

**TUSCOLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.**

**VANDERBILT PARK
4446 Bath Road
Fairgrove, MI**

**(In Case of Inclement Weather the Meeting will be held
at 6:00 P.M. at the Annex Building located at
207 E. Grant St., Caro)**

207 E. Grant Street
Caro, MI 48723-1660

Phone: 989-672-3700
Fax : 989-672-4011

- 6:00 P.M. Call to Order – Chairperson Bardwell
Prayer – Commissioner Roggenbuck
Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Kern
Roll Call – Clerk White
Adoption of Agenda
Action on Previous Meeting Minutes (See Correspondence #1)
Brief Public Comment Period
Consent Agenda Resolution (See Correspondence #2)
New Business
 -Draft Tire Collection Site Agreement (See Correspondence #3)
 -Office Space Plan Presentations
 -Request to Address the Board Regarding Vanderbilt Park (Mr. Mark Shook)
 -Mosquito Abatement Promotion
 -Authorize Posting to Hire a Full-Time Dispatcher
Old Business
Correspondence/Resolutions

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Committee of the Whole – FINANCE FOCUS (See Correspondence # 4)
Commissioner Peterson/Commissioner Bardwell

Other Business/On-Going Matters
Next Meeting Date Thursday, July 29, 2010 – 8:00 A.M.

Committee of the Whole – PERSONNEL FOCUS (See Correspondence # 4)
Commissioner Peterson/Commissioner Roggenbuck

Other Business/On-Going Matters

Next Meeting Date Thursday, July 29, 2010 – 8:00 A.M.

Committee of the Whole – BUILDING AND GROUNDS FOCUS (See
Commissioner Kern/Commissioner Petzold Correspondence # 4)

Other Business/On-Going Matters

Next Meeting Date Thursday, July 29, 2010 – 8:00 A.M.

COMMISSIONER LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTS

ROGGENBUCK

Board of Public Works

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Human Services Coordinating Council

MAC Judiciary & Public Safety Committee

Great Start Collaborative – Tuscola County

Parks & Recreation

NACo Agricultural Committee

NACo Rural Action Caucus

MAC Agriculture & Tourism

BARDWELL

Caro DDA

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Economic Development Corporation

Tuscola 2011

MAC Economic Development/Taxation

MAC 7TH District

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Michigan Association of Counties – Board of Directors

NACo

KERN

Thumb Area Consortium

Human Development Commission

Health Board

Senior Services Advisory

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Community Corrections Advisory Board

Behavioral Health Board

DHS/Medical Care Facility Liaison

PETERSON

Enterprise Facilitation

Human Development Commission

MEMS

Michigan Association of Counties – Aging Work Group

Michigan Association of Counties – Environmental

LEPC

NACo

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Parks & Recreation

Dispatch Authority Board

County Planning Commission

PETZOLD

Recycling Advisory

Resource Conservation and Development District

Mid-Michigan Mosquito Control Technical Advisory Committee

Thumb Area Consortium

Multi-County Solid Waste

TRIAD

Local Unit of Government Activity Report

Road Commission

Health Board

Closed Session (If Necessary)

Other Business as Necessary

Extended Public Comment

Adjournment

Note: If you need accommodations to attend this meeting please notify the Tuscola County Controller/Administrator's Office (989-672-3700) two days in advance of the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

- #1 July 13, 2010 Full Board Minutes
- #2 Consent Agenda Resolution
- #3 Draft Tire Collection Site Agreement
- #4 July 14, 2010 Committee of the Whole & Statutory Finance Committee Minutes
- #5 Huron Daily Tribune Article Regarding Taxing Wind Turbines
- #6 June 24, 2010 Road Commission Minutes
- #7 July 2010 Health Department Monthly Report

DRAFT**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners**

**July 13, 2010 Minutes
Courthouse Annex**

Chairman Thomas Bardwell called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at the County Annex Building in the Village of Caro, Michigan, on the 13th day of July, 2010 to order at 8:03 o'clock a.m. local time.

Prayer by Commissioner Peterson
Pledge by Commissioner Roggenbuck

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

District #1 Amanda Roggenbuck, District #2 Thomas Bardwell, District #3 Tom Kern, District #4 Roy Petzold, District #5 Gerald Peterson

10-M-137

Motion by Peterson seconded by Roggenbuck to adopt the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

10-M-138

Motion by Kern seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the 06/22/10 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Brief Public Comment – Pat Woldony, Arthur Lathan parks director, appeared concerning the infrequency of spraying by Mosquito Abatement. Lana Martell appeared regarding the infrequency of spraying by Mosquito Abatement.

10-M-139

It was moved by Peterson and supported by Kern that the following Consent Agenda resolution be adopted:

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Reference:	A
Entity Proposing:	COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/24/10
Description of Matter:	Move that the Behavioral Health Systems 2009 audit as presented by the Director be received and placed on file.
Agenda Reference:	B

- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/24/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the June 18, 2010 letter of request from the Circuit-Family Court Administrator that authorization be given to lease two new copy machines from Galaxy Office Machines with the understanding that no increase in budget appropriation is required and that the contract includes a statement explaining it is the responsibility of Galaxy Office Machines to delete information from the machines' hard drives at the end of the lease period to protect the confidentiality of county records.
- Agenda Reference:** C
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/24/10
- Description of Matter:** Move to approve the changes to the Motorola Contract for re-banding to the MPSCS.
- Agenda Reference:** D
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/24/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request of the Dispatch Director, authorization is given to purchase an additional security camera at the Central Dispatch Operation (inquiry will be made of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority to determine if grant funding may be available for this estimated \$499 expense).
- Agenda Reference:** E
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 6/24/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that in order to determine methods of funding the re-establishment of courthouse security (estimated annualized cost of \$136,000 - six months of 2010 is \$68,000), a letter be sent to all county departments asking how much their respective budgets could be reduced and reallocated to fund security.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that any motion, resolution, or other act of Tuscola inconsistent with this Resolution is hereby rescinded, modified, replaced or superseded by this Resolution.

YEAS: all

NAYS: none

ABSTENTIONS: none

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Ione Vyse appeared regarding the draft Airport Zoning Ordinance.

10-M-140

Motion by Kern seconded by Petzold to appoint Rick Zimmer and Mark Ransford to the Thumb Area Workforce Investment Development Board. Motion carried.

10-M-141

Motion by Kern seconded by Roggenbuck to reappoint Amy Farnum to the Thumb Area Workforce Investment Development Board. Motion carried.

Drain Commissioner Robert Mantey appeared regarding the Sebewaing River intercounty drain.

10-M-142

Motion by Kern seconded by Roggenbuck to approve the Sebewaing River Intercounty Drain resolution. Motion carried.

County Treasurer Patricia Donovan-Gray appeared regarding a banking resolution.

Extended public comment -

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m., until 6 p.m., July 27, 2010

Margie A. White
Tuscola County Clerk

'DRAFT'

COUNTY OF TUSCOLA

STATE OF MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT CONSENT AGENDA

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Tuscola, Michigan, held at Vanderbilt Park, located at 4446 Bath Road, Fairgrove, Michigan, on the 27th day of July, 2010 at 6 o'clock p.m. local time.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

It was moved by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____ that the following Consent Agenda Resolution be adopted:

CONSENT AGENDA

Agenda Reference: A

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that the 2009 County Audit (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) as presented by Jerry Deslover (Auditor from Rehmann Company) be received and placed on file.

Agenda Reference: B

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that per auditor recommendations that staff conduct a review of the estimated 50 county credit cards in use and ask department heads if the number in their respective departments can be decreased to reduce the risk of misuse.

Agenda Reference: C

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that staff develop a draft agreement to define the county and local unit of government roles and responsibilities to implement a tire recycling program. (This draft agreement should be completed so that it is available for review at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.)

Agenda Reference: D

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that Courthouse Security be re-established and the 2010 Budget be amended by \$68,000 through the use of fund balance to finance security costs. Also, methods of reducing security costs continue to be reviewed by all parties.

Agenda Reference: E

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that Circuit/Family Court Administrator, District Court Administrator, County Treasurer and County Chief Accountant review the proposal from Chase involving a system of issuing juror payment cards instead of checks that has the potential to reduce county accounting administrative demands. More information will be provided at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Agenda Reference: F

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that Jamie Dawes, Carl Osentoski and Mike Hoagland be approved as an oversight/review committee to review and make recommendations related to consultants, Request for

Qualifications, Request for Proposals and other facets of the DELEG Energy Grant.

Agenda Reference: G

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that per the June 28, 2010 letter from the Circuit/Family Court Administrator, that the 2010 and 2011 Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement is approved and all appropriate signatures be authorized.

Agenda Reference: H

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that per the recommendation of Corporate Council, the lease payment increase of \$550 to BB&C Enterprises be paid effective with the month of July 2010. (This action reverses previous Board motion 10-M-132 which did not authorize the increase until August 2010).

Agenda Reference: I

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that the agreement with MGT to prepare Cost Allocation Plans for the years of 2009, 2010 and 2011 for an annual amount of \$7,000 be approved and all appropriate signatures are authorized.

Agenda Reference: J

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that per the recommendations of the County Equalization Director that the County enter into the Five Year Amended Assessor Services Agreement with the City of Caro to provide certain assessor services.

Agenda Reference: K

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

- Description of Matter:** Move that the County hiring freeze be lifted (established by Board motion in April of 2010) to approve the posting of the Full Time Level I Assessor Position in the Equalization Department.
- Agenda Reference:** L
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request of the County Treasurer, documents submitted by Multi-Bank Securities enabling the County Treasurer to conduct certain banking and financial transactions with this bank be approved for signature by all appropriate parties.
- Agenda Reference:** M
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the July 9, 2010 request from the Sheriff, that a shredder be authorized to be purchased for \$847 and all appropriate budget amendments are approved with payment to be made from account 207-303- 932.
- Agenda Reference:** N
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that per the request of the Human Resource Director, the agreement with List Psychological to provide fitness for duty evaluations and psychological services be approved and all appropriate signatures are authorized.
- Agenda Reference:** O
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10
- Description of Matter:** Move that the honorary resolution for Dana Davidson for being crowned 2010 Michigan Sugar Queen be approved.
- Agenda Reference:** P
- Entity Proposing:** COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that per the July 8, 2010 letter of request from the American Legion, authorization is given to use the Courthouse Lawn during a ceremony on August 7, 2010.

Agenda Reference: Q

Entity Proposing: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 7/14/10

Description of Matter: Move that the fund raising methods for Vanderbilt Park identified at the Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that any motion, resolution, or other act of Tuscola inconsistent with this Resolution is hereby rescinded, modified, replaced or superseded by this Resolution.

YEAS:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

Thomas Bardwell, Chairperson
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

Margie White
Tuscola County Clerk

**Tuscola County
Tire Collection Site Agreement
With {Municipality}
2010**

Background

Tuscola County desires to provide semi trailers to municipalities for the collection of scrap tires. A maximum of 10 semi trailers will be provided by the county per year. By providing trailers throughout the county the number of scrap tires can be reduced which will help to reduce tires as a significant breeding ground for mosquitos.

The term of this agreement shall commence for one collection date to be determined by the municipality. This contract provides for the one time collection of scrap tires at the municipality's determined location.

Therefore, the parties agree as follows:

I Definitions

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. "Collection Site(s)" shall mean only those collection sites described on Attachment A hereto and such other sites which may from time to time be designated by the parties hereto to be used for the collection of scrap tires. Such sites are herein referred to as "Collection Sites".

B. "Scrap Tires" shall include the following materials:

- Bicycle tires
- Lawn & yard implement tires
- Motorcycle & ATV tires
- Automobile and light truck tires
- Semi tires
- Tractor tires

II Scope of Services.

A. Staffed Scrap Tire Collection Site Stations

1. Collection sites. It is the responsibility of the municipality to inform the County Recycling Coordinator (Kate Neese – 989-672-1673) of the exact location, date and times of when residents will be able to bring tires to the collection site. This must be done a minimum of two weeks prior to the planned collection date. This information will enable the scheduling of the semi-trailer delivery by the County Recycling Coordinator with Environmental Rubber Recycling Incorporated (located at 6515 N Dort Hwy in Flint, Michigan 48505).

2. Staffing. The municipality hosting a trailer will provide sufficient personnel during the collection site's hours of operation. The personnel may be paid employees or approved volunteers of the municipality. Payment for staffing costs is the responsibility of the municipality.

3. Hours of operation. The collection site will be open one day per State of Michigan regulations. The collection site must be open at least four hours per day of site operation.

4. Materials Collected. For the purpose of this agreement, the scrap tires required to be collected by the municipality at the collection site station shall include any and all scrap tires that the staff on site can load by hand. It will be up to the municipality to determine if oversized tires can be safely loaded into the trailer. No tires can remain on site at the end of the collection day.

5. Quality Control and Contamination. The municipality is responsible for loading tires, and tires only, onto the trailer. No tires can be accepted if they are attached to an axle. Tires should be free of mud, water and debris.

6. Volume Limits. Residents are limited to bringing seven (7) tires per vehicle per State of Michigan regulations. No business or commercial tires can be accepted at these collection events. Any Tuscola County resident may use the collection site. Proof of residency in Tuscola County is required, and verification of such must be completed by municipality staff or volunteers.

7. Payment for Collection. Tuscola County will only pay for one semi trailer per collection event. Payment will be made from the Mosquito Abatement Millage Fund. The municipality will be responsible for any additional costs beyond the single scrap tire collection semi trailer. The municipality will be responsible for turning residents away if the trailer becomes filled before the end of the collection time. Again, no tires may remain on site after the designated collection date per State of Michigan regulations.

III Transport, Processing and Contaminated Materials

A. Transportation of Materials.

Environmental Rubber Recycling Inc. will provide transportation of the trailer to and from the collection site to its processing center at 6515 N. Dort Highway, Flint at no additional cost to the municipality.

B. Processing.

Environmental Rubber Recycling Inc. will provide on going processing, marketing, storage and shipping of all scrap tires collected from the collection sites.

IV Term and Termination.

A. Term.

The term of this Agreement shall be through December 31, 2010, unless terminated in accordance with Paragraph B below.

B. Termination.

1. Termination without Cause. This Agreement may be terminated without cause by either party upon written notice of election to terminate delivered to the other party prior to the scheduled delivery of the semi-trailer.

V- Responsibility and Reporting.

A. Maintenance.

It will be the responsibility of the municipality to determine an easily accessible location for the collection site. The municipality must maintain the site by clean up and snow removal when needed. Any trash or unacceptable material left at the collection site will be the responsibility of the municipality to dispose of properly.

B. Trailers.

The municipality is responsible for the protection and care of the trailer while at the collection site. Maintenance and repair of the trailers will be the responsibility of Environmental Rubber Recycling, Inc.

C. Promotion Material.

Each municipality is required to promote to the best of their ability the scrap tire collection program. The Tuscola County Recycling Facility and Tuscola County Mosquito Abatement program will also help promote scrap tire collection through the use of local media, flyers and brochures. Each collection site will be open to any and all Tuscola County residents.

D. Training/Education

Municipalities may contact Tuscola County Recycling for advice on how to properly load the scrap tire collection trailer. Municipalities are encouraged to visit the Tuscola County Recycling Center to observe and tour their year round tire collection program.

E. Liability

The municipality shall have appropriate insurance for injuries or accidents or other liability that may occur at the collection site. The municipality shall hold harmless Tuscola County and affiliate departments or personnel for any damages or injuries sustained whether intentional or unintentional.

Executed this _____ day of _____, 2010

County of Tuscola:

Thomas Bardwell, Chairperson
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners

Witnessed

Municipality

Title

Date _____

Witnessed

Tire Collection Program Update

Townships	Interested	Not Interested	No Response To Date
AKRON TWP			X
ALMER TWP			X
ARBELA TWP		X	
COLUMBIA TWP	X		
DAYTON TWP	X		
DENMARK TWP			X
ELKLAND TWP			X
ELLINGTON TWP			X
ELMWOOD TWP			X
FAIRGROVE TWP	X		
FREMONT TWP	X		
GILFORD TWP			X
INDIANFIELDS TWP			X
JUNIATA TWP			X
KINGSTON TWP			X
KOYLTON TWP	X		
MILLINGTON TWP			X
NOVESTA TWP			X
TUSCOLA TWP			X
VASSAR TWP	X		
WATERTOWN TWP			X
WELLS TWP			X
WISNER TWP			X
Cities and Villages			
AKRON	X		
CARO			X
CASS CITY			X
FAIRGROVE			X
GAGETOWN			X
KINGSTON			X
MAYVILLE			X
MILLINGTON			X
REESE			X
UNIONVILLE			X
VASSAR	X		

DRAFT
Tuscola County Board of Commissioners
Committee of the Whole Minutes
Wednesday, July 14, 2010 – 3:00 P.M.
Annex Board Room (207 E. Grant Caro, Mi.)

Commissioners present: Roggenbuck, Bardwell, Kern, Petzold, Peterson. Also present: Mike Hoagland, Margie White, Hal Hudson, Doug DuRussel, Jerry Desloover, Clayette Zechmeister, Mike Miller, Donna Fraczek, Joe Pichla, Patricia Donovan-Gray, Steven Lark, Mary Drier, Walt Schlichting, Kate Neese, Mary Lou Burns

Finance

2009 County and Medical Care Facility Audit Presentation – Jerry Desloover, Rehmann Company – It was suggested an annual review of who has county credit cards be conducted (see consent agenda resolution to accept and place audit on file)

MSU Extension Reorganization and Introduction of District Coordinator – Joe Bixler – Dr. Hal Hudson introduced Joe Bixler. Joe's office is located in St. Clair County. The district covers Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac, Lapeer, and St. Clair counties.

Update Tire Recycling - Mosquito Abatement Proposal – to date, six units of government have responded (see consent agenda resolution)

Financing Courthouse Security – (see consent agenda resolution)

- **Response from Departments** – minimal at best
- **Potential Methods of Reducing Costs**
- **Circuit/Family Court**
- **Proportioning Method**
- **Use of General Fund Balance**

Juror Card Program Presentation – Joseph Pichla – (see consent agenda resolution)

Update DELEG Energy Grant – promote with local units

- **Approval of 3 Member Committee to Review and Approve RFP** – Commissioner Jamie Dawes, Carl Osentoski and Mike Hoagland (see consent agenda resolution)
- **Approval of RFP for Energy Audit and Non-Motorized Project** – for planning only

Friend of the Court CRP Agreement – two-year agreement (see consent agenda resolution)

Adult Probation Lease – (see consent agenda resolution to pay increase)

MGT Cost allocation Plan Agreement – reduces our current cost allocation plan (\$7,000 savings) (see consent agenda resolution)

Proposed Amendment to Assessor's Services Agreement with Caro – The City of Caro wishes to expand and extend the agreement (see consent agenda resolution)

2011 Budget Development

- **2011 Budget Development**
- **Financial Presentation to Elected/Appointed Officials**

Consent of Lienholder for a Wind Farm Easement – more information will be sought

Treasurer Banking Resolution Approval – (see consent agenda resolution)

Sheriff Department Request to Replace Shredder – (see consent agenda resolution)

Secondary/On-Going Finance Items

1. Treasurer Bank Statement Reconciliation
2. North Star Bank Court Related Payment Methods
3. LEIN Fees Paid – staff will check with MAC to see which counties haven't paid
4. Scheduling of Allied Information Systems Request for Presentation
5. Grant Writer Services – Next Steps
6. Policy Development - Confidential Information on Copiers and Fax Machines
7. Sunset Bay Marina
8. Binding Arbitration Update
9. Emergency Services – Sanilac County July 6 meeting – committee discussed and are still open-minded
10. Three Year Dog License Alternative

11. Jail Prisoner Overcrowding Alternatives
 - House Arrest Services Re-Contacted – Tether Program
 - Evaluation of Housing More Prisoners in Tuscola Jail
 - Jail Diversion Program

Personnel

Consideration of List Psychological Services – fitness for duty exams (see consent agenda resolution)

Resolution Congratulating Michigan Sugar Queen – to be presented in August (see consent agenda resolution)

Secondary/On-Going Personnel Items

1. Incorporate County Personnel Policies and Other key Personnel Information on the County Web Site
1. Circuit/Family Court Personnel Policies
2. MERS Bridged Benefits Valuation

Building and Grounds

Office Space Planning – both presentations scheduled to occur July 27, 2010. It was decided to proceed making the assumption Circuit Court Probation will be relocated to the courthouse

Airport Zoning Update – the wrong draft was referenced at the last meeting. Committee members will review highlighted changes

Niland Building – no action

Request to use Courthouse Lawn – permission granted to conduct military honors at the Veteran's Memorial August 7 (see consent agenda resolution)

Secondary/On-Going Building and Grounds Items

1. Farmers Market
2. Vanderbilt Park – various fundraisers were suggested (see consent agenda resolution)

Correspondence/Other Business as Necessary

1. **Next Board Meeting Location and Contingency Plan** – In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be held at the Annex
2. **Tuscola County Coastal Needs Assessment** – notify EMCOG that Zygy Dworzecki is not the chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission
3. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant Application
4. Other County Resolutions

Public Comment Period - none

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Margie A. White
Tuscola County Clerk

**Statutory Finance Committee Minutes
Wednesday, July 14, 2010
Annex Board Room
207 E. Grant St., Caro, MI**

Called to order: 5:46 p.m.

Commissioners present: Roggenbuck, Bardwell, Kern, Petzold, Peterson

Also present: Mike Hoagland, Margie White, Mark Ransford

Claims and per diems were reviewed and approved

Public Comment - none

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Margie A. White
Tuscola County Clerk

Checkout The New iPods!

dish Your Local Provider...
•Dish Network
•DirecTV •Comcast

•Plasma & LCD
•DVD Players
•Home Theater

McCormick Motors
of Pigeon

Huron Daily Tribune

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Wednesday, July 21, 2010

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How wind turbines are taxed

By Kate Hessling

Published: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 6:43 AM EDT

Recommend Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Tribune Staff Writer

BAD AXE — Huron County commissioners on Tuesday introduced the Thumb Regional Renewable Energy Collaborative, a regional coalition aimed at maximizing local revenue and employment from renewable energy projects.

"We just want to make sure we get our fair share and everyone's treated equally," said Mike Krause, member of both the Huron County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board and Thumb Regional Renewable Energy Collaborative (TRREC).

Krause said in the long run, renewable energy projects will be very valuable since state law requires at least 10 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2015. Michigan's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, which lawmakers adopted in October 2008, also requires that, for the most part, renewable energy systems used to satisfy the "10 percent by 2015" law be located in Michigan.

Because the Thumb has been identified as the number one area in the state for wind energy generation potential, and because of the state's energy mandate, it makes the area ripe for wind development.

"This is the biggest thing to happen to the Thumb region since the Great Fire of 1881," Krause said.

One of TRREC's goals is to provide education to townships, local schools, road commissions, seniors, medical care, transit, libraries and others that could be impacted by renewable energy developments in the area of taxes and job creation. To do that, collaborative members — which consist of representatives from Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties — investigated how wind projects currently are taxed.

Annual depreciation,

possible tax abatement

Wind energy systems (i.e. turbines) are classified as industrial property, Krause said. Unlike real property, property values are determined by their market value.

The Michigan State Tax Commission, with input from wind developers, established a schedule where turbines are taxed at 100 percent of their value the first year of operation and then the taxable value depreciates by 5 percent each year until year 15, when they are taxed at 30 percent, Krause said. After year 15, the schedule remains at 30 percent.

As an example, he said a \$4.8 million wind turbine would have a taxable value of \$2.4 million for the first year. If 20 mills were levied, the total tax revenue from the turbine for the first year would be \$48,000. Each year, until year 15, the tax revenue from the turbine would decrease by 5 percent, resulting in revenue being \$14,400 at year 15 and every following year.

Because wind turbines are considered industrial personal property, they are exempt from paying the State Education Tax of 6 mills and Local School Operating Tax of 18 mills.

On top of that, turbines also may qualify for a personal property tax exemption from the Michigan Next Energy Authority.

Krause said that means an energy developer could get a 100 percent tax abatement on a wind development once the project is complete — that is unless the local tax collection units and school districts pass resolutions disallowing the exemption.

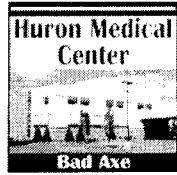
Impacted local units (i.e. townships) and school districts are notified when a Michigan Next Energy Authority exemption is approved, and the units have 60 days to pass a resolution opting out of the exemption, he said.

If the local tax collecting units of government/schools do not opt out within 60 days, they have no way of collecting any taxes on the wind turbines until Dec. 31, 2012, which is the sunset date the Legislature set in the Michigan Next Energy Authority law, Krause explained.

After that sunset date, any certified exempted wind energy system would return to the tax rolls at their tax depreciated value, unless the law is extended — which officials said on Tuesday could happen because the goal of the exemption is not to encourage just wind development, but renewable energy manufacturing in Michigan as well.

Today's Weather

Bad Axe, MI
75°F
forecast...



Huron Medical Center
Bad Axe

HELP THOSE IN NEED BY SHOPPING AT Murray's Home Furnishings NOW THROUGH AUGUST 7

MURRAY'S IS A FRANCHISE SUPPORTER OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION'S (HDC) HOME DELIVERED MEALS PROGRAM AND YOU CAN BE TOO!

SAVE MONEY TODAY WITH SALE PRICES THROUGHOUT THE STORE

PLUS IF YOU SHOP AT MURRAY'S NOW THROUGH AUGUST 2 we will donate a percentage of some purchases to HDC's Home Delivered Meals Program in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties.



Luke's Super Market

Spartan Stores




8856 Unionville Rd.
Sebewaing
989-883-3630

Phil's Plumbing & Heating

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As a result, TRREC members and county commissioners on Tuesday stressed it's very important that local schools and townships are aware of this, so if a request for exemption is made in their area, they will be able to opt out of it and can collect local taxes on the wind energy systems. And if a township doesn't opt out and an exemption goes into effect, it means no local government — including the county — will be able to collect any taxes on the development, Krause said.

He noted TRREC has been building a rapport with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) so if a local township is sent a notification that an exemption has been approved, county officials will be notified and can make the local unit aware it has 60 days to act or it will lose out on tax revenue.

"As new developments come in, as we better understand what the tax implications are ... it's our responsibility to ... make sure information is as transparent and open as much as possible," said Huron County EDC Executive Director Carl Osentoski, who also is a TRREC member.

Hundreds of millions of dollars at stake

Krause said the Michigan Next Energy Authority exemption is the only tax exemption option for wind energy systems. He said the MEDC is of the opinion that since Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard is in place, there is no need to extend this provision past Dec. 31, 2012.

"We have a natural resource that people want to develop," he said, adding tax abatements won't be the incentive they currently are in the future because developers won't have a choice but to create alternative energy developments because they will be required to have 10 percent of their electricity come from renewable sources by 2015.

If all local units failed to opt out of the Next Energy exemption as future developments are erected, it could cost the Thumb hundreds of millions of dollars in the future, Krause said.

As an extreme, he cited estimates showing that if 1,000 turbines were erected in the Thumb (Huron, Tuscola and Sanilac counties), and no townships opted out of the exemption, the Tri-County area could lose \$445.99 million in tax revenue, assuming the turbines are taxed an average of 20 mills.

Krause stressed that is just a snapshot of the significance of future revenue from wind developments, and noted area townships and schools shouldn't be ashamed for collecting taxes on wind developments.

"Twenty mills is not the end of the world — it's what constituents in this county deserve," Krause added. "... To represent your community and your constituents, you need to get something in return (in the form of tax revenue from developments)."

He said the area has to think of wind as a natural resource.

"If we discovered gold in Huron County, would we invite people in and give them a tax abatement to dig our gold out? Probably not — we'd ask them to leave us a little something behind," Krause said. "... That person struggling to pay their property taxes ... wind developers should pay the same things that they pay."

According to Huron County Treasurer Sherry Learman, turbines located in Chandler Township that are part of the Harvest Wind Farm were levied for 11.5155 mills in 2009. Those with a primary residence exemption (i.e. primary homes) in that township were levied 29.031 mills and those with no primary residence exemptions (i.e. second homes) were levied 47.031 mills.

Turbines located in Oliver Township that are part of the Harvest Wind Farm were levied 9.9006 mills in 2009, Learman said. Those with a primary residence exemption in that township were levied 25.8013 mills and non-primary residence exemptions were levied 43.8013 mills.

Learman said turbines located in Sheridan Township that are part of the Michigan Wind I development were levied 7.8763 mills in 2009. Those with a primary residence exemption in that township were levied 21.7527 mills and non-primary residence exemptions were levied 39.7527 mills.

Turbines located in Bingham Township that are part of Michigan Wind I were levied 8.0492 mills in 2009, Learman said. Those with a primary residence exemption in that township were levied 22.0985 mills and non-primary residence exemptions were levied 40.0985 mills.

The total property tax collected in the area from both Michigan Wind 1 and Harvest Wind — including all taxes paid to the four townships, county, local schools and libraries — exceeded \$1.08 million in 2009 and are anticipated to be around \$1.02 million in 2010, according to projections from the Huron County Equalization Office.

The next course of action

According to the presentation Osentoski and Krause gave during Tuesday's commissioners meeting, the number one item on the collaborative's to-do list is to make sure townships and local school districts opt out of Next Energy Tax exemptions.

Other to-do items include:

- Educate each other.
- Build a coalition, including counties outside the Thumb area, to affect legislation and Michigan Tax Commission regulations.
- Study the impact of increased taxes on local millage collections, job creation and explore other options. This study will take some time, Krause noted.

Following the TRREC presentation, Huron County commissioners discussed a variety of other wind-related topics. Commissioner Kurt Damrow said county officials met with some manufacturing companies last week about bringing jobs to Huron County in the future. He said the county has about three months to prepare an official pitch to the companies.

Damrow said the local wind developments are what made the area attractive to the companies, which included a hybrid automotive manufacturing company.

Also during Tuesday's meeting, the board heard from Brad Lila, Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. (RES Americas) development manager, who said RES will soon be submitting an application for wind overlay zoning, which is the first step in zoning process to create a wind development.

He said RES is nearing completion of gathering leases, and so far, there are about 60,000 acres under lease.

The company is looking at two different projects, Lila said. The first is northeast of Kinde and the second is southwest of Elkton.



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At this time, RES is waiting to see what ITC Transmission will do as far as upgrading the transmission grid, Lila added.

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June 24, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board was held in their offices at 1733 S. Mertz Rd., Caro, Michigan on Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 8:00 A.M.

Present: Commissioners John Laurie, Gary Parsell, and Mike Zwerk, County Highway Engineer Michele Zaverucha, Superintendent/Manager Jay Tuckey, Director of Finance/Secretary-Clerk Michael Tuckey.

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk that the minutes of the June 10, 2010 regular meeting of the Board be approved. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Payroll in the amount of \$97,512.19 and bills in the amount of \$220,362.46 covered by voucher #10-24 were presented and audited.

Motion by Zwerk seconded by Parsell that the payroll and bills be approved. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Brief Public Comment Segment:

None.

Millington Township Supervisor Bob Worth appeared before the Board regarding the bike crossing on Barnes Road. The Millington Township Board requests advanced warning pavement marking at the bike crossing location to be funded by Southern Links. County Highway Engineer Zaverucha presented examples of bike crossing pavement marking and advanced warning signs. After further discussion, the following motion was introduced:

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk to approve the installation of pavement marking at the bike crossing on Barnes Road, with the understanding that all current and future costs will be funded by Millington Township in accordance with Road Commission policy. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Mr. Worth also asked if the clear vision could be improved at the location of the bike crossing. Superintendent/Manager Jay Tuckey will review the location and report back to the Board.

Management and the Board reviewed and discussed a petition from residents on Waltan Road in Vassar Township regarding restricting truck traffic by Mid-Michigan Minerals. After discussion, the following motion was introduced:

Motion by Zwerk seconded by Parsell to accept the petition from the residents on Waltan Road and request a written response from the Vassar Township Board and to consult with the Road Commission's Attorney regarding restricting truck traffic on local roads. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk to approve the 2009 Equipment Profit and Loss Report as presented by Management. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Director of Finance Michael Tuckey reported to the Board of receiving a written offer from Bay City Energy for leasing the mineral interest at the Road Commission's Fisher Gravel Pit on Dutcher Road. The Board will table a decision at this time.

Management and the Board further discussed the drainage on Gilford Road at the White Creek previously discussed at the last regular meeting of the Board. County Highway Engineer Zaverucha reported to the Board a response from the MDEQ requiring a hydraulic analysis be conducted and all property owners within the upstream drainage area need to sign a letter approving the work. After review and further discussion, the Board requested that the Engineer's Review be sent to all township boards affected in the drainage area.

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk that the agreement between Russell Farms and the Tuscola County Road Commission allowing Special Designated All-Season loads for Darbee Road from their farm on Darbee Road easterly to M-24 be extended for an additional two (2) years with the conditions specified in the agreement. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Motion by Zwerk seconded by Parsell that bid item #15 of the 2010 Furnishing & Placing Crushed Limestone bids be awarded to Burroughs Materials, as specified by the Columbia Township Board. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

County Highway Engineer Zaverucha presented to the Board the results of the Engineering Review of the intersection at Millington Road and Sheridan Road in accordance with the Board's request to review the intersection for a 4-way Stop. Zaverucha presented updated traffic counts and traffic accident history at the intersection which resulted in meeting the criteria for a 4-way Stop in accordance with the Michigan Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. After further discussion, the following motion was introduced:

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk to approve the installation of 4-way Stop Signs at the intersection of Millington Road and Sheridan Road, as well as any other approved advanced warnings to alert the motoring public of the change. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Motion by Parsell seconded by Zwerk to approve the request from the Watertown Township Board to close Fostoria Road within the Village of Fostoria for the "Fostoria Family Days" held on July 9-10, 2010; and that the Road Commission will provide standard traffic control signs for the closure. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Motion by Zwerk seconded by Parsell that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 A.M. Zwerk, Parsell, Laurie --- Carried.

Chairman

Secretary-Clerk of the Board

Tuscola County Health Department
Board of Commissioners Monthly Report for July 2010
Prepared by: Gretchen Tenbusch, RN, MSA, Health Officer
Visit our website at www.tchd.us

Outcomes for the Month:

- The Health Department received four bids for a comprehensive audit and Single Audit, for a three year period, starting with the fiscal year ending 9/30/10. These bids will be opened by the Board of Health at the 7/16/10 Board meeting.

Issues under consideration by the Local Health Department:

- The Health Department has narrowed the selection of an Electronic Health Record system down to 2 vendors. A final decision will occur in the next few weeks. Our computer equipment will need to be updated to run the new software.
- The Department of Natural Resources and Environment completed their audit of our Private and Type III Groundwater Program on 6/22/10. The Environmental Health Division met all the minimum program requirements and passed with no deficiencies.
- The Cottage Food Law was passed and allows individuals to manufacture and store certain types of foods in an unlicensed home kitchen. They may manufacture non-potentially hazardous foods that do not require time and/or temperature control for safety. They may sell their Cottage Foods directly to the consumer at farmers markets, farm stands, roadside stands and similar venues. The key is they are selling it directly to the consumer. They cannot sell their Cottage Foods to a retailer for them to resell or to a restaurant for use or sale in the restaurant. They cannot sell their Cottage Foods over the internet, by mail order, or to wholesalers, brokers or other food distributors who will resell the Cottage Foods. Because the kitchen used for Cottage Food preparation is unlicensed and not inspected, the safe food handling practices are not evaluated by any food safety official. Since the safe food handling practices are not being evaluated, the food is not considered an approved source for use in a restaurant or grocery store. All food sold under the Cottage Food venue must meet labeling requirements. The vendor is also limited to \$ 15,000 gross sales annually per household. This Law will be administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and not the local health department, however, we expect that calls will initially come to the health department and need to be redirected to the MDA. More information can be found by contacting MDA-Info@michigan.gov
- The Michigan Department of Community Health budget still has not been approved yet. The House and the Senate can not agree on the appropriation and the cuts.

Issues to be brought to Board of Commissioners:

- None