
Updates from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 7/24/17:

Job Opportunities

The County currently has five job postings: Temp. Clerk Assistant in Clerk/Register of Deeds Office; Part-Time Court Services Officer/Deputy Court Clerk; Chief Deputy Court Administrator/Deputy Friend of the Court (Attorney); Part-Time Program Technician—Albion Recycling Center; and Part-Time Deputy District Court Clerk. All employment opportunities with the County can be found on our website at https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/employment/job_postings/.

New Public Health Officer convenes Board of Health meeting

The Calhoun County Board of Health met on July 17 with new Health Officer Eric Pessell on board. The County's Finance Director Michele Johnson presented third quarter financial statements to the Board, noting that overall the Health Fund is on track to end the fiscal year on September 30 within budgeted amounts and with an estimated ending fund balance of approximately \$900,000. I attended the meeting and helped to frame longer term challenges with financial sustainability for certain programs, including our School Wellness (Nursing) program, and Lead Testing for children. Commissioner Steve Frisbie serves as the county Board's appointee to the Health Board for this term. We also welcomed a new Health Department Staff Accountant, who will assist with the budgeting process for the FY17-18 fiscal year. The process to fill our vacant Environmental Health Manager position is ongoing.

County Gets Clean Audit, Adds to General Fund Reserves

The County's independent audit firm Gabridge & Company reported to the Board of Commissioners at its July 20 meeting that it issued again this year an unqualified or "clean" opinion on the County's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016, and had no findings or recommendations for improvements to internal controls! Financial highlights from last year included an affirmation of our 'AA' credit rating by Standard & Poor's, a \$200,000 addition to General Fund Balance, bringing it to 11% of annual budget, toward the high end of the Board's reserves policy. Overall the County's net position increased by \$6 million during 2016, with assets exceeding liabilities by \$82 million.

The County continues to address unfunded pension liabilities, with a plan to issue Pension Obligation Bonds for already closed pension plan divisions being formulated for presentation to the Board of Commissioners within the next month or so. We are also developing a Road Improvement Bond Issuance Plan to finance long-term structural improvements to both Primary and Local Roads over the next two years. The plan considers our recently revised Board Policy regarding township match levels, new State funding, and the continuation of a strategy to invest more in capital improvements versus pothole patching to improve our road system. We plan to ask for Board approval in August for the intent to issue up to as much as \$25 million in capital bonds for this plan.

The County's FY2018 budget planning process kicked off the week of July 17, with the Board of Commissioners Budget Committee, chaired by Commissioner King and including Commissioners Kathy-Sue Dunn and Carla Reynolds, meeting for the first time this year. County Administration also presented a financial update to the Judicial leadership and our internal county-wide budget committee, to share information and get input on key assumptions and forecasts to be used to guide our budgeting process.

Plans Underway to Comply with New Indigent Defense Standards

County and Court officials met on July 17 with our Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) Regional Manager Chris Dennie to discuss plans for development of a plan to comply with a set of four newly enacted standards regarding the provision of legal counsel to indigent defendants within our court systems. County Board Chair Derek King is a governor-appointed MIDC board member filling a statewide county representative seat. The MIDC was created by legislation in 2013 to oversee improvements to the state's public defense system. The new standards are intended to ensure fair, cost-effective delivery of this mandated service by counties in a way that protects public safety and accountability. The legislation also requires the State to fund all increased costs to counties incurred to comply with these new standards. Our plan is due in November, and will be developed by a new workgroup of county and court officials, including representatives from law enforcement and defense attorneys. We are also submitting an application by July 28 for the maximum of \$80,000 in competitive state grant funds to help explore best practices for one or more facets of our Indigent Defense program over the next year. Information about the new standards can be found on the MIDC website at www.michiganidc.gov.

County-Wide Security Enhancements Being Implemented

The County's plans to enhance employee and public security are continuing with funding from our 2016 Capital Improvement Bond Issuance. All County Identification Cards are in the process of being replaced over the next couple of weeks to conform with our upgraded electronic door access system throughout county buildings. Landscape plans for the County Building in Marshall are also being finalized with the goal to complete our new parking lot and seasonal plantings this fall. These plans will also include reorienting the public to a central handicap-accessible entrance at the back of our building, which will be facilitated with signage and increased parking nearer to the building.

MAEDA Reviews CEO Performance, Updates Partner Agreement

At its July 18 board meeting, the Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) discussed in an Executive Session the results of our first annual performance review for CEO Scott Fleming, as required by his employment contract, and voted to authorize the Board Executive Committee to discuss with Mr. Fleming the results, along with goals for next year. We also approved a revised Services Agreement as a last needed legal step following the recent dissolution of the Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce. I serve as Treasurer and Finance / Audit Committee chair for MAEDA, a non-profit agency that provides tourism promotion, small business and chamber services, and economic development for the Marshall area. Its budget of approximately \$750,000 is funded

through contributions from the City of Marshall, its LDFA and DDA, and the locally generated portion of the County's hotel accommodations tax.

Veterans Affairs Committee Revisits Strategic Plan

The Calhoun County Veterans Affairs Committee met on July 21, with Chairman Sam Gray presiding and Director Aaron Edlefson facilitating a session to review and update strategic plans for the department. County Administration Executive Team members attended to provide financial and administrative updates and support the Committee in formulating its goals. The next VA Committee Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 9, at 2:30 p.m.** at the County Veterans Affairs Office in the Toeller Building in Battle Creek. Meetings are open to the public.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee Hears Landfill Expansion Site Activation Request

The Calhoun County Solid Waste Management Planning Advisory Committee met on July 19, with chairman Howard Johnson presiding. Commissioner Steve Frisbie is the County Board's representative on the committee for this term. Representatives from C & C Expanded Sanitary Landfill, LLC (Republic Services) presented plans for their expansion at the current landfill site in Convis Township. The County's Corporation Counsel Jim Dyer addressed questions and comments and the Committee voted to forward to the Board of Commissioners a resolution to activate the "Siting Process" as requested by the MDEQ as a follow up to the County Board's declaration that the expansion is consistent with our current Solid Waste Management Plan. The next Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 19, at 4:30 p.m.** in the Garden Level Conference Room of the County Building in Marshall. All meetings are open to the public.



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