

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Monday, April 24, 2006
1:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Curt Mudgett from the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Stanton offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Walker, Petersen, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Chris Hyzer, Lisa Lund, Denise Hubbard, Shelly Strautz, and John Berchtold.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Caris to approve the April 10, 2006, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the agenda with the addition of a 2:05 p.m. agenda item entitled *Amendment for Equalization*. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Tammy Wilcox addressed the board regarding an Animal Control issue. On April 11, 2006, Ms. Wilcox called Animal Control regarding a pit bull and other dogs running loose at her father's home in Richland Township and was told that an officer would respond that day. After she still did not have a response the next day, she phoned Animal Control again and after stating her concern was hung up on. She then called John Berchtold but when she refused to give her father's phone number to Mr. Berchtold because of father's failing health, he too hung up on her.

Ms. Wilcox then called the County Treasurer's office and discovered that no dog licenses were issued to the address of the owners of these dogs. On April 13th, Animal Control issued a written notice to the owners of the dogs informing them to license their animals. Ms. Wilcox would like to know why a written notice was sent instead of a ticket being issued. She is also concerned that when stating her complaint about these animals running loose to Animal Control, she was informed that she needs to capture the animal and/or animals and then call Animal Control who will then come and pick them up. She asked the board if they understood the kind of liability that was at stake by telling people to capture an unknown, scared animal. Especially when the person being instructed to capture these animals are in failing health, like her father.

Ms. Wilcox stated that county vehicles are taken home by Animal Control officers so that they can respond to emergency calls, but the only emergency calls that they will respond to are dog/vehicle accidents and a dog bite when the owner is not known. She feels that if they will not respond to all emergency calls then officers should not be taking county-owned vehicles home. She asked the board to look into this situation and for someone to get back with her.

A Comprehensive Corrections Plan Agreement between the Michigan Department of Corrections and Montcalm County was received. The term of the agreement is from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the Comprehensive Corrections Plan Agreement between the Michigan Department of Corrections and Montcalm County and authorize Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

A recycling service agreement between Goodwill Industries and Montcalm County was received. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the Recycling Service Agreement between Goodwill Industries and Montcalm County and authorize Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve consent agenda items 3 through 11 move stated action:

Controller	2004 Homeland Security Grant (Supplement)	Place on file
Varnum, Riddering et al	MERS Transfer of Funds	Place on file
Controller	Research Boundary Changes in Villages	Place on file
Village of Howard City	Annexation Howard City/Reynolds Township	Place on file
Richard Reeves, Equalization Director	2006 County Equalization Report Due State	Place on file
CAMWC	Minutes of 2-6-06 Meeting	Place on file
MI Assoc. of Counties	Mobile Home Park Inspection Funding	Place on file

Controller
Animal Control

Proposal – Image America
March monthly report

Place on file
Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve additional correspondence items 1 through 4 and move stated action:

Richard Reeves, Equalization Director
Controller
State Tax Commission
Controller

Grant Request/Fly Over
Status of Housing Grant
IFT Revocation; Richland Township
Letter to Panhandle Consulting

Place on file
Place on file
Place on file
Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the disposal of excess furniture and equipment process that was presented by the Controller and allow the Controller to administrate the process. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to accept the sign design for Potter's Field with names on the back of the sign from the Sheridan Boy Scouts at no cost to the County. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to place the April 24, 2006, Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the purchase of two (2) postage machines (Model WJ 185) from Hasler in amount of \$12,582.00 with payment coming from the Office Equipment Fund (1742333-980001). Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to adopt the 2007 Budget Calendar as presented by the Chris Hyzer, Finance Officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke that the County retain Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. to conduct the September 30, 2006 financial audit with a cost of \$22,500, plus an additional \$1,500 for the single audit for a total cost of \$24,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve the salaried employee policy amendment. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke that the County purchase long-term disability insurance coverage through UnumProvident to cover salaried employees with an effective date to be June 1, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to allow EMS to purchase a 2006 Ford Expedition 4x4 using the 2005 Homeland Security emergency management grant monies for \$23,872.96. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow EMS to purchase a trailer from USA Trailers in an amount of \$2,205. Motion carried with Commissioners Carr and Johansen voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to accept the proposed 2006 evaluation of Kevin Weaver. Motion carried.

Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to pay the claims on warrant 042406 in the amount of \$890,632.24. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the April 24, 2006, Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Commissioner Petersen asked that in the future when there are policy changes that affect employees that those employees affected be sent notice by the Controller.

At 1:33 p.m. Lisa Lund from the Montcalm Human Services Coalition, was in attendance to give the Board an overview of the Community Report Card.

At 1:49 p.m. Denise Hubbard, Montcalm County United Way, was in attendance to present an award to Montcalm County employees in recognition of achieving the greatest percentage increase in the 2005 United Way campaign.

At 2:00 p.m. Eric Smith, Emergency Services, was in attendance to answer any questions regarding the appointment of the Local Planning Team members for the 2005 Homeland Security Grant. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to accept Pamela Boody, MCES; Patrick Carr, Board of Commissioners; Dave Feldpausch, MCES; Sheri Waldron, Carson City Hospital; Lynda Farquharson, MMDHD; Cal Callison, Richland Fire Department; Steve VanHolstyn, MCES; Bill Barnwell, Sheriff's Department; Carol Swainston, Central Dispatch; Richard Reeves, Damage Assessment; and Jerry McCoy, MCES as members of the Local Planning Team (LPT) for the 2005 Homeland Security Grant. Motion carried.

At 1:57 p.m. Richard Reeves, Equalization Director, was in attendance to ask the board to approve the amendment to the 2006 Equalization Report. A calculation error was received from the State Tax Commission causing an error on the report. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the Amendment to the 2006 Equalization Report and **RESOLUTION 2001-13** as amended:

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2006 COUNTY EQUALIZATION REPORT AS
SUBMITTED WITH THE ACCOMPANYING STATEMENTS:**

WHEREAS, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 20 townships and 3 cities within Montcalm County to ascertain whether the real and personal property in the respective townships and cities have been assessed in accordance with MCL 209.5 and 211.34, and

WHEREAS, based on its studies and review, the Equalization Department presented to the Equalization Committee the 2006 Equalization Data the equalizes the township and cities valuations by adding to or deducting from the valuations of the taxable property in the 20 townships and 3 cities, and amount which represents the 2006 State Equalized Value, and

WHEREAS, the Equalization Committee has reviewed the data, and

WHEREAS, the attached report is the result of the foregoing process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm, that the accompanying statements be, and the same hereby are, approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm as the equalized value of all taxable property, both real and personal, for each of the 20 townships and 3 cities in said County for a property value equalized at \$2,066,376,269 for real, and personal property values equalized at \$133,269,949 for a total equalized value of real and personal property at \$2,199,646,218 pursuant to Section 211.34 MCL, of 1948, as amended.

Motion carried.

John Berchtold informed the board that there is a push in the Legislature to provide economic development tools to local governments, however during the process, counties were left out of the eligibility. He feels our Senator and State Representative needs to be informed of this issue. Commissioner Petersen informed the board that this issue is being addressed by MAC. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Baker to draft a resolution to be sent to Senator Cropsey and Representative Emmons addressing the recent legislation that did not include counties in the eligibility to obtain economic development tools. Motion carried.

Mr. Berchtold gave the board an update on the public comments offered by Ms. Wilcox regarding an animal control complaint. Mr. Berchtold stated that he did speak with Mw. Wilcox regarding this issued but when he asked for an address of the location where the dog and/or dogs were allegedly running loose, he refused that information. He stated that he did not hang up on Ms. Wilcox, however he did tell her that he felt this discussion had gone as far as it could go without additional information. After discussing the issue with Kevin Weaver and the officer responding to the call, Mr. Berchtold is standing behind the actions of the Animal Control staff. Animal Control did respond to the call, but did not find a pit bull at the address indicated. A letter informing the owners that they had 10 days to license the pit bull was issued. The complainant, Ms. Wilcox, is now saying that the pit bull may be owned by a step-son of who she initially thought was the owner of the dog.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Baker stated that the issue of licensing cats can be looked at again in the future.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to adjourn at 2:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman