

**Draft**  
**Tuscola County Board of Commissioners**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Monday, December 9, 2019 – 8:00 A.M.**  
**HH Purdy Building - 125 W. Lincoln, Caro, MI**

Commissioners Present: District 1 - Thomas Young, District 2 - Thomas Bardwell, District 3 - Kim Vaughan (via Google Hangouts), District 4 - Mark Jensen, District 5 - Daniel Grimshaw

Absent: None

Also Present: Clerk Jodi Fetting (arrived at 8:47 a.m.), Chief Deputy Clerk Carly Langmaid, Shelly Lutz, Eean Lee, Mike Miller, Angie Daniels, Senator Kevin Daley, Kim Green, Nancy Laskowski, Jerry Johnson, Katie Cooper, Bob Battle, Carrie Nicols, Ann McLaughlin, Eileen Doering, Charles Dennis, Duane Lockwood, Carmell Pattullo, Mark Haney, Ken Hecht, Tom Hess, Carol Hess, Jon Lauderbach, Richard Peterhans, Larry Ruckle, Melynda Jardine, Norm Stephens, David Traubenkraut

**Finance/Technology**  
Committee Leaders-Commissioners Young and Jensen

**Primary Finance/Technology**

-Senator Kevin Daley - Senator Daley provided an update on the State's budget process, an upcoming meeting regarding the Caro Center and wind turbine taxation.

-MSU Annual Report - District Director Jerry Johnson presented the annual report and answered questions from the Commissioners. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-MSU 2020 Memorandum of Agreement - Board discussed. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-Tuscola County Recycling 2018 Annual Report - Mike Miller presented the annual report. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-Re-appointment of Medical Examiner - Commissioner Bardwell explained the proposed agreement. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-Capitol Services Retainer - Board discussed the proposed two-month continuation contract. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-Community Foundation Grant Award - Board discussed the grant received by the Tuscola County Sheriff's Department from the Jank's Foundation in the amount of \$4,900.00. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

## **On-Going and Other Finance**

### **Finance**

1. Preparation of Updated Multi-Year Financial Plan
2. 2020 Budget Development - Commissioner Bardwell expressed the importance of finalizing the 2020 Budget before the end of the year.
3. Continue Review of Road Commission Legacy Costs

### **Technology**

1. Increasing On-Line Services/Updating Web Page
2. Implementation of New Computer Aided Dispatch System

## **Personnel**

Committee Leader-Commissioner Vaughan and Bardwell

### **Primary Personnel**

-Equalization Promotion - Angie Daniels explained the requested promotion. She also shared some upcoming changes to the Equalization Department. Matter to be placed on Thursday's regular agenda.

-Refill Vacant Tech Position in the IT Department - Eean Lee explained the request to refill a vacant position in his department. Matter to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

-Commissioner Bardwell addressed a training program that NaCO is offering for Cybersecurity.

-Mosquito Abatement Retirement - Kim Green announced her retirement as the Director of Mosquito Abatement. She is requesting her retirement be accepted and to be able to begin the search for her replacement. Matters to be placed on the Consent Agenda.

### **On-Going and Other Personnel**

1. Negotiation of Expiring Union Contracts – Setting Financial and Other Objectives
2. Strengthen and Streamline Year-End Open Enrollment - Shelly and Renee will be participating in BS & A Training regarding year-end reporting.

## **Building and Grounds**

Committee Leaders-Commissioners Jensen and Grimshaw

### **Primary Building and Grounds - None**

### **On-Going and Other Building and Grounds**

1. County Jail Study – Study is currently working on square footage needed for employees. They will then present to the Commissioners their finding in the near future. Board would like more information provided.
2. Recycling Relocation Update - Mike Miller provided an update on the new recycling center.
3. County Physical and Electronic Record Storage Needs – Potential Use of Recycling Pole Building
4. Review of Alternative Solutions Concerning the Caro Dam

**Other Business as Necessary - None**

Recessed at 9:43 a.m.

Reconvened at 9:53 a.m.

**Public Comment Period -**

-Commissioner Grimshaw expressed concern that a special board meeting was scheduled without consultation of the Commissioners for availability.

-Larry Ruckle - Larry referenced that the Friends of the Tuscola Area Airport Inc. was started by Attorney Josh Nolan. He also referenced the Tuscola Area Airport Resolution. Larry referenced property by class of SEV and Taxable. He asked the Board to represent the entire county not just a portion of the county.

-Duane Lockwood - Duane asked the Board who would finance any costs associated with the appeal of the Judge's decision. Commissioner Bardwell stated the financial responsibility would fall on the county. Duane asked the Board to not spend additional money on this matter.

-Nancy Laskowski - Nancy expressed her concern of the Commissioners and Airport Zoning Board of Appeal (AZBA) Board members not being provided a copy of the Judge's opinion. She referenced how many townships have adopted wind ordinances in the county. Nancy referenced the use of the airport and how the wind turbines would affect take-off and landing at the airport.

-Carol Hess - Carol stated the approaches have been preserved in the plan of the turbines. Carol stated that the issue before the Board would be if the Board would like to appeal a decision of the Judge.

-Richard Peterhans - Richard stated that he feels the county should spend additional county money on the appeal of the Judge's decision.

-Chuck Dennis - Chuck feels that outside people that have an anti-wind agenda have come into Tuscola County to fuel the controversy. Chuck referenced tax money that has been generated by wind turbines within Tuscola County.

-Ken Hecht - Ken stated the issue is about the 30 windmills around the airport and that he likes windmills. He feels that proper permitting was not completed by NextEra. Ken asked the Board to review all of the facts presented and stand behind the AZBA Board.

-Tom Hess - Tom referenced a news article that showed an airplane tangled in power lines. Tom referenced an ad that is placed in the Advertiser almost weekly and the expense associated with that. He questioned where Concerned Citizens of Juniata Township is getting the funding to afford that.

-Greg Ackerman - Greg stated that the group that is against the wind turbines in Juniata Township has changed which focal point it uses to fight the windmills. He read an excerpt from a Facebook post. Greg asked the Board to take the high road and make the right decision. A group has been started to protect landowner's rights.

-Jon Lauderbach - Jon explained that when Mr. Ackerman referenced targets he was referencing a political target.

-David Traubenkraut - David represents the Sanford Family Farm Trust. He trusts the FAA and their decision making. The turbine that is to be located on the Sanford Family Farm is beginning to be constructed although it has been found that the turbine has been vandalized.

-Eileen Doering - Eileen stated the main focus on this matter is to uphold the airport ordinance. She is supportive of appealing the Judge's decision. She stated a new lease has been signed on property that is closer to the airport. She feels if NextEra has the current variances approved they will come after more.

-Nancy Laskowski - Nancy referenced changes that were addressed earlier in reference to the Airport Authority Board. Nancy asked the Board to speak with Michael Yates in reference to glide path. Nancy spoke of leases that have been signed that are near the airport. Nancy referenced issues on the roads that she feels are being caused by trucks moving turbines parts.

-Larry Ruckle - Larry referenced the cost he felt Tuscola County would experience if the appeal is followed. He stated that he felt residents in Juniata Township had the opportunity to go to NextEra to ask if a lease would be possible.

-Chuck Dennis - He stated there needs to be a financial accounting reported from the incorporated entity providing the funding. He also referenced that NextEra has fixed the roads to above standard in other townships when they are done using the road. Chuck asked the Board to look at the county as a whole.

-Greg Ackerman - He has watched the process in other communities and how other local boards have been influenced. Greg feels the Board of Commissioners will be next. He is frustrated in watching the process unfold.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Jodi Fetting  
Tuscola County Clerk

Caryl Langmaid  
Chief Deputy Clerk