

Updates from County Administrator/Controller Kelli Scott, 03/01/18:

County Seeking Road Department Managing Director

The County invites interested candidates to apply for our Managing Director job, which is the top position within the County's Road Department and oversees all road maintenance and improvement efforts. We previously shared this position with the Jackson County Department of Transportation, with Christopher Bolt leading both departments until May of 2017, when the counties decided the volume of work grew beyond the capacity of one Managing Director. Mr. Bolt remains the Managing Director with Jackson, and our Road Departments continue to collaborate under an Administrative Shared Services Agreement. The Calhoun County Road Department has a current staff of 75 and an annual budget of \$32 Million. An online application for this job and others can be found on the County's website at https://www.calhouncountymi.gov/employment/job_postings/.

Local Revenue Sharing Board Receives New Record "Net Win" Payment

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi (NHBP) Tribe, which owns the FireKeepers Casino, presented on February 26 a check for **\$5,656,690** to the FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board (FLRSB). The check represents the required 2% "Net Win" sharing from the casino's 2017 electronic gaming operations, and for the 5th year in a row, broke the previous year's record as the all-time high since the casino opened in 2009! The FLRSB had previously held its annual Organization Session on February 16, electing County Board Chairman Derek King as its 2018 chair; NHBP Tribal Chairperson Jamie Stuck as vice-chair; Battle Creek City Manager Rebecca Fleury as secretary and Marshall City Mayor Jack Reed as treasurer. Commissioner King accepted the revenue sharing check on behalf of the FLRSB at the Feb. 26 ceremony, along with Commissioner Carla Reynolds, who is the County's alternate appointee to the revenue sharing board. This year's funding distribution process is now underway, with applications for Tier II Reimbursements of Increased Actual Specific Costs due from eligible local units of government on March 9. The next FLRSB meeting is scheduled for March 16 at 8:30 a.m. at the County Building in Marshall.

County Could Get Additional \$874K in Road Funding

A pending 2017-18 supplemental Budget Bill would provide from unspent State General Fund revenues an additional \$873,554 to Calhoun County's Road Department between now and September 30. House Bill 4321 passed through the House unanimously this past week and is pending Senate approval. Our estimated amount is based on the County's share of a proposed \$175 Million total using the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) distribution formula under Public Act 51 of 1951, and would represent a one-time appropriation, although it is unclear yet how the timing of the payments might occur. We are cautioned by the Senate Fiscal Agency's Bill Analysis that this "extra" FY17-18 payment could also mean less funding for the FY18-19 final appropriation. The extra current year funding would be much welcomed, however, given that our winter maintenance costs through mid-February were already near 50% of our winter maintenance budget for all of 2018. Road Department financial records presented at the February 22 **Township Supervisors** meeting show approximately \$900K spent as of 2/21, just on plowing, ice melting and other winter response labor and supplies, from an annual budget of \$1.9M to get us through next December.

County's Planning Commission Elects New Officers

The Calhoun County Planning Commission held its annual organizational meeting on February 26, electing new officers for 2018. Dr. Terance Lunger, superintendent of the Calhoun Intermediate

School District, was reelected as Board Chair; John Sackrider, Manager of Sackrider Farms, LLC, was elected Vice Chair; and Tammi Damerow, Quality Control Technician at West Rock in Battle Creek, was elected Secretary. The Commission also recommended support for Emmett Charter Township's proposed Zoning Text Amendment relating to Medical Marijuana facilities, along with several other township planning and zoning coordination requests.

Plans Progressing on Trailhead Acquisition & Development Project

A series of planning meetings took place over the last two weeks relating to the Eastern Calhoun County Trailhead Acquisition & Development Project, which is a partnership initiative with Albion College. Community Development Director Jen Bomba is leading this project on behalf of the County, and as such she and I met on February 20 with Albion College officials and the landowners of the 65-acre parcel in Albion Township, adjacent to the College. We also convened on February 28 a "Steering Committee" of County, Albion College, State and Local partners to discuss timelines and next steps for the project, to be funded with a \$231,900 MDNR Trust Fund grant and an additional \$100,000 State appropriation, along with required local match funds guaranteed by Albion College. Commissioner Gary Tompkins attended on behalf of the County, and Commissioners Derek King as Parks and Recreation Board Chair, and Commissioner Vic Potter as a member of the County's Economic Development Corporation have also been involved.

The concept for Phase I of this project is to develop a trailhead with parking area, signage and basic amenities, along with construction of an extension of the existing Iron Belle trail system that connects to this property, which is strategically connected to Albion College's equestrian center. Future plans envision the County continuing to work with Albion College on public amenities such as a campground, and infrastructure enhancements that will complement regional recreational opportunities and boost economic development in the area. We also discussed these plans with the Calhoun County Planning commission on Feb. 26, and the Parks and Recreation Commission on March 1. Next steps will include grant contracts and land purchase agreements for County Board of Commissioner approval, and an application for a 2018-19 MDNR Trust Fund Development Grant, due April 1.

Community Involvement/Other

On February 15 I participated in a Planning Committee meeting for the **2018 County Legislative Breakfast**, to be held on Friday, June 8 at Albion College. This annual breakfast is hosted by the Battle Creek Community Foundation and other non-profits and local governments, and includes all local, state and federal elected officials representing Calhoun County, to discuss current issues and opportunities within our communities.

At the February 22 meeting of the **Marshall DDA/LDFA** boards, I presented with MAEDA Executive Committee members Richard Lindsey (Board Chair), Caryn Drenth (Board Vice Chair) and Ryan Traver (Board Secretary) updates on MAEDA's recent accomplishments and an overview of the history of the organization and its funding structure. Approximately 1/3 of MAEDA's annual revenues come from the Marshall-area generated portion of the County-wide 5% Hotel Accommodations Tax, used to promote tourism and convention activities.

I attended on February 27 the **2018 Marshall Economic Outlook** at the Franke Center, hearing community leader presentations from Marshall City Mayor Jack Reed, Upjohn Institute Economist Jim Robey, Marshall Area Economic Development Alliance (MAEDA) CEO Scott Fleming, Oaklawn President & CEO Ginger Williams, and representatives from new business developments coming to Marshall soon! County Board Vice Chair Vic Potter and Commissioner Gary Tompkins were also at the event, along with Sheriff Matt Saxton and other county officials.

On February 27, the ***Summit Pointe Finance Committee*** met to review preliminary financials from the fiscal year ended 9/30/17 and the status of the FY17 audit, as well as financial statements for the four months ended January 31, 2018. As Secretary/Treasurer of the Summit Pointe Board, I serve as chair of the Finance Committee. County Commissioner Kathy-Sue Vette is the Summit Pointe Board Chair and also attended as ex-officio of all committees.

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