DRAFT - Agenda

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole – Monday, November 9, 2015 – 7:30 A.M. HH Purdy Building - 125 W. Lincoln, Caro, MI

Finance

Committee Leaders-Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Bierlein

Primary Finance

- 1. Resolution in Support of Grant Application for Caro Dam (See A)
- 2. Economic Development Corporation Update
- 3. County and Local Government Financial Review
- 4. Dog License Timeline County Treasurer
- 5. Energy Retrofit Grant/Loan Funding Johnson Controls (Shane Vancise)
- 6. House Bill 4904 MSU-e millage vote in March 2016
- 7. Grading of Vanderbilt Park and Bath Road Commission Allen
- 8. Authorization to Conduct Appraisal for Potential Sale of County Property
- 9. 2016 Budget Development Update (See B)
- 10. Draft Social Media and Email Policies (See C)

On-Going Finance

- 1. CDBG Housing Grant Check Presentation 10/26/15 HDC offices 11:30 A.M.
- 2. Road Commission Legacy Cost (Schedule)
- 3. Tuscola County Community Foundation and Next Steps
- 4. MSU-e/4-H Millage Ballot Language Approval Needed
- 5. Caro Dam Grant Funding Potential
- 6. Phragmites Grant Application Update
- 7. Presumptive Parole Bill
- 8. MAC 7th District Meeting in Tuscola County Cancelled

Personnel

Committee Leader-Commissioner Trisch

Primary Personnel

- Letter of Retirement from Current Remonumentation Program Representative (See D)
- 2. Appointment of New Remonumentation Program Representative
- 3. County Planning Commission Vacancy
- 4. Authorization to Refill Dispatch Vacancy (See E)

On-Going Personnel

1. DOL Proposes Rule Changes to Exempt Employees

Building and Grounds Committee Leader-Commissioner Allen

Primary Building and Grounds

- 1. Request to use Courthouse Lawn Right to Life (See F)
- 2. Request to use Courthouse Lawn Nativity Scene (See G)

On-Going Building and Grounds

1. Fixed Assets Inventory Update

Other Business as Necessary

- 1. Article Regarding Changing Farmer Demographics (See H)
- 2. I-69 Thumb Region Planning Group (See I)

Public Comment Period



County of Tuscola Resolution of Support Caro Dam/ Caro Lake Project

WHEREAS, the failure of the Caro Dam has created economic harm with the loss of water, shoreline, and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, the failure has caused a negative effect on recreation within the Cass River Greenway, and

WHEREAS, the property owner of Caro Dam desires to submit an application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2015 Dam Management Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, the County of Tuscola fully supports the economic development and restoration of this vital asset to the Cass River Greenway, and

WHEREAS, with this resolution of support it is acknowledged that the County of Tuscola is not committing to any obligations; financial or otherwise, and

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the County of Tuscola hereby supports the submission of a Michigan Dam Management Application for the Caro Dam/Caro Lake Project.

AVEC.

Jodi Fetting - (Clerk	Date	
		oregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the County at their regular meeting held on Thursday, November 12, 20	
MOTION	CARRIED	NOT CARRED	
ABSENT:			
NAYES:			
ATES.			

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		2016 All Funds B	udget		
Fund	Fund Name	2016 Projected Unassigned Beginning Fund Balance	2016 Budgeted Revenue and Transfers In	2016 Budgeted Expenditures and Transfers Out	2016 Projected Ending Unassigned Fund Balance
		General			
101	Total General Fund	1,050,279	12,844,271	13,139,000	755,550
		Special Reven	ue Funds		
207	Road Patrol	142,634	1,611,013	1,622,942	130,705
208	County Parks & Recreation	959	9,000	8,750	1,209
213	Arbela Township Police Services	0	170,176	170,176	
214	Voted Primary Road Improvement	0	1,690,000	1,690,000	
215	Friend of the Court	264,979	959,215	1,006,314	217,880
216	Family Counseling	51,610	13,000	8,000	56,610
218	Dispatch/911	493,885	1,325,000	1,558,460	260,425
221	Health Department	398,391	2,870,543	2,882,678	386,256
224	Regional DWI Court Grant	22,013	230,000	232,132	19,881
225	Vassar Township Police Services	0	76,339	76,339	0
230	Recycling	390,036	320,051	302,533	407,554
232	Millington Township Police Services	0	164,715	164,715	0
236	Victim Services	331	78,550	78,881	0
240	Mosquito Abatement	209,508	1,107,503	1,061,345	255,666
244	Equipment Fund	44,820	183,300	183,300	44,820
250	CDBG Housing Grant	0	147,500	147,500	0
	Principal Residence Exemption	55,631	114,900	116,218	54,313
252	Remonumentation	0	\$49,578	\$49,578	0
255	Victim of Crime Act Grant	5	86,000	86,000	5
256	Register of Deeds Automation	77,105	50,500	50,150	77,455
257	HDC Stop Grant	0	25,716	25,716	0
258	Geographic Imformation Systems	7,500	55,000	11,000	51,500
	Homeland Security	0	60,000	60,000	0
263	Concealed Pistol Licensing	10,000	. 30,000	30,000	10,000
	Community Corrections Service	0	57,051	57,051	0
	Corrections Officer Training	40,824	12,000	16,000	36,824
$\overline{}$	Forfeiture Sheriff/Prosecutor	53,600	20,000	20,000	53,600
_	Law Library	15,455	6,500	6,500	15,455
_	Michigan Justice Training	7,015	5,000	6,700	5,315
_	Human Services Child Care	156,636	580,000	660,000	76,636
-	Human Services	29,040	9,000	13,575	24,465
_	Medical Care Facility	2,933,966	18,351,175	18,424,072	2,861,069
	Child Care Probate Juvenile	114,506	731,817	840,977	5,346
	Soldiers Relief	50	40,000	40,000	50
_	Veterans Trust	24,102	15,000	15,000	24,102
- Control	Voted Veterans	0	296,400	252,353	44,047
	Voted Bridge	2,057,714	844,096	682,133	2,219,677
	Voted Senior Citizens	34,759	350,000	341,193	43,566
_	Voted Medical Care Facility	1,358,240	441,393	367,028	1,432,605
	Special Revenue Funds Total	8,995,314	33,187,031	33,365,309	8,817,036
\rightarrow		Dola A.	F. ando		
		Debt Service	runas		

_		2016 All Funds B	udget	-	
Fund	Fund Name	2016 Projected Unassigned Beginning Fund Balance	2016 Budgeted Revenue and Transfers In	2016 Budgeted Expenditures and Transfers Out	2016 Projected Ending Unassigned Fund Balance
352	Pension Bonds	0	489,675	489,675	0
374	Purdy Building Debt	0	75,588	75,588	0
375	Caro Sewer System	0	428,603	428,603	0
379	Mayville Storm Sewer	0	78,450	78,450	0
380	Richville Water System	0	74,095	74,095	0
384	Millington Sewer Debt	0	5,263	5,263	0
385	Denmark Sewer System (Old)	0	111,778	111,778	0
391	Medical Care Facility Debt	1,428,100	3,000	1,144,550	286,550
387	Wisner Water	0	148,463	148,463	0
	Debt Service Funds Total	1,428,100	1,414,915	2,556,465	286,550
		Capital Proje	ct Funds		
452	Pension Bond Sale	0	8,800,000	8,800,000	0
470	State Police Capital Expenditures	115,125	23,000	16,000	122,125
483	Capital Improvements Fund	1,338,391	403,000	20,000	1,721,391
	Capital Project Funds Total	1,453,516	9,226,000	8,836,000	1,843,516
		Other Fu	ınds		<u>V</u>
532	Tax Foreclosure Fund	868,272	474,300	450,750	891,822
676	Motor Pool (Child Care Vehicle)	19,168	5,000	1,500	22,668
677	Workers Compensation	320,500	28,000	121,000	227,500
	Other Funds Total	1,207,940	507,300	573 ,2 50	1,141,990
	Totai All Funds	\$14,135,149	\$57,179,517	\$58,470,024	\$12,844,642

	General Fund Act	ual, Projected a	nd Budgeted I	Revenue		REPORT C
Account	Revenue	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016
Number	Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget	End of Year	Budget
	Taxes			_		
402-253	Current Taxes	5,535,524	5,724,311	5,724,000	5,724,000	5,693,00
402-891	Current Wind Tax Revenue	721,120	958,262	958,262	1,080,000	1,001,00
404-253	Payment in Lieu of Taxes	8,986	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,00
425-253	Trailer Park Fees	3,373	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,70
447-253	Summer Tax Collection	109,612	106,000	109,000	109,000	109,00
	Total Taxes	6,378,615	6,801,273	6,803,962	6,925,700	6,815,70
	Licenses and Permits				_	
452 441	Building Codes SCMCCI	369,043	450,000	370,000	250,000	300,00
	Marriage Licenses	1,765	1,900	1,900	1,700	2,00
	Pistol Permits (Sheriff)	12,765	14,500	14,500	12,000	2,00
	Pistol Permits (Gun Board)	22,224	26,000	26,000	18,000	
	Dog Licenses	127,991	145,000	128,000	145,000	145,00
	Sheriff Licenses	127,331	143,000	128,000	143,000	143,00
Company to the second	Pistol Permits (Renewal)	130	100	100	150	<u>.</u>
		14,809	18,000	15,000	12,500	12,50
344-130	District Court Case Flow Assistance	14,005	10,000	15,000	12,500	12,50
	Total Licenses & Permits	548,728	655,512	555,512	439,362	459,51
	Intergovernmental Federal					
506-253	Civil Defense	39,068	30,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
509-346	Byrne Jag TNU/Lapeer Co	0	0	0	0	_ (
	Total Intergovernmental Federal	39,068	30,000	39,000	39,000	39,000
	Intergovernmental State					
507-253	Justice Benefits Inc.	0	0	0	0	(
	Judges Salary (Cir, Pro, District)	239,917	241,307	241,307	241,307	241,30
	Marine Safety	11,100	12,000	12,000	10,450	10,450
	Secondary Road Patrol	83,257	91,379	91,379	90,000	85,20
	SSI Incentive	7,000	10,000	10,000	7,000	6,00
		68,801	60,000	68,000	63,000	68,00
562-301	Co-op Reimbursement Prosecutor	00,001	/			
562-301 563-253	Co-op Reimbursement Prosecutor Cigarette Tax Monies	08,801	2,000	0	0	
562-301 563-253 570-253				0 1,097,391	1,097,391	1,097,39
562-301 563-253 570-253 574-253	Cigarette Tax Monies	0	2,000			1,097,39 104,82 232,00

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	General Fund Actu					
			2015	2015	2015	
Account	Revenue	2014	Original	Amended	Projected	2016
Number	Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget	End of Year	Budget
Number	Total Intergovernmental State	1,805,016	1,924,077	1,963,077	1,961,148	1,845,17
	Intergovernmental Local					
510-331	Community Foundation Grant Marine	1,500	0	0	0	
582-426	Enbridge Grant Emergency Services	1,000	0	1,000	2,500	(
*	Total Intergovernmental Local	2,500	0	1,000	2,500	(
	Charges for Services - General			St. 4 80		
544-215	Drug Caseflow Fund Circuit Court	474	366	366	700	700
	Certifieds	32,933	32,000	32,000	39,000	39,000
	District Court Probation Fees	198,891	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
ALL THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY O	Dist. Court (Court & Bond Costs)	230,805	240,000	230,000	263,000	263,000
	Court Costs FOC	23,675	27,000	27,000	19,000	19,00
	Court Costs	213,146	230,000	213,000	220,000	220,000
	District Court Bond Costs	2,795	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,00
paragette in admittant	DNA Assessment County Share	3	10	10	10	10
	DNA Assessment Sheriff	8	50	50	50	50
620-215	Late Fees	163	100	100	100	100
Description of the second	Passport/CCW Photo Charge	10,560	12,000	12,000	9,000	9,000
	Dispatch Tech Services	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	(
	Total Charges for Services - General	718,453	749,026	722,026	758,860	753,860
	Charges for Services - Sales					
631-301	Sheriff Report Copies	4,911	5,000	5,000	4,000	4,000
	Register of Deeds On Line Costs	36,326	26,000	32,000	33,000	33,000
	Film Sales	0	2,632	2,632	0	33,00
	Sales-Animal Shelter	130	200	200	200	200
	Register of Deeds Postage Costs	376	200	200	350	350
	Sales Sheriff - Auction	0	5,000	5,000	0	(
	Sales Sheriff - Canteen	13,558	12,000	13,000	12,000	12,000
-	Total Charges for Services - Sales	55,301	51,032	58,032	49,550	49,550
	Charges for Services - Fees					
479-215	Laminating Fee (Clerk)					
	LEPC Fees					
	MIP Deferral Program	3,518	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,500
	Dist.Ct. Screening Assessment Fee	20,440	21,000	21,000	20,000	20,000
	Restraining Orders	0	0	0	0	(

	General Fund A	ctual, Projected a	nd Budgeted	Revenue		
			2015	2015	2015	
Account	Revenue	2014	Original	Amended	Projected	2016
Number	Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget	End of Year	Budget
608-136	District Court Intensive Prob. Fees	34,260	36,000	34,000	28,000	28,000
608-215	Bench Warrant Fee	17,722	21,000	18,000	20,000	20,000
608-301	Sex Offenders Registration Fee	1,680	150	1,500	1,800	1,800
608-430	Boarding-Animal Control	2,169	2,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
609-215	Waiver Marriage Lic. 3 Day	1,425	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
610-132	Admin Fees/Family Division	42,819	52,000	42,000	42,000	42,000
610-148	Probate Court-Service Fees	27,584	29,000	29,000	33,000	33,000
610-215	FOC Processing Fees	5,439	6,000	6,000	5,500	5,500
611-215	DBA Co-Partnership Clerk	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,000	4,000
612-215	Appeals Fees Circuit Court	0	200	200	100	100
612-236	Register of Deeds-Transfer Tax	109,366	102,000	106,000	122,000	122,000
613-215	Clerk Foreclosure Sale	0	0	0	0	0
613-236	Register of Deeds-Recording Fee	124,830	130,000	125,000	122,000	122,000
	Xerox Copies	7,403	9,000	9,000	6,500	6,500
614-236	Register of Deeds-Copies	31,415	34,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
614-275	Drain Commission Copy Fees	0	0	0	0	0
615-215	Searches Circuit	6,771	7,000	7,000	6,000	6,000
615-236	Register of Deeds-Searches	31	600	600	50	50
616-215	Motion Fees	10,910	11,000	11,000	8,000	8,000
616-236	Handling Fees	0	100	100	0	0
617-132	Filing Fee/Family Court	62	0	0	0	0
617-215	Jury/Entry/Forensic	18,890	20,000	19,000	20,000	20,000
617-253	BC/BS Administrative Fee Retires	2,346	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
618-215	Notary Bond Filing Fee	1,064	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,000
	Notary Fees Treasurer	260	100	100	100	100
618-301	Mortgage Sales	6,350	5,500	5,500	6,500	6,500
619-136	Civil Fees (District Court)	155,742	135,000	155,000	121,000	121,000
619-215	Passport Fees		0	0	0	0
619-301	Drug Testing Fees	2,025	1,000	1,000	6,000	6,000
620-132	Collection Fees/Family Div.	305	1,000	1,000	100	100
620-722	Airport Zoning Application Fees	0	175	175	175	175
621-215	Circuit Court Fees	445	500	500	500	500
621-301	Kiosk Fees - Sheriff	9,235	3,000	3,000	0	0
622-225	Equalization LUG Tax System	0	50	50	50	50
623-215	Funeral Home Corrections	11	100	100	100	100
624-215	Victims Rights Admin. Fee	4,136	4,500	4,500	4,000	4,000
	Tax Certification	1,700	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,500
	Medical Examiner Fees	2,190	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500
	Voter Registration Processing	1,012	1,200	1,200	500	500
	County Share MSSR Fee	404	600	600	600	600
	Tax Searches	0	0	0	0	0
	nmate Phone Cards	0	0	0	0	0
***	Zoning Board of Appeal Fees	0	0	0	0	0
	Tax Administration Fees	59,386	52,000	59,000	59,000	59,000
626-253	nheritance Tax Fees	798	0	0	0	0

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			2015	2015	2015	
. 5574504	Davis muse	7014		Amended	Projected	2016
Account	Revenue	2014	Original		End of Year	Budget
Number	Category/Department	Actual 0	Budget	75,000	40,000	20,000
626-301	Housing Prisoners from Other Counties	-		23,000	23,000	23,000
628-301	Care of Prisoners DOC Detainer	22,979	25,000 5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
629-253	Sales Treasurer	3,412				
	Sheriff Foreclosure Adjournment Postings	5,941	5,000	5,000 75	8,000 75	8,000
		10 86,080	75 80,000	86,000	55,000	75,000
	Felon Diverted Program Inmate Phone Revenues	18,912	22,000	22,000	23,000	23,000
		42,560	50,000	45,000	42,000	42,000
636-301	Charge to Prisoners for Jail	3,121	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
637-301	Day Reporting Care of Prisoners Work Release		25,000	22,000	20,000	20,000
638-301		21,655				20,000
and the same of th	Tax Data - Online fee	15,024	48,000	48,000	13,000	24.000
	Warrant Fees District Court	24,513	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
660-301	Vehicle Impoundment Fee			_		
	Total Charges for Services - Fees	962,350	992,350	1,071,700	940,950	927,950
	Fines & Forfeits			-	-	
655-253	County Treasurer Forfeitures	7,732	7,000	7,000	9,000	9,000
	District Court Bond Forfeitures	10,204	6,000	10,000	11,000	11,000
	District Court Ordinance Fines	22,394	25,000	22,000	21,000	21,000
	Court Fines			•	500	500
678-132	State Tax Lein Fee	42	130	130	130	130
	Total Fines & Forfeitures	40,372	38,130	39,130	41,630	41,630
	Interest & Rentals					
664-253	Interest - Summer Taxes	27,173	35,000	27,000	25,000	25,000
	Pooled General Fund Interest	34,163	50,000	37,000	30,000	30,000
	Thumb Cellular Tower Rental	4,326	4,326	4,326	4,326	4,326
	Rentals (Use of Van)	0	0	9,320	4,320	4,320
	Rent for County Property	13,237	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
	Human Services Lease Payment	299,150	299,150	299,150	299,150	299,150
	Health Department Lease	85,676	85,676	85,676	85,676	85,676
	Total Interest & Rentals	463,725	490,152	469,152	460,152	460,152
	Refunds & Reimbursements					
580-253	Reimbursement State Jury	19,108	14,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
582-132	ISD Truency Program Grant	0	0	0	0	0
658-253	Return Check Charge	190	300	300	300	300
674-253	Thumb Narcotics Unit Reimburse	14,508	10,000	14,500	17,000	24,000
674-301	Reimbursements FOC Warrants	911	1,000	1,000	500	500

	General Fund Ac	tual, Projected	and Budgeted	Revenue	_	_
Account	Revenue	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016
Number	Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget	End of Year	Budget
	Drain Restitution	150	0	0	0	
676-132	Reimbursement Counseling -Courts	165	200	200	200	200
676-191	State Reimbursement/Elections	0	0	0	0	
676-215	GAL Attorney Fee/Reimbursement	29,618	30,000	30,000	28,000	28,000
676-226	Equalization Contract to Huron County	42,315	39,060	39,060	39,060	39,060
676-227	Equalization Base Contract Caro	57,606	58,000	58,000	58,000	58,000
676-253	Reimbursements & Refunds	23,678	4,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
676-301	Reimbursement Sheriff	8,027	5,000	27,000	45,000	35,000
676-306	Weigh Master	71,862	79,000	79,000	78,000	79,000
676-430	Reimbursement Animal Shelter	11,085	9,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
677-191	Reimb-School Election	5,501	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
677-215	Reimbursement Crt Appt Atty Fees	12,785	4,000	7,000	14,000	14,000
677-301	Sheriff Medical Service Reimb.	28,228	24,000	24,000	10,000	10,000
677-430	Animal Shelter Restitution	320	0	0	0	(
678-191	Twsp Election Supplies	47,264	8,000	8,000	4,000	4,000
678-301	Reimb. DDJR	0	2,000	0	0	(
679-215	DE Novo Transcripts	64	100	100	100	100
680-191	Elections Reim. Misc.		0	0	0	(
694-215	Cash Over/Short	34	0	0	0	(
694-253	Cash Over/Short	71	0	0	0	(
699-010	Veterans Operations Indirect Cost	2,109	2,894	2,894	2,894	3,182
699-215	Friend of the Court Indirect Cost	140,981	77,931	77,931	77,931	98,976
699-218	Dispatch Fund Indirect Costs	58,094	70,328	70,328	70,328	81,479
699-221	Health Department Indirect Costs	7,580	10,227	10,227	10,227	9,404
699-230	Recycling Indirect Costs	29,860	34,228	34,228	34,228	37,108
699-240	Mosquito Control	46,058	71,334	71,334	71,334	98,241
699-297	Senior Citizens Fund Indirect Cost	1,345	1,507	1,507	1,507	1,747
699-298	Medical Care Facility Indirect Cost	1,574	1,507	1,507	1,507	1,376
699-441	Building Codes SCMCCI Rent	20,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
699-801	Drain Assessment Services	2,113	2,113	2,113	2,113	2,113
	Total Reimbursement & Refunds	683,204	589,729	627,229	628,229	687,786
	Total Remisursement a Relation	353,254	303), 23		020,225	337,733
	Total Operating Revenue	11,697,332	12,321,281	12,349,820	12,247,081	12,080,311
	Revenue Transfers Other Funds					
699-207	Road Patrol Loan	52,500	0	0	0	C
699-251	Principle Residence Exemption	1,218	1,218	1,218	1,218	1,218
699-294	Veterans Trust	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
699-532	Tax Foreclosure	50,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	87,886
699-626	Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund	658,253	778,501	658,962	656,701	661,490
	Transfer in Unreconciled T & A	47,754	0	0	0	(
	Total Revenue Transfers from	810,725	800,719	681,180	678,919	751,594

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	General Fund Actu	,	la baagetta.			
Account	Revenue	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016
Number	Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget	End of Year	Budget
	Other Funds					
	Grand Total Revenues	12,508,057	13,122,000	13,031,000	12,926,000	12,831,905
	Recurring Sources of Funds					
672-390	Use of Fund Balance	0	0	82,000	0	307,099
	Total Budgeted General Fund Balance	0	0	82,000	0	307,095
	or Use of Other One-Time Sources					
	GRAND TOTAL REVENUES	12,508,057	13,122,000	13,113,000	12,926,000	13,139,000

.

		2016 All Funds B	udget		
		2016 Projected Unassigned	2016 Budgeted	2016 Budgeted Expenditures	2016 Projected
Fund	Fund Name	Beginning Fund	Revenue and	and Transfers	Ending Unassigned
		Balance	Transfers In	Out	Fund Balance
		General	Fund	out	
101	Total General Fund	1,050,279	- Programmer	13,139,000	755,550
101	Total School and	1,050,275	12,011,212	13,233,000	720,000
		Special Rever	nue Funds		
207	Road Patrol	142,634	1,611,013	1,622,942	130,709
208	County Parks & Recreation	959	9,000	8,750	1,209
213	Arbela Township Police Services	0	170,176	170,176	(
214	Voted Primary Road Improvement	0	1,690,000	1,690,000	(
215	Friend of the Court	264,979	959,215	1,006,314	217,880
216	Family Counseling	51,610	13,000	8,000	56,610
218	Dispatch/911	493,885	1,325,000	1,558,460	260,425
221	Health Department	398,391	2,870,543	2,882,678	386,256
224	Regional DWI Court Grant	22,013	230,000	232,132	19,881
225	Vassar Township Police Services	0	76,339	76,339	(
230	Recycling	390,036	320,051	302,533	407,554
232	Millington Township Police Services	0	164,715	164,715	(
236	Victim Services	331	78,550	78,881	(
240	Mosquito Abatement	209,508	1,107,503	1,061,345	255,666
244	Equipment Fund	44,820	183,300	183,300	44,820
250	CDBG Housing Grant	0	147,500	147,500	C
251	Principal Residence Exemption	55,631	114,900	116,218	54,313
252	Remonumentation	0	\$49,578	\$49,578	C
255	Victim of Crime Act Grant	5	86,000	86,000	5
256	Register of Deeds Automation	77,105	50,500	50,150	77,455
	HDC Stop Grant	0	25,716	25,716	
258	Geographic Imformation Systems	7,500	55,000	11,000	51,500
	Homeland Security	0	60,000	60,000	(
263	Concealed Pistol Licensing	10,000	30,000	30,000	10,000
264	Community Corrections Service	0	57,051	57,051	(
265	Corrections Officer Training	40,824	12,000	16,000	36,824
266	Forfeiture Sheriff/Prosecutor	53,600	20,000	20,000	53,600
269	Law Library	15,455	6,500	6,500	15,455
285	Michigan Justice Training	7,015	5,000	6,700	5,319
288	Human Services Child Care	156,636	580,000	660,000	76,636
290	Human Services	29,040	9,000	13,575	24,465
291	Medical Care Facility	2,933,966	18,351,175	18,424,072	2,861,069
292	Child Care Probate Juvenile	114,506	731,817	840,977	5,346
293	Soldiers Relief	50	40,000	40,000	50
294	Veterans Trust	24,102	15,000	15,000	24,102
295	Voted Veterans	0	296,400	252,353	44,047
296	Voted Bridge	2,057,714	844,096	682,133	2,219,677
297	Voted Senior Citizens	34,759	350,000	341,193	43,566
298	Voted Medical Care Facility	1,358,240	441,393	367,028	1,432,605
-	Special Revenue Funds Total	8,995,314	33,187,031	33,365,309	8,817,036
					1

		2016 All Funds B	udget		
Fund	Fund Name	2016 Projected Unassigned Beginning Fund Balance	2016 Budgeted Revenue and Transfers In	2016 Budgeted Expenditures and Transfers Out	2016 Projected Ending Unassigned Fund Balance
352	Pension Bonds	0	489,675	489,675	0
374	Purdy Building Debt	0	75,588	75,588	0
375	Caro Sewer System	0	428,603	428,603	0
379	Mayville Storm Sewer	0	78,450	78,450	0
380	Richville Water System	0	74,095	74,095	0
384	Millington Sewer Debt	0	5,263	5,263	0
385	Denmark Sewer System (Old)	0	111,778	111,778	0
391	Medical Care Facility Debt	1,428,100	3,000	1,344,550	286,550
387	Wisner Water	0	148,463	148,463	0
	Debt Service Funds Total	1,428,100	1,414,915	2,556,465	286,550
		 Capital Proje	ct Funds		
452	Pension Bond Sale	0	8,800,000	8,800,000	0
470	State Police Capital Expenditures	115,125	23,000	16,000	122,125
483	Capital Improvements Fund	1,338,391	403,000	20,000	1,721,391
	Capital Project Funds Total	1,453,516	9,226,000	8,836,000	1,843,516
		Other Fu	ınds		
532	Tax Foreclosure Fund	868,272	474,300	450,750	891,822
676	Motor Pool (Child Care Vehicle)	19,168	5,000	1,500	22,668
677	Workers Compensation	320,500		121,000	227,500
	Other Funds Total	1,207,940	507,300	573,250	1,141,990
	Total All Funds	\$14,135,149	\$57,179,517	\$58,470,024	\$12,844,642

			1			REPORT D
	General Fund	Expenditure Act	ual, Projected and	Budgeted		
					10/12/2015	10/26/2015
Expenditure	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016	2016
Category/Department	Actual	Budget	Budget (8/31/15)	Actual	Budget	Budget
Legislative						
Board of Commissioners	94,369	103,000	113,000	106,000	127,000	127,000
Special Programs	26,365	37,000	37,000	32,000	33,000	33,000
Total Legislative	120,734	140,000	150,000	138,000	160,000	160,000
Judicial						
Unified Court	2,250,792	2,360,000	2,351,106	2,282,000	2,358,000	2,384,049
Jury Commission	5,900	5,600	5,600	5,700	5,600	5,875
Adult Probation	12,312	14,000	14,000	11,500	14,000	14,000
Total Judicial	2,269,004	2,379,600	2,370,706	2,299,200	2,377,600	2,403,924
General Government						
Elections	88,917	31,000	31,000	56,000	90,000	90,000
Accounting Services	48,039	48,000	48,000	46,000	50,000	50,000
Legal Services	80,620	80,000	80,000	64,000	80,000	80,000
Clerk	427,728	435,856	427,356	408,000	459,500	459,500
Controller/Administrator	300,402	317,000	317,000	301,000	322,000	322,000
Equalization	204,055	204,227	204,227	204,000	217,000	217,000
Equalization/Huron County	9,650	11,000	11,000	10,000	11,000	11,000
Equalization Caro Assessing Contract	20,436	20,000	15,489	15,500	11,500	11,500
Prosecutor	514,364	522,000	522,000	517,000	553,000	553,000
Co-Op Prosecutor	137,694	163,000	163,000	150,000	170,000	170,000
Register of Deeds	248,742	254,000	254,000	257,000	271,000	271,000
Treasurer	321,413	328,308	328,308	327,500	345,000	345,000
MSU Cooperative Extension	107,366	140,153	140,153	140,153	25,000	25,000

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REPORT D

						REPORT D	
General Fund Expenditure Actual, Projected and Budgeted							
					10/12/2015	10/26/2015	
Expenditure	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016	2016	
Computer Operations	387,872	424,575	461,969	460,000	485,500	468,410	
Buildings & Grounds	777,207	774,949	774,949	739,000	790,000	790,000	
Human Services Building Maint.	56,447	55,000	55,000	57,000	58,000	58,000	
Drain Commission	197,000	200,745	200,745	201,000	212,000	212,322	
Total General Government	3,927,952	4,009,813	4,034,196	3,953,153	4,150,500	4,133,732	
Public Safety							
Courthouse Security	100,806	151,000	155,100	115,000	132,000	132,000	
Jail	2,212,205	2,311,000	2,333,153	2,069,000	2,306,000	2,306,000	
Weigh Master	77,443	79,000	79,000	78,000	79,000	79,000	
Marine Safety	12,602	12,000	12,000	10,450	10,450	10,450	
Secondary Road Patrol	90,799	91,379	91,379	90,000	85,200	85,200	
Thumb Narcotics	14,557	23,963	23,963	17,000	24,000	24,000	
Planning Commission	3,388	5,500	5,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Plat Board	0	628	628	0	0	C	
Emergency Services	88,817	93,550	94,950	94,500	94,000	94,000	
Animal Shelter	149,850	153,500	153,500	149,000	152,000	152,000	
Livestock Claims	0	500	500	0	500	500	
Total Public Safety	2,750,467	2,922,020	2,949,673	2,625,950	2,886,150	2,886,150	
Public Works					-		
Building Codes (See note below)	369,043	450,000	370,000	250,000	300,000	300,000	
Board of Public Works	2,339	3,000	3,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Drain-at Large	443,611	426,952	426,952	426,952	405,426	405,426	
Total Public Works	814,993	879,952	799,952	678,452	706,926	706,926	

•						REPORT D
General Fund Expenditure Actual, Projected and Budgeted						
					10/12/2015	10/26/2015
Expenditure	2014	2015 Original	2015 Amended	2015 Projected	2016	2016
Health & Welfare						
Substance Abuse	109,737	97,500	110,000	110,000	52,412	52,412
Medical Examiner	63,387	61,000	61,000	46,000	56,000	56,000
Veterans Burial	12,600	14,000	14,000	6,000	0.	0
Boundry Commission	401	300	300	0	0	0
Airport Zoning Board	0	700	700	100	100	100
Economic Development	50,754	50,000	50,000	55,000	50,000	50,000
Total Health & Welfare	236,879	223,500	236,000	217,100	158,512	158,512
Other						
Employee Sick Vacation Benefit	30,523	70,000	70,000	54,000	70,000	70,000
Insurance & Bonds	111,340	120,000	120,000	85,000	100,000	100,000
Other Total	141,863	190,000	190,000	139,000	170,000	170,000
Contingency						
Contingency	0	12,434	-3,395	0	17,112	9,256
Total Contingency	0	12,434	-3,395	0	17,112	9,256
Operating Transfers Out						
County Park	0	2,500	3,550	3,550	3,000	3,000
Friend of the Court	282,970	282,970	282,970	282,970	242,970	242,970
Health Department	306,000	303,319	303,319	303,319	303,319	303,319
Behavioral Health	288,243	288,243	288,243	288,243	288,243	288,243
Victim Services	6,000	0	0	0	0	0
Equipment Fund	213,600	178,000	178,000	202,512	175,000	183,300

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REPORT D General Fund Expenditure Actual, Projected and Budgeted 10/12/2015 10/26/2015 Expenditure 2014 2015 Original 2015 Amended 2016 2015 Projected 2016 61 Remonumentation Victim of Crime 0 17,000 Community Corrections 16,500 22,292 22,292 22,292 17,000 Child Care Human Services 366,000 300,000 300,000 300,000 250,000 250,000 Department of Human Services 9.000 9,000 9,000 9,000 9,000 9,000 Child Care Probate 475,000 475,000 475,000 475,000 477,600 475,000 Soldiers & Sailors Relief 23,600 25,000 32,000 32,000 75,568 75,568 Purdy Building Debt 72,424 71,541 71,555 71,555 Capital Improvements Fund 253,325 399,751 400,000 400,000 0 99,448 Cigarette Tax 2,538 2,538 0 21,506 26,100 Medical Examiner 22,453 22,453 22,453 26,100 46,000 Veterans Counseling 46,000 46,000 46,000 70,000 237.000 237,000 Wind Revenue Escrow 150,000 237,000 237,000 Transfer to GIS Fund 12,500 12,500 12,500 15 Homeland Security

2,364,681

\$13,122,000

2,385,868

\$13,113,000

2,708,145

\$12,759,000

2,502,200

\$13,129,000

2,510,500

\$13,139,000

2,279,519

\$12,541,411

Total Operating Transfers Out

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES





Tuscola County Information Systems POLICY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

Purpose

This document defines the social networking and social media policy for Tuscola County, "TC". To address the fast-changing landscape of the Internet and the way residents communicate and obtain information online, County departments may consider using social media tools to reach a broader audience. TC encourages the use of social media to further its technology goals of and the missions of its departments, where appropriate.

TC has an overriding interest and expectation in deciding what is "spoken" on its behalf on social media sites. This policy establishes guidelines for the use of social media.

Acceptable Use

Personal Use

All TC employees may have personal social networking and other social media sites. These sites should remain personal in nature and be used to share personal opinions or nonwork related information. Following this principle helps ensure a distinction between sharing personal and TC views. Employees must never use their TC e-mail account or password in conjunction with a personal social networking or other social media sites.

Professional Use

All official TC-related communication through social media and other social networking outlets should remain professional in nature and should always be conducted in the best interest of the County and its citizens. Official county social media will not be used for political purposes, to conduct private commercial transactions, or to engage in private business activities.

TC employees should be mindful that inappropriate usage of official agency social media sites can be grounds for disciplinary action.

Approval and Registration

All TC social media sites shall be (1) approved by Tuscola County Information Systems, Director; (2) published using approved social networking platform and tools; and (3) administered by the contact or their designee.

Oversight and Enforcement

Employees representing TC through social media outlets or participating in social media features on TC websites must maintain a high level of ethical conduct and professional decorum. Failure to do so is grounds for revoking the privilege to participate in TC social media sites or blogs.

Information must be presented following professional standards for good grammar, spelling, brevity, clarity and accuracy, and avoid jargon, obscure terminology, or acronyms.

TC employees recognize that the content and messages they post on social media websites are public and may be cited as official TC statements.

TC employees may not publish information on TC social media sites that include:

- Confidential information
- Copyright violations
- · Profanity, racist, sexist, or derogatory content or comments
- · Partisan political views
- Commercial endorsements or SPAM

Records Retention

Social media sites contain communications sent to or received by TC and its employees, and such communications are therefore public records. These retention requirements apply regardless of the form of the record (for example, digital text, photos, audio, and video). The Department maintaining a site shall preserve records pursuant to a relevant records retention schedule for the required retention period in a format that preserves the integrity of the original record and is easily accessible.

EXTERNAL POLICY

The following guidelines must be displayed to users on all social media sites or made available by hyperlink.

"

This agency social media site serves as a limited public forum and all content published is subject to monitoring. User-generated posts will be rejected or removed (if possible) when the content:

- · is off-subject or out of context
- · contains obscenity or material that appeals to the prurient interest
- · contains personal identifying information or sensitive personal information
- · contains offensive terms that target protected classes
- · is threatening, harassing or discriminatory
- · incites or promotes violence or illegal activities
- contains information that reasonably could compromise individual or public safety
- · advertises or promotes a commercial product or service, or any entity or individual
- promotes or endorses political campaigns or candidates

"

Public Records Law

Agency social media sites are subject to applicable public records laws. Any content maintained in a social media format related to agency business, including communication posted by the Agency and communication received from citizens, is a public record. The Department maintaining the site is responsible for responding completely and accurately to any public records request for social media content.



Tuscola County Information Systems

POLICY FOR ELECTRONIC MAIL RETENTION

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Electronic mail (e-mail) is a means of exchanging messages and documents using telecommunications equipment and computers. A complete e-mail message not only includes the contents of the communication, but also the transactional information (dates and times that messages were sent, received, opened, deleted, etc.; as well as aliases and names of members of groups), and any attachments.

SECTION 2. PUBLIC RECORDS

In accordance with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Public Act 442 of 1976, as amended), e-mail messages are public records if they are created or received as part of performing a public employee's official duties. All e-mail messages that are created, received or stored by a government agency are the property of Tuscola County. They are not the property of its employees, vendors or customers. E-mail accounts are provided to employees for conducting public business. Employees should have no expectation of privacy when using Tuscola County's computer resources.

SECTION 3. RETENTION AND DISPOSAL SCHEDULES

Michigan law requires that all public records be listed on an approved Retention and Disposal Schedule that identifies how long the records must be kept, when they may be destroyed and when certain records can be sent to the Archives of Michigan for permanent preservation. Retention and Disposal Schedules for local government agencies are approved by the Records Management Services, Archives of Michigan and the State Administrative Board. Records cannot be destroyed unless their disposal is authorized by an approved Retention and Disposal Schedule. The State of Michigan Records Management Services is available to advise local government agencies about a variety of records management issues.

SECTION 4. RETENTION POLICY

Just like paper records, e-mail messages are used to support a variety of business processes. Just like paper records, senders and recipients of e-mail messages must evaluate each message to determine if they need to keep it as documentation of their role in a business process. Just like paper records, the retention period for an e-mail message is based upon its content and purpose, and it must be retained in accordance with the appropriate Retention and Disposal Schedule.

SECTION 5. E-MAIL STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

Tuscola County will retain its e-mail by storing e-mail online in the active e-mail system for its entire retention period. Employees are encouraged to establish folders for arranging e-mail according to their content, and they are responsible for disposing of e-mail that has met all of its retention requirements.

SECTION 6. EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees are responsible for organizing their e-mail messages so they can be located and used. They are responsible for keeping e-mail messages for their entire retention period, and for disposing of e-mail messages in accordance with an approved Retention and Disposal Schedule.

Employees are responsible for ensuring that e-mail messages with longer retention periods remain accessible until the appropriate Retention and Disposal Schedule authorizes their destruction. Note: Records, including e-mail, cannot be destroyed if they have been requested under FOIA, or if they are part of on-going litigation, even if their retention period has expired.

Employees who use a home computer and a personal e-mail account to conduct government business must manage their work-related e-mail the same way as those messages that are created and received using government computer resources.

Just fike paper records, e-mail messages might be subject to disclosure in accordance with FOIA. They can also be subject to discovery once litigation begins. Employees should be prepared to provide access to their e-mail to their FOIA Coordinator or an attorney for Tuscola County under these circumstances.

SECTION 7. INFORMATION SYSTEMS STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Individual employees are responsible for deleting messages in accordance with the appropriate Retention and Disposal Schedule. Information Services staff will ensure that deleted messages are rendered unrecoverable immediately after employee deletion. *Note: The destruction of e-mail messages on servers must cease when an agency becomes involved in litigation or when it receives a FOIA request.*

Many e-mail messages need to be kept longer than the original technology that was used to send and receive them. New technology is not always compatible with older technology that agencies may have used. Information Systems staff will ensure that older e-mail messages remain accessible as technology is upgraded or changed. Each time technology upgrades and changes take place Information Systems staff will ask agency administrators for information about the existence and location of older messages so they can be migrated to the new technology.

Information Systems will not keep copies or review user email. There is no local archive kept of user accounts. Users are responsible for the retention and destruction of their records. Once a record is deleted, there is no means for Information Systems to recover the message from destruction.

Information Systems will not provide access to any user account unless requested in writing by appropriate department head or legal document.

SECTION 8. ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Agency administrators are responsible for ensuring that their employees are aware of and implement this policy. They are also responsible for ensuring that their agency has an approved Retention and Disposal Schedule that covers all records (regardless of form or format) that are created and used by their employees.

Agency administrators are responsible for ensuring that the e-mail (and other records) of former employees are retained in accordance with approved Retention and Disposal Schedules.

Agency administrators are responsible for notifying Information Services staff when the agency becomes involved in litigation or when a FOIA request that involves e-mail is received.

SECTION 9. FOIA COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Just like paper records, e-mail messages might be subject to disclosure in accordance with FOIA. FOIA coordinators are responsible for identifying if the records that are requested by the public are stored in e-mail, even if the public does not specifically request e-mail. They are also responsible for ensuring that Information Services staff is notified that a FOIA requesting involving e-mail was received to prevent the destruction of relevant messages.

SECTION 10. ATTORNEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Just like paper records, e-mail messages might be subject to disclosure during the discovery phase of litigation. Attorneys representing Michigan government agencies are responsible for identifying if the records that are requested during the discovery process are stored in e-mail, even if the discovery order does not specifically request e-mail. They are also responsible for ensuring that Information Services staff is notified that a discovery order involving e-mail was received to prevent the destruction of relevant messages.

SECTION 11. ACCEPTABLE USE

Use of non-county email services, such as AOL or Yahoo on Tuscola County's network is prohibited unless authorized by Information Systems. Any email conducted with the use of the @tuscolacounty.org domain, shall remain professional in manner and never for personal purposes. All email should be treated as public record.

Staff may use e-mail to communicate outside of the agency for legitimate business activities within their job assignments or responsibilities. Staff will not use e-mail for illegal, unethical, or unprofessional activities, or for personal gain, or for any purpose that would jeopardize the legitimate interests of the County

November 1, 2015

Dear County Board Members, ladies and gentlemen.

It has been a pleasure to serve as both the elected County Surveyor from 1988 through 1992 and in the position as the Representative to the County Surveyors Office for Tuscola County from 1993 through 2015. The first 5 years was spent helping set up the State wide Remonumentation Program of which not only Tuscola County has participated, but all 83 counties.

The rectangular survey system used in Michigan just celebrated its 200th Anniversary on October 11, 2015 and from October 11, 1815 until 1993 there had been no comprehensive program to maintain the original survey corners set in Michigan between 1815 and 1854. The Remonumentation Program was established to locate these original corners or re-establish their original position in locations where they had been destroyed. Through contracts with local Survey Firms and Grant funds from the Remonumentation Program we have been able to set permanent concrete monuments at 1534 of the counties 2900 original corner positions through 2015. This puts Tuscola County at just under 53% complete. This is in line with about half of the 83 counties. To date we have received grant funds in the amount of \$1,404,759 and have spent all but \$864 of those funds. That seems like a large sum of money, and it is, but it was over a 23 year period. That equates to an average of about \$61,075 per year but my original estimate in 1993 dollars was that we would need about three times that amount to complete the program. Recent Legislation has expanded the program and could add an additional 1000 to 1100 non-original survey corners in Tuscola County alone. My original dollar estimate may prove to be more correct then I could ever have imagined !!

The reason for submitting this letter is to inform the board that I am retiring from the position as County Surveyor/ Representative to the County Surveyors Office effective December 31, 2015.

The Board has the task of appointing my successor on or before the December 31, 2015 date and I am going to recommend Michael Yates, Professional Surveyor. Mike has been shadowing me for the past year and has a genuine interest in the program. He is the only Professional Land Surveyor practicing full time in Tuscola County at this time and his office is located in the City of Vassar. Whomever the Board chooses to appoint, the law requires them to be a Licensed Professional Land Surveyor, licensed in the State of Michigan and Mike meets those requirements. Mike is a very articulate professional and has the computer skills and knowledge of the latest Global Positioning Equipment to take the program to the next level.

The 2015 Completion Report and 2016 Grant Application have been submitted under my watch and once those are approved by the State of Michigan, which I anticipate happening prior to the December 31 date, I will have completed my duties for the program and able to step away. I have offered to help Mike with any advice or assistance that he may need in his anticipated transition.

Respectfully_Submitted,

Kenneth D. Dunton, PS



9-1-1

Tuscola County Central Dispatch

Sandra Nielsen, Director

November 6, 2015

Tuscola County Board of Commissioners Mr. Michael Hoagland, County Controller

On Wednesday November 4, 2015, Nichole Kelly suddenly resigned her full-time dispatcher position effective immediately. We currently have two in training and with this resignation leaves dispatch another position short. Also, at the end of the year one of the dispatchers is planning on retiring.

I have once again reviewed the criteria that was established in the Board of Commissioners motions 14-M-03 and 14-M-018, and respectfully request authorization to fill this newly vacant position. Having 10 full-time trained dispatchers is a must in order to provide adequate service to the county and the community. Additionally, the costs for these positions comes out of the Central Dispatch budget which operations on surcharge fees and does not affect the General Fund budget.

Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely.

Sandra Nielsen, Director



Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

Mr. Mike Hoagland

November 2, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

Tuscola County Right to Life would like to have its annual Memorial Service in front of the Tuscola County Court House on Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 3:00 in the afternoon.

This event is open to the general public, and usually lasts about 30 minutes. If the weather is very cold, it will be shorter than normal. This is considered to be a peaceful event designed to remember those of our County who were lost to abortion in 2015. Similar events will be hosted by other chapters of Right to Life in all parts of Michigan, and throughout the entire country.

On behalf of the Tuscola County Right to Life group, I am requesting permission to have this meeting/ service in front of the County Court House on this date. If your schedule allows, we also invite each of you to attend and to stay as long as you want. Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know your decision on this request.

Sincerely,

Jim McLoskey

Right to Life Board Member

mcloskey@charter.net

November 5, 2015

Dear Commissioners,

Committee for Christmas request the use of the Courthouse lawn from Saturday, Ponember 28, 2015 three Spanary 9, 2016, also a soturday, to display their Materity.

this matter. O for your attention in

Respectfulles submitted, Marsha Perus Chairman 6732997





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Economy & competitive position

The graying of Michigan farmers, and what they will leave behind

5 November 2015

by **Ron French** Bridge Magazine

MASON – Jeff Oesterle may be the new face of farming, even though that face is 65 years old.

At an age when his non-farmer neighbors in Ingham County, are retiring and collecting Social Security checks, Oesterle is planting and harvesting 4,500 acres of corn, wheat, soybeans and hay.

The average Michigan farmer in 2012 was 57.6 years old, eight years older than the average for farmers a generation ago in 1982, and almost 16 years older than the median Michigan worker in 2012, the most recent statistical year available.



Jeff Oesterle, center, is one of a growing number of Michigan farmers who continue to work the fields after age 65. He has help on his farm from his sons, Don, on the left, and Russ, right. (Courtesy photo)

While the graying of Michigan's farmers isn't likely to have an impact on consumers, it is reshaping what we think of as traditional family farms in the state.

"People like to look at a little 80-acre farm that raises a few head of hogs and cattle and maybe a few chickens running around, Oesterle said. "It looks good in a magazine." But it's increasingly no longer the norm in Michigan.

In reality, family farms are larger than ever, pricing out many young people who might in past generations have purchased farmland, and setting the stage for major turnover in the next 20 years as older farmers retire, according

Aging farmers



Michigan's farm operators are advancing in years, raising questions about who will take over the state's massive agriculture industry — worth \$3.9 billion in 2014 — when they retire. Click on a county to see the median age

to David Widmar, an agricultural economist with Agricultural Economic Insights, and a researcher at Purdue University.

The average age of farmers is over 50 in every county in the state, ranging from 50.8 in Oscoda County in northeast Michigan, to 61.9 in the Upper Peninsula's Schoolcraft County.

The graying of the Michigan farmer sounds like a story of demographics, but at its root, it's about economics.

"It takes such a large amount of capital to start a farm," Oesterle said. "It's almost impossible ... for young people to get into the business."

In the past, farmers passed their farms onto their children, but "more and more children are not staying in agriculture," said Frank Wardynski, the Michigan State University beef and dairy extension educator in Ontonagon County, where the average farmer was 61.4 in 2012. "So mom and dad are farming until they retire, and then selling the farm."

And young people can't afford to buy those farms like they might have a generation or two ago. "Usually they're selling it to other older farmers. Maybe not as old as them, but not a new

start doing that."

for farm operators, compared with the median age of the population. Map created by
mike63wilk Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture

farmer," Wardynski said. "No one graduates from high school with enough money to

The trend is the same across the country. The average age of farmers is rising across the United States, ranging from 55.7 in Nebraska to 61.1 in Arizona. More than a third of farmers were over the age of 65 in 2012, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There were more farmers over the age of 65 than all farmers under the age of 45 combined.

To some extent, the graying of farmers across the U.S. and in Michigan is a reflection of the U.S. population as a whole growing older, said Widmar, the Purdue researcher, who studies ag economics and trends and has written about aging farmers.

"The U.S. workforce is aging, we're living longer and we're working longer in life,"

widmar said.

One hundred years ago, the largest percentage of farmers were between the ages of 35-44, Widmar said. By 1980, the largest share were aged 55-64. Now, the largest proportion of farmers are over 65.

"At some point, they're going to exit production," Widmar said. "When that happens, it's going to change the dynamics of who controls farmland."

Michigan Farmers 57.6 52.8 52.8 50.9 51.9 1997 49.5 1982

Average Age of

Fewer farms, more corporate

That could mean more corporate-owned farms.

But it almost definitely will mean a further concentration of farmland in fewer hands, as those with the capital to buy farmland extend their holdings, Widmar said.

One third of all farmland in the nation is owned by farmers over age 65. The USDA estimates that 10 percent of all farmland will **change hands in the next five years.**

"How will that play out? Is there a family member who is going to step up and continue the operation? We don't know that from the data," Widmar said. "What we do know is, when you look at the trends, when a third of the population leaves, there aren't a lot of farmers to step up and fill that void."

MSU Extension officer Steve Lovejoy says there's no need to panic. He argues that the farmer-age data distributed by the USDA is misleading because it only considers the age of the "primary operator" of a farm, not everyone who works there.

"You've got grandpa who is still considered the patriarch of the family, and maybe two generations working with the farm who aren't counted," Lovejoy said. "That's different from (median worker age) in other aspects of the economy."

That's the situation for Ingham County farmer Oesterle. "My grandfather was a farmer and my father was a farmer," Oesterle said, "and now I have two sons who work on the farm and grandchildren who are interested in farming."

Some older farmers who don't have children interested in taking over operations are finding ways to pass along their acreage to young farmers. Lovejoy says some farmers have signed contracts with young workers who operate their farms in exchange for a stake in the land that grows over time.

The USDA, meanwhile, is developing what amounts to a **matchmaking service**, connecting veteran farmers looking to retire with young farmers willing to work their way to ownership.

The National Young Farmers Coalition has pushed for policy changes that would ease the path for young agriculture workers, such as student loan forgiveness programs similar to those that exist for some teachers and physicians.

Lovejoy said. "Well, I have no doubt the land is going to get produced as long as my grandchildren live."

"I don't think we're going to run out of farms," Widmar said. "But I do think we're going to see a transition from farmers to farms, where the business doesn't cease to exist (when a farmer retires or dies). Producers are going to become larger and have a different skill set.

"I don't think consumers will notice anything," Widmar said. "But inside the industry, the players are going to change."

Senior Writer Ron French joined Bridge in 2011, after winning more than 40 state and national journalism awards at The Detroit News. See more stories by him here.

2 comments from Bridge readers.

Karen Fifelski

November 5, 2015 at 9:50 am

I hope that the increase of the "factory" farm doesn't continue. I am a beekeeper and it is almost impossible to find places to place my bees as it is. I have to find places that is not affected by pesticides, fungicides and herbicides. These chemicals not only affect the forager bees that are directly exposed to them but the queen bee with her reproduction and the larvae.

Also even though there are thousands of acres of "green" there is little to nothing form the honey be to eat. The corn and soybeans only blossom or have pollen once then there is nothing to eat forage on.

Jim

November 5, 2015 at 9:53 am

The fact is Oesterle's are an example of how this land is being handled. They are passing it to another generation. Of course they and other farmers are buying some of their neighbors land, but it will still be farmed. This is happening all over the state, and across the country. There will be more large farms simply because of economics, but that isn't unique to agriculture...consider the retail environment, and just look at the concentration in the grocery industry, dry good, pharmacy, auto parts business or most any other sector of our economy. The reference to "corporate" farms is also interesting...exactly who are they? There are some very large farms that are incorporated because of tax reasons, but still run by the family that owns the farm.

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Attachments:

budget.docx; 2016 Support letter example.docx; 2016 Mtg Schedule.docx; 9-10-15 Meeting Notes.docx

Good Afternoon,

The I-69 Thumb Region Steering Committee meeting is on Thursday, November 12th, Please see the details below:

What:

1-69 Thumb Region Steering Committee

When:

Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Where:

Lapeer County Health Department

1800 Imlay City Road Lapeer, MI 48446

(park in rear of building and enter at the glass double doors)

Attachments:

Agenda

Project Status Update Draft 2016 RPI Budget

Sample 2016 RPI Application Letter of Support

Tentative 2016 Meeting Schedule

Meeting Notes from September Meeting

If you have any questions please contact me at apinter@co.genesee.mi.us or 810-766-6542.

Thank you,

Anna

Anna Pinter

Planner III

Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission

ph: (810) 766-6542

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Goal	Project	Successes	In-progress	Upcoming
Infrastructure Fiber Optics		Fiber Optics: Vision for the I-69 Thumb Region completed	Tuscola County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan	Lapeer County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan
	Eibar Ontics	St. Clair County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan completed		Shiawassee County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan
	Pider Optics	Genesee County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan completed		Huron County Connect Michigan Technology Action Plan
				Sanilac County Connect Michigan Technology
				Action Plan
Regional Collaboration	Workforce Development Consolidation	Consolidation of Genesee Shiawassee Michigan		1
77	The state of the s	Works! and ThumbWorks! into GST Michigan Works!	landia alia afila area and barak ta	l
	Talent Tour Transportation funding	\$10,000 spent; over 1,700 students participated; 47 different companies visited; over 25 school districts participated	continuation of the program through the end of the 2015/2016 school year, or until funding is fully expended	
Asset Mapping of work-based education programs		cataloged work-based programs in the Region	verifying programs; analysis of existing programs; maps	evaluate programs, verify and supplement initial results; prepare maps; develop deliverables; present deliverables;
Economic Development / Tourism	Craft Ag Strategy		verifying craft ag information	preparing both hard copy and web-based mapping of craft ag producers
Economic Development Square Footage Strate		potential target industries have been identified;		align primary development verticals to the
	Square Footage Strategy	gathered information on local primary development space demand and supply; narrowed list to 15 most viable sites for primary targets	collecting targeting and development demand information from the State to align info collected at regional level	development priorities and marketing purposes throughout the Region