’ TIME

Vic Parker of the Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society (CCAIS) thanked the Board for their support. He stated the CCAIS had thrown an appreciation party and Comr. Haadsma had attended. Mr. Parker took the liberty to bring membership applications for each of the Board members. He stated he would attend the next meeting to pick them up.

Connie Vandybogurt made a presentation on behalf of the Disability Network. She extended the Board best wishes for 2012 and expressed appreciation for the Americans with Disabilities Act Proclamation the Board had passed. She promised they would make the vision a reality and continue to make the commitment as stated in proclamation. She presented the Board with a framed copy of the proclamation and a picture of where it was hung in their office.

7. ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS’ COMMENTS

There were none.

8. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. 2011 Calhoun County Planning Commission Annual Report Presentation

Rebecca Rocho, Chair of the Planning Commission, gave a brief summary of the annual report and named the Planning Commission members. She stated it had been a busy year, as the commission took it upon themselves to revise the Master Plan because they wanted to capture the 2010 census data. She stated the Commission had an address change appeal, resulting in a new ordinance being drafted. She noted there had been recent legal statutory changes for the Planning Commission that allows them to increase their number of members and become more inclusive. She stated they wanted to make sure the Master Plan took into consideration any economic development that may impact land use, such as food science or food safety. Rocho stated going into 2012, she and the outgoing chair would be spending time with Planning Consultant Bomba to see how they could become more inclusive with other entities. She stated they wanted the Master Plan to be a more vibrant plan that is more relative to land use.

Comr. Camp Seifke inquired if the Planning Commission got the sense the townships approved of their goals for the next year

Rocho stated the Commission’s goals have not been finalized but they would share them with the Board and the townships when they were.

B. Proclamation Recognizing Greg Geise – Scene Magazine’s 2012 Man of the Year

Res. 22-2012

“Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported Comr. Frisbie to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the proclamation recognizing Greg Geise as Scene Magazine’s 2012 Man of the Year.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

Comr. Camp Seifke read the proclamation into the record.

WHEREAS, GREG GEISE is originally from Connecticut and spent many days sailing on the water and enjoying the wildlife; and

WHEREAS, His first zoo career began at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence Rhode Island, a zoo that had nearly 100 years of history; and

WHEREAS, Greg Geise was the first employee of Binder Park Zoo back in 1977. He was hired as the education director but became so much more over the years; and

WHEREAS, Greg identified several goals back in 1977 including education done on site, at schools and utilizing a Zoomobile. Conservation was also a major component of what he hoped this zoo could accomplish and is recognized for today; and

WHEREAS, The things that make Greg the most proud are that the Zoo itself is highly respected internationally, the physical plant of Wild Africa is quite an accomplishment, and the Zoo ethics are highly regarded. “The culture comes from the CEO and I’m proud of them”; and

WHEREAS, Professional activities abound for Greg and include travel across the globe to areas in Australia, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Swaziland, Switzerland, Zimbabwe and more. He has been recognized across the globe for his efforts at Binder Park Zoo; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Geise has been married to his wife Joanne for 36 years, he spent three years in the Army and is now looking forward to retirement; and

WHEREAS, Greg has been deeply involved in the community as well and as a result the list of organizations and activities that Greg has gotten involved with over the years is significant; and

WHEREAS, Scene Magazine, distributed free through their advertisers, area professional offices and key points of interest in the Battle Creek/Marshall area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners hereby congratulates Greg Geise on being named Scene Magazine’s 2012 Man of the Year.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports

B. Resolutions

1. Goguac Lake Board Appointment

{a} Kathy-Sue Dunn (replacing Mark Behnke)

Res. 23-2012

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported Comr. VanSickle to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the March 1, 2012 Consent Agenda as presented.”

On a voice vote, Motion CARRIED.

10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE/BOARD/WORKSHOP REPORTS

Comr. Haadsma stated he had attended the Senior Millage Allocation Committee vendor’s conference, where vendors came in and described what they for seniors. He stated Assistant County Administrator Wilcox emphasized the need for greater scrutiny of contracts because of limited resources.

Comr. VanSickle noted the Planning Commission had met and discussed the expansion of their Board. He announced there would be new positions that would be available under different headings of interest to the Board, such as economic development and agriculture. He stated if anyone was interested, they could contact Planning Consultant Jen Bomba.

Comr. VanSickle stated the Legislative Liaisons Committee met to discuss the address ordinance, tweaked it a little, and were not finished yet. He stated they would have people coming in for advisement before presenting it to the Board.

Comr. VanSickle stated he attended the Potawatomi Resource meeting.

Comr. Frisbie stated the Board of Health was looking to do a new strategic plan and they would have a recommendation for a new Health Board member coming in the next month.

Comr. Kale stated he had attended a Michigan Association of Counties Transportation Committee meeting where the focus was the transportation reform package. He stated there was some discussion on House Bills 5125 and 5126, which allows County Boards to absorb their Road Commissions. He stated the Board would be putting a game plan together in the future.

11. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

12. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. County Administrator/Controller's Report

Administrator/Controller Scott noted the Country Veterans Affairs Committee was accepting applications. She stated members must be county residents and have served in the military. She encouraged veterans to submit an application. She stated the Committee and Administration were working on a process to appoint a new member.

Administrator/Controller Scott stated they had received the Governor's recommendation on county revenue sharing, which showed Calhoun County was to get \$2.2 million, which was 25% less than full funding but the same as the 2012 appropriation and was expected. She stated the collaboration requirements that cities, townships and villages were given are being proposed for counties. She stated it was the economic vitality incentive program (EVIP), promoting transparency, accountability, and consolidation of services. She stated the County had a list of consolidation steps we have taken but the more difficult requirement may be relating to employee compensation and we will need to create a plan to further limit employee retirement plans and benefits. She stated we may know by June what the details are because the Governor has asked for budget bills to be passed by then.

B. New Business

1. GIS Cooperative Agreement

Res. 24-2012

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Todd, to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Interlocal Agreement Regarding Geographic Information Systems between Calhoun County, Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority and Calhoun County Road Commission is approved as presented and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of Calhoun County."

Administrator/Controller Scott gave a brief introduction of the Consolidated Dispatch grant through the State's 911 committee. She stated the grant will help GIS, the Road Commission and Dispatch. She stated they would provide for field verification of street centerline data that could be consolidated for everyone to use in the same system. She noted the project was expected to be done in the next year and was a great example of the type of intergovernmental cooperation the State was going to be requiring from Counties. She stated there was no required match but that the County would be donating office space for the project.

Road Commission Director Kevin Henning thanked the Board for the opportunity to join together and get centerline data. He stated they had been dealing with issues for a long time and this was a monumental step for the Road Commission and public safety. He also noted they would do data collection over the summer.

GIS Coordinator Brent Thelen stated this would be a step toward taking care of address concerns and would consolidate five layers of data to one.

Comr. Frisbie stated he was really pleased to see different agencies working together through the layers of government. He stated bad data presents bad results so this was a step in the right direction.

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

2. Resolution to Authorize Payment to the County Treasurer and the County Treasurer’s Office in Connection with General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2011

Treasurer Ann Rosenbaum gave the Board a background on foreclosures the Treasurer’s office had taken care of in the past year. She stated they held foreclosure hearings in front of the Circuit Court. She noted they had 468 hardship extensions, whereas last year was 360; this year they had 958 foreclosures, whereas last year there were 826, adding up to \$2 million in taxes. She stated people would come in and do exceptions in front of the court and they are expecting the number to go up again. She stated they expected to have over 500 foreclosures in May. She then stated on a good note, the neighborhood stabilization program was going well and that they would be closing on Glenwood Trace soon. She stated the bids were going out for the demolition. Rosenbaum stated they had sold five properties and would be closing on three more; they had fifteen demolitions to do and had already done one hundred fifteen. She stated 48.2% of the grant was spent and it would be totally expended in February 2013, and so they were on the right on track. She stated she had been bringing this resolution before the Board for 32 years and she used the money for office supplies. She asked the Board to approve the resolution as presented.

Res. 25-2012

“Moved Comr. VanSickle, Supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the resolution to authorize payment to the County Treasurer and the County Treasurer’s Office in connection with General Obligation Limited Tax Notes, Series 2011.”

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

3. Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated Delinquent 2011 Taxes

Treasurer Rosenbaum stated each year her office borrowed enough money to pay off all taxing units as though all taxes were paid 100%. She stated last year they had borrowed \$6 million last year and expected to do something similar this year. She stated 2011 taxes did not become delinquent until today so when they know the total delinquent amount that is what they will borrow. She noted the Treasurer’s office had helped fund the \$1.3million New World financial software project and \$1.8 million was given to the General Fund.

Comr. Haadsma stated he had heard from people how pleased they were about the demolition of some of the houses in the neighborhoods. He stated he was highly pleased to learn about the work that Rosenbaum and Land Bank Property Manager Krista Trout-Edwards had done. He stated hopefully property will be redeveloped.

Treasurer Rosenbaum stated some of the demolitions were expensive because of contaminants such as asbestos, but the houses would be taken down.

Comr. Camp Seifke thanked Rosenbaum for walking so many people through the foreclosure process.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the Treasurer's staff worked very hard on Glenwood Trace and he was very impressed, they were very professional to deal with.

Res. 26-2012

"Moved Comr. Haadsma, supported by Comr. Camp Seifke, to approve the following, resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Resolution to Borrow Against Anticipated Delinquent 2011 Taxes."

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

4. Resolution Authorizing Water Supply and Sanitary Sewage Disposal System Refunding Bonds for the Charter Township of Emmett, Series 2012

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the County, through the Public Works Act, issues bonds for townships. She stated the County's bond credit rating and full faith and credit back the bonds so that townships and investors have better financial security. She stated the contract, drafted by bond counsel, amends the original contract from the original bonds sold in 2000, which was in the amount of \$3million. She stated the county is the owner of the improvements; the township is responsible for the maintenance and the payments. Scott stated the township has to notify the County and the State if they can't pay and the State may hold their payments to the township so that the County is protected. She stated it was a good deal for all and according to the financial advisors looking at the outstanding debt, that there will be significant interest savings because of lower percentage rates. She stated the resolution was to authorize the County Administrator/Controller to assist in getting the bonds sold and execute the documents. She stated they believed the savings could be \$165,000 over 10 years, an 8% savings on interest and principal requirements. She noted it was a good example of how the legislature allows us to collaborate.

Comr. Camp Seifke stated she had spoken with Emmett Township and the state of their sewers was a great concern. She thanked Administration for presenting the help.

Scott stated Emmett Township had a meeting at the same time as the County and so Supervisor Pat Dougherty was unable to attend the County's meeting.

Res. 27-2012

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported by Comr. Dunn, to approve the following: resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the resolution authorizing water supply and sanitary sewage disposal system refunding bonds for the Charter Township of Emmett, Series 2012.”

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

5. Contract for Timber Salvage in Kimball Pines

Administrator/Controller Scott stated the resolution came from the Parks Trustees. She stated we had this item on the agenda a couple months ago but needed to work out more details and so it was removed. She stated Administration had worked with Road Commission Managing Director Henning and the Calhoun Conservation District who were concerned that the damage caused by the storms would get cleaned up properly and efficiently. She stated the agreement was being brought back to the Board with the assumption that all was in place so the Parks Trustees can move forward.

Road Commission Managing Director Henning stated they had asked the Planning Commission to take a look at it before it came to the Board. He noted they could still salvage much of the timber.

Scott stated the tree company would take an administrative fee off the top of the sale of the timber and the remainder would go into the Parks Fund.

Comr. VanSickle stated the Planning Commission had reviewed the plan for harvesting the timber quite thoroughly and noted the park would need new foresting and probably a new name because there aren't many pines left. He noted the Planning Commission recommendation was to move forward.

Comr. Camp Seifke thanked everyone for getting everything done in time to harvest the timber. She inquired if all the trees that had been knocked down would be removed and what would happen to the broken ones.

Henning stated the Conservation District explained some of the downed limbs and brush would be good habitat that could be moved to proper places in the park. He stated anything that is a potential hazard would be removed but others will be left. He stated not everything that was impacted would be removed, as it was a managed removal.

Comr. Haadsma stated he heard in the discussions there was a recommendation to hire an independent monitor to watch over what was being harvested. He inquired who would be the monitor and how much would that cost.

Henning stated they haven't talked to the tree removal company about a monitor and they didn't have the monitor named yet but all of that would be included in the contract.

Corporation Counsel Lindsey stated the damage is extensive so they didn't want someone sitting there with the removal crew the whole time. He stated once the forester's schedule was set they would have the monitor check on them periodically.

Comr. Kale inquired if the funds from the timber sale would only be available to be used at Kimball Pines.

Henning responded the money would go into the Parks Fund and would be available for use at any of the County parks. He doubted it would be needed at Bridge Park however, because of the extensive work Enbridge was doing.

Res. 28-2012

“Moved Comr. Camp Seifke, supported Comr. VanSickle, to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Contract for Timber Salvage in Kimball Pines.”

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

13. CITIZEN’S TIME

Matthew Hall stated he was born and raised in Lee Township, currently lived in Sheridan Township, was an associate pastor of youth at a Baptist Church and was also a union steward for the Road Commission. He stated the Teamsters had asked the stewards to post the County Board meetings and notified them the Teamsters would oppose the Board taking over the Road Commission. He stated there were a wide variety of opinions in the unit but most people were scared and concerned for their livelihood. He stated there would be a few members at meetings because they were interested. He stated the union was here to work and do their jobs and he thanked the Board for the opportunity to be informed in decisions.

14. COMMISSIONERS TIME

Comr. Todd stated he would like to speak to an incident that recently took place over the last couple weeks or so and he just wanted to bring it to the Board’s attention as well as to the public. He stated we had an incident that took place at the Calhoun Area Career Center involving some students, some in particular from Battle Creek Central, some from Marshall. He stated it was his understanding this incident was racial in nature, where there was a student from Marshall that had actually dangled a noose at a couple of student from Battle Creek Central High School. He stated the incident was obviously under investigation at this time and some actions had been taken but some complaints had been filed with the local NAACP in Battle Creek. He stated he just wanted to bring it to everyone’s attention because he wanted everyone to stand with him as well as many other citizens in this community to send a loud message that these types of foolish acts are totally unacceptable in our community and that foolish acts of one did not speak for the whole. Todd stated he really wanted to commend those students for handling this issue the right way and going the legal route instead of turning it into a scene from Braveheart and gathering up all of their cousins and people from the community and having it be a big scene at the Calhoun Area Career Center. He stated we know that there was only one officer in that building and he would not have stood a chance had they called all their partners to the table. He stated his prayer and hope was that it didn’t turn into anything like that

so he just wanted to make the community aware that there were some foolish and very ignorant acts of some folks in this community but again, unfortunately, it is what it is but for the most part we need to send a loud, clear message to those individuals that they don't speak for the whole. He stated that for the most part, Calhoun County was a great place to live, he was born and raised here, was a '91 proud graduate of Pennfield High School and never in his lifetime has he had to deal with this foolishness so he don't know why we were dealing with that today.

Comr. Camp Seifke echoed the announcement that Administrator/Controller Scott made about the Veterans Affairs Committee then gave directions on how to find alerts on the website. She stated people should check it out, sign up and stay informed.

Comr. Kale stated he was impressed last Friday when he went to the Scene Magazine Man of the Year celebration. He stated Sherii Sherban and her family put on a great celebration.

Comr. Kale stated he participated in the "Men who Cook" and it went pretty well. He stated he stood next to Sheriff Byam, who made the best carrot cake ever.

15. CLAIMS PAYABLE

Res. 29-2012

"Moved Comr. Dunn, supported by Comr. Todd to approve the following: Resolved the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Claims Payable Listing for February 10 - 23, 2012 in the amount of \$986,583.04."

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

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comr. VanSickle stated he was a long standing member of the Calhoun County Agricultural and Industrial Society and urged the other Commissioners to join.

Comr. Todd wished Happy Birthday to his aunt, Gladys Brown.

Comr. Kale commented that it was bittersweet but Battle Creek Enquirer Reporter Sarah Lambert was leaving to take a job in Austin, Texas. He stated he had gotten to know her over the last couple years and she was a good person and a great reporter. He presented her with a gift from the Commissioners and staff and wished her good luck.

Comr. Todd concurred, stating she had been a blessing to the community and to us. He wished her the best and told her to keep in touch.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

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Chairman
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners

Clerk
Calhoun County Board of Commissioners