

CALHOUN COUNTY
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 2, 2006

The Regular Session of the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners convened at 7:07 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2006 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, County Building, Marshall, Michigan.

Roll Call: Present: Comrs. Bolger, Miller, Moore, Segal, Solis and Strowbridge. Excused: Comr. Todd.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

A Moment of Personal Prayer was observed; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Chairman Miller.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM:

“Motion by Comr. Segal, supported by Comr. Strowbridge, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the November 2, 2006 agenda and addendum as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the October 5, 2006 Annual Session minutes as presented.”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

CITIZENS' TIME:

Ms. Pearl Gray-McWhorter, Battle Creek resident, stated that last month the City of Battle Creek “ripped her off,” and presented an appliance belt that she discovered left inside her home by a City employee. Ms. Gray-McWhorter advised that there are holes in her walls, her appliances are gone as well as all of her wall hangings. Ms. Gray-McWhorter advised that on November 25 she will be out in the street with no roof over her head. Ms. Gray-McWhorter implored the Board to help her, pointing out that the county has a Housing Rehabilitation Program which could repair her home and get her back into her house.

U.A.W. Local Chairman Michael Brown encouraged the Board to ratify the Circuit Court Employees' labor

**Board of Commissioners
November 2, 2006**

agreement. Mr. Brown pointed out that with the increased health care costs there will be some employees whose salary is actually going backwards. Mr. Brown addressed previous Board action which provides that if the amount of an employee's annual increase to the employee's health premium co-pay is greater than the amount of an employee's annual wage increase, a credit to the health insurance premium shall be provided to the employee; and advised that he shall be asking that the provision be added to the agreement.

District 7 Commission candidate Randy Fisher addressed the proposed 2007 senior millage service provider funding recommendations, noting that it appears that the Burnham Brook Center shall be receiving the majority of the funding. Mr. Fisher addressed the proposed Prescription Voucher Program, stating that he hopes there will be some allowance for prescription vouchers in Albion and the other outlying areas of the county.

ELECTED/APPOINTED COUNTY OFFICIALS' COMMENTS:

Forfeited Properties Disposition Final Report of 2006

Treasurer Ann Petredean stated that in 2005 2,600 properties were forfeited. At the same time last year, the Office went out and served notice on 700 properties. This year 1,800 properties were forfeited, and the Office will be serving notice on 800 properties. Ms. Petredean advised that the Office started the main sale with 75 properties and sold 45 at auction. Today was the final sale. Ms. Petredean advised that the sale started with 31 properties and 28 sold. The properties started at \$50 and some sold for that amount, and the Office was even able to sell a contaminated parcel today. Ms. Petredean advised that she has 3 properties left that will be given back to the City of Battle Creek according to statute. Ms. Petredean stated that one property is a decent size, which she believes is build-able, and the other two have small lots. Ms. Petredean stated that if the City refuses the properties, those properties shall be placed into the Land Bank. Ms. Petredean stated that the Office has some options with the build-able lot; e.g., it can be sold, the Office can ask Habitat for Humanity or Neighborhoods, Inc. to partner and perhaps put a structure on it, or the Office can keep mowing it. Ms. Petredean stated that the properties sold a lot better than anticipated.

Ms. Petredean advised that she shall report back in December, advising that the Office once again is partnering with Legal Aid and 2-1-1, and will be meeting sometime in the middle of January with anyone who is having a problem paying their taxes. Ms. Petredean advised that she will provide the specifics of when and where when she reports back.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Res. 175-2006

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the following November 2, 2006 Consent Agenda as presented:

**Board of Commissioners
November 2, 2006**

A. Petitions, Communications, Reports:

- (1) Resolution received from Gratiot County opposing House Bill No. 6391 {Amendment of the General Property Tax Act}. (Referred to the Legislative Liaisons, with a copy remitted to Equalization Director David Lee)
- (2) Communication received from Meridian Production Services, LLC advising that they have applied for a permit to drill on property in Calhoun County. (Received and placed on file, with a copy remitted to Environmental Health Director Ted Havens)

B. Resolutions:

- (1) Calhoun County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors Appointments
 - {a} Ann Rosenbaum-Petredean -- County Treasurer
(Term is Indefinite)
 - {b} Cherise Brandell – City of Battle Creek Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2008)
 - {c} Peggy Sindt – City of Albion Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2008)
 - {d} Ann Armstrong -- Bedford Township Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2008)
 - {e} Terris Todd -- Board of Commissioners Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2008)
 - {f} Carl Word -- At Large Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2010)
 - {g} Becky Squires -- At Large Representative
(Term Expires November 30, 2010)”

Voice Vote: Motion CARRIED

SPECIAL COMMITTEE/WORKSHOP/BOARD REPORTS:

Calhoun County Metropolitan Planning Commission

Comr. Moore reported that the Planning Commission had a planning retreat facilitated by Barry County Extension Director Jan Hartung. Comr. Moore stated that it was a good session at which the Planning Commission developed its mission and goals and discussed the importance of a GIS system and printing functions for that process. Comr. Moore stated that hopefully the Board will be able to take up discussion regarding how the Planning Commission can acquire that equipment.

PETITIONS AND NEW BUSINESS:

County Administrator/Controller's Report

2007-2009 Circuit Court U.A.W. Employees Labor Agreement Ratification

Assistant County Administrator Wendee Woods stated that the Court agreed to use Ms. Mullett in the negotiation process and negotiations went well. Ms. Woods advised that there are not a lot of significant changes in the agreement. The agreement provides for a wage increase of 1.5 to 2 percent, and that the health insurance co-pay is 10 percent for 2007 and up to 15 percent for the remaining 2 years.

Res. 176-2006

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Segal, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the Employees Labor Agreement between the Thirty-Seventh Judicial Circuit Court and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, U.A.W., and its Local Union 1294 (U.A.W.) for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009; further, authorize the Board Chairman to execute said Agreement on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Strowbridge, Bolger, Miller, Moore, Segal and Solis)

Excused - 1 (Comr. Todd)

Motion CARRIED

2007 Senior Millage Service Provider Funding Recommendations

County Administrator/Controller Greg Purcell recognized Senior Millage Allocation Committee Members Reverend Scully and Mr. Redman. Mr. Purcell advised that the revised recommendation shall provide \$2,436,000 of services to Calhoun County's seniors. Mr. Purcell thanked the voters for approving renewal of the senior millage.

**Board of Commissioners
November 2, 2006**

Senior Services Manager Christine Schauer advised that her previous memorandum included a recommendation which had a contingency attached which has not yet been satisfied, therefore, the Senior Millage Allocation Committee recommends award of \$2,436,000. Ms. Schauer advised that a supplemental request for proposals in the amount of \$166,500 has been released for additional services including dental, hearing, vision and respite services, and that she plans to present the additional funding award recommendations at the December 21 Board Meeting.

Ms. Schauer stated that many of the services recommended have been funded in the past years, however, that there are a couple of new services; i.e., senior center staffing at the Forks Senior Center in Albion, and a prescription drug assistance program through the Calhoun Health Plan. Ms. Schauer advised that the funding for the Forks Senior Center is a limited time funding to provide start-up monies for the Center which is used by other service providers. The Committee felt that the Center is an important new service.

Res. 177-A-2006

“Motion by Comr. Solis, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve the Senior Millage Allocation Committee’s recommendation to appropriate \$2,436,000 towards the delivery of senior services in Calhoun County for 2007; further, authorize the Administrative Services and Senior Services Department to prepare the service provider agreements in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$2,436,000 for execution by the Board Chairman on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Comr. Bolger requested Ms. Schauer address the Prescription Vouchers Program in relation to services for the entire county. Ms. Schauer advised that prescription vouchers have been available in the past. Ms. Schauer stated that the Senior Services Department keeps track of the geographic location of where the people using the vouchers are from, and encourages the vendors to do more and more outreach. Ms. Schauer further advised that the Burnham Brook Center and the Fountain Clinic are the only two providers that applied for funding under that category.

Comr. Strowbridge inquired what personal emergency response is, and the position of millage revenues. Ms. Schauer responded that personal emergency response is for Life Line, a necklace that seniors receive which is one of the higher priority services requested by seniors. Ms. Schauer advised that the revenue expected to be produced by the millage for 2007 is close to \$2.5 Million. Ms. Schauer advised that the Department came into this year with a \$500,000 fund balance and did the extra award for home heating assistance. Ms. Schauer stated that the Department does not expect to use the entire fund balance with the awards recommended; and that if there is a lot of money in the fund balance at the end of the year, the Committee will determine if there are other needs that have gone unmet. Ms. Schauer stated that there will be well over \$50,000 remaining in the fund balance.

**Board of Commissioners
November 2, 2006**

Res. 177-2006

“Motion by Comr. Segal, supported by Comr. Bolger, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners remove from the 2007 senior millage service provider funding recommendations the proposed appropriation of \$17,500 to the Calhoun Health Plan to provide a Prescription Drug Assistance Program for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, and upon consideration, approve the appropriation as recommended by the Senior Millage Allocation Committee; further, authorize the Administrative Services and Senior Services Department to prepare a service provider agreement with Calhoun Health Plan in the amount of \$17,500 for execution by the Board Chairman on behalf of Calhoun County.”

Comr. Segal disclosed that she is the Calhoun Health Plan Board President, therefore, shall be abstaining from voting on the funding recommendation for the Calhoun Health Plan.

Roll call vote on Resolution 177-2006: Yes - 5 (Comrs. Bolger, Miller, Moore, Solis and Strowbridge)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Todd)
Abstain - 1 (Comr. Segal)
Motion CARRIED

Roll call vote on Resolution 177-A-2006: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Bolger, Miller, Moore, Segal, Solis and Strowbridge)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Todd)
Motion CARRIED

Medical Care Facility Bond Issuance Report

Mr. Purcell reported that the bonds were successfully sold this week at an interest rate of 3.98 percent. Mr. Purcell advised that the county maintained its A bond rating while Michigan’s rating went from AAA to AA.

Housing Rehabilitation Program Review Board Creation and Appointments

Res. 178-2006

“Motion by Comr. Strowbridge, supported by Comr. Moore, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners establish the Housing Rehabilitation Program Review Board and appoint Brian Beaver as Contractor Representative, Ben Sprygada as Community Representative and Jon Bartlett as Calhoun County’s Representative, with appointment terms to expire December 31, 2008.”

**Board of Commissioners
November 2, 2006**

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Miller, Moore, Segal, Solis, Strowbridge and Bolger)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Todd)
Motion CARRIED

CITIZENS' TIME:

Ms. Gray-McWhorter again beseeched the Commission to assist her in getting the City of Battle Creek to put her house back in order.

Mr. Gardy Berezonsky, Marengo Township resident, encouraged everyone to vote on November 7.

CLAIMS PAYABLE LISTINGS:

Res. 179-2006

“Motion by Comr. Bolger, supported by Comr. Strowbridge, adopt the following: Resolved by the Calhoun County Board of Commissioners approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$3,831,237.70 for the week of October 19, 2006; further, approve payment of the list of claims against the county in the total amount of \$609,156.63 for the week of October 24, 2006.”

Roll call vote: Yes - 6 (Comrs. Moore, Segal, Solis, Strowbridge, Bolger and Miller)
Excused - 1 (Comr. Todd)
Motion CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comr. Moore invited everyone to attend the Veterans' Remembrance Day services at Fort Custer Cemetery on Saturday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m.

RECESS:

The meeting recessed at 7:55 p.m. at the call of the Chair.

mlb