



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 3, 2008

Communications

	<u>Page</u>
R-0247 RECEIVED: October 22, 2008. Notice of Hearing to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Feliziana Meyer, Clerk, Pittsfield Township, re: Hearing on the Transfer of Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate. Received and filed.	1
R-0248 RECEIVED: November 15, 2008. An e-mail to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Elwin Wier, (el.wier@sbcglobal.net), re: Washtenaw County Road Commissioner, dated November 15, 2008. Received and filed.	2
R-0249 RECEIVED: November 17, 2008. An e-mail to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from Marci Jones, (tedjones4786@gmail.com), re: County Roads, dated November 17, 2008. Received and filed.	3
R-0250 RECEIVED: November 18, 2008. A resolution to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, from the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, re: Opposition in opposition to the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) 520 Hour Standard for Police Officers, dated November 12, 2008. Received and filed.	4
R-0251 RECEIVED: November 24, 2008. A newsletter from the Michigan Association of Counties, re: MAC Legislative Update, dated November 14, 2008. Received and filed.	6

Jason Brooks

From: Elwin Wier [el.wier@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2008 3:03 PM
To: I-boc
Subject: Washtenaw County Road Commissioner
Attachments: roads meeting.doc

To County Commissioners

It is my understanding that the County Board of Commissioners is taking into consideration the re-appointment of Mr. Fred Viegall, to the County Road Commission.

I would like to remind you of my email regarding the episode at the Scio Township Roads meeting in April of this year. Mr. Viegall's outburst blaming the Scio Board for Costco backing out was totally uncalled for and embarrassing. I have attached the text of my previous e-mail. It is time for a change at the Road Commission... Washtenaw County deserves better.

Thank you
Elwin Wier
1135 Wing Dr
Ann Arbor Michigan

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NOV 15 2008
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI
CLERK/REGISTER'S OFFICE

Jason Brooks

From: Marci Jones [tedjones4786@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2008 9:13 PM
To: I-boc
Subject: County Roads

Dear Washtenaw County:

I read in the news this week that you are appointing new road commissions. I am writing to urge you to accomodate an old lady and appoint someone to better represent the rural areas of our county so that we have someone who better understands the dirt roads and snow plowing we need out here in the sticks. I know my county commissioner Ms. Ping said she will only vote to have someone who lives in this area to serve on the roads board because we are underrepresented. I am most grateful for her understanding our needs. My neighbor told me that you are considering appointing someone who doesn't even live in the county to the roads board. I don't know if this is true but if so how could you even consider appointing someone who does not live on the roads that the road board services? This person would not be accountingable to those of us that realy do live on these roads. Have you ever appointed somebody from the rural western side of this county to the roads board? If not, maybe that is why the roads are so bad. If you don't have to drive on them, then why should a person care?

With Blessings,

Marci

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NOV 17 2008
WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI
CLERK/REGISTER'S OFFICE

LENAWEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

301 N. Main St., Courthouse

Adrian, MI 49221

517-264-4508



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NOV 18 2008

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI
CLERK/REGISTER'S OFFICE

David Stimpson

Jack Branch

Robert Hall

Jason MacKay

Karol "KZ" Bolton

Fred Gallagher

John Tuckerman

CHAIR

James E. Van Doren

Phone: 517-431-2424

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ralph Tillotson

Phone: 517-263-1804

RESOLUTION

IN OPPOSITION TO THE MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT
STANDARDS (MCOLES) 520 HOUR STANDARD FOR POLICE OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the Township police departments throughout the State of Michigan, and Lenawee County in particular, depend, in part, upon part-time law enforcement officers for protection of the citizens and community, and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police is typically responsible for the hiring, budgeting, scheduling, qualifications, and training of those officers in accordance with the logistics and needs of their respective Townships and Villages; and

WHEREAS, the MCOLES board has recently adopted administrative changes under PA 203, which would require that each part-time police officer work a minimum of 520 hours per year by 2012; and

WHEREAS, only one other state in our nation mandates a minimum number of hours for police officers; said state being Idaho at 120 hours, and

WHEREAS, the noted changes will result in significant harm to our local community due to the loss of experienced and qualified part-time police officers, and

WHEREAS, said loss of part-time officers will result in either a cut in police protection to our community, or the (unfunded) mandate (and additional expense) of hiring full-time officers, and

WHEREAS, the noted changes will have other unintended consequences, such as the likely burden that will be placed on larger agencies, such as Sheriff's Departments and the State Police, with increased call load for this unfunded mandate, and

WHEREAS, the primary, statutory responsibility of MCOLES is to oversee minimum training standards for Michigan Police Officers; this proposal does nothing to enhance minimum training standards, and

WHEREAS, the current rules, under PA 203, have been in place since 1965, at a time when police officers were employed with little or no training, with little or no post K-12 education, and

WHEREAS, current police officers entering the system are more highly trained and highly educated than ever before, with multiple in-service training opportunities available.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners hereby approves this resolution in opposition to the change by MCOLES mandating a 520 minimum number of hours per year for

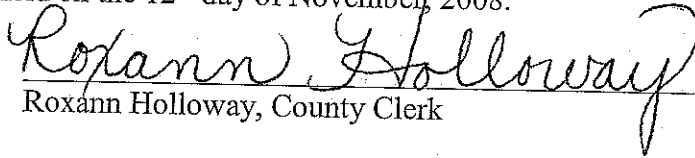
part-time police officers. Said action by MCOLES is an unfunded mandate that takes away local control, will exacerbate budgets, and will ultimately jeopardize public safety.

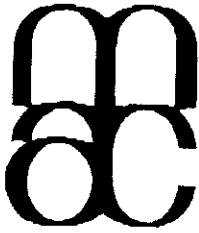
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lenawee County Board of Commissioners requests that this resolution be distributed to Governor Granholm, Senator Brown, Representatives Spade and Simpson, the Michigan Association of Counties, and to all other counties within the State of Michigan for their consideration to intervene in this matter, asking that this rule be rescinded.

Moved by Commissioner Stimpson, seconded by Commissioner Tuckerman, to adopt this resolution.

Yeas: 8 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting County Clerk for Lenawee County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the County Board of said County at a regular meeting held on the 12th day of November, 2008.


Roxann Holloway, County Clerk



**MICHIGAN
ASSOCIATION
OF COUNTIES**

935 North Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
517/372-5374 Fax 517/482-4599
www.micounties.org

TIMOTHY K. McGUIRE, Executive Director

November 14, 2008

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NOV 24 2008

WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI
CLERK/REGISTER'S OFFICE

MAC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In this week's update:

- **HOUSE PASSES HB 6070, 911 FUNDING LEGISLATION**
- **HOUSE COMMITTEE MOVES REVENUE SHARING FIX**
- **TRANSIT BILL PASSES HOUSE WITH COUNTY OPT OUT**
- **HOUSE REPORTS COBO HALL EXPANSION LEGISLATION**
- **DETROIT LIGHT RAIL MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY**
- **BILL ALLOWING ELIMINATION OF MACOMB COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION APPROVED BY HOUSE**
- **TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE RELEASES LONG AWAITED REPORT**

HOUSE PASSES HB 6070, 911 FUNDING LEGISLATION

Last night just before 11:00 pm, the House passed HB 6070, the MAC supported funding bill for emergency 911 services. The bill came out of the House on a vote of 89 to 12. The bill represents a brokered deal between MAC, the Michigan Communications Directors Association, the Telecom Association of Michigan, and AT&T. The Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Townships Association also indicated support for the bill. HB 6070 allows a county commission to levy up to \$0.42 by resolution of the board on each device that can dial 911. Further, it allows the county commission to levy up to \$3.00 by vote of the people in the county on each device that can dial 911. Current PSC-set surcharges are grandfathered in (because some are higher than \$0.42), and there is no further oversight of county surcharges by the PSC. MAC would like to thank Speaker Dillon (D-Wayne County), Chairman Frank Accavitti (D-Macomb County), and the bill sponsor Representative Jeff Mayes (D-Bay County) for bringing all sides to the table. Additional thanks goes to our partners and our member commissioners for your hard work keeping this issue in the forefront.

The bill now moves to the Senate where it will be discussed in the Energy and Public Utilities Committee, Chaired by Senator Bruce Patterson (R-Wayne County). Please let *your* Senator know that 911 must be finished before the end of the year.

HOUSE COMMITTEE MOVES REVENUE SHARING FIX

This Wednesday, the House Committee on Intergovernmental, Urban and Local Affairs unanimously reported SB 1550, legislation that would correct the revenue sharing reserve deposit requirements for counties. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Alan Cropsey (R-Clinton County), would allow counties to return to traditional revenue sharing as scheduled, by requiring counties to deposit what they actually receive in property tax collections, not the entire levy. The bill now goes to the House floor for final approval before being sent to the Governor. MAC believes it could go in the first two weeks of December.

TRANSIT BILL PASSES HOUSE WITH COUNTY OPT OUT

House Bill 6114 sponsored by Representative Marie Donigan (D-Oakland County), and despite a previously failed attempt was finally approved by the House at the end of a twelve hour long session day. The bill, which passed through the House Transportation Committee earlier this year with MAC support, is intended as an economic development tool that would encourage the creation of transit hubs. As introduced and as passed committee, MAC supported the bill because it contained standard language allowing county boards of commissioners the opportunity to opt out of tax capture, should the county board so choose. In early October the bill was changed, with the opt out provision removed, clearly altering MAC's position. As it became clear that an attempt to move the bill was inevitable, Representative Rick Hammel (D-Genesee County) offered an amendment to put the opt out language back into the bill. Despite strong resistance from both Representative Donigan and the Michigan Municipal League, both Representative Hammel's amendment and the bill successfully passed with strong support from several lawmakers and will now move to the Senate for further consideration. MAC thanks those legislators that supported counties' rights, with a special thanks to Representative Hammel on his leadership and perseverance!

HOUSE REPORTS COBO HALL EXPANSION LEGISLATION

Yesterday, the House passed legislation designed to provide funding for an expanded Cobo Hall. House Bills 5690 and 5691, would provide the financing mechanism for this expansion through the current system of liquor tax and cigarette taxes. Under the version that passed the House yesterday, counties would continue to see their same distribution (50% to the general fund, and 50% to substance abuse programs) until 2015, which coincides with the date this tax expires. After 2015, counties would begin to share equally in this fund (currently the 80 outstate counties receive a higher percentage of liquor tax revenues than do Macomb, Oakland and Wayne), and the sunset is extended to 2039, or when the debt on the new bonds are retired, whichever comes sooner. Additionally, after 2015, liquor taxes will be increased by 2%, which could be applied to the debt service on the bonds, if counties exceed a cap for revenue totals. This could potentially mean the tax would expire as early as 2032, if all bond debts are paid.

Additionally, the legislation, as passed the House, creates a seven member governing board for Cobo Hall with one member appointed by the Governor, 1 member each by

Oakland and Macomb County, 2 members each by the City of Detroit and Wayne County, with one of the two in each case nominated by a professional organization, and the auto dealers, respectively.

This legislation appears to be a "first volley" and will likely face some scrutiny in the Senate before any final action is to occur. MAC is pleased that the current structure for tax distribution to counties remains unchanged until 2015, and that under the proposed legislation the sunset is lifted to at least 2032, or as long as 2039. We will keep you up to speed as further details emerge on this important legislation.

DETROIT LIGHT RAIL MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY

Late Thursday evening the House passed a package of bills (HB 6542-6547) that would lay the ground work for a potential light rail project that has been in the planning stages for well over a year. The project would essentially consist of a light rail transit system that would run along the Woodward Corridor in Detroit, beginning at Hart Plaza and running up the avenue, eventually all the way to the City of Royal Oak. The project has been spearheaded by a group of private investors who are willing to use private dollars to build the system pending the Legislature's willingness to have the state pay for a large portion of the yearly operational costs beginning in the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Although MAC initially expressed support of the concept, concerns over the potential funding sources remains an issue, particularly the possibility that the state could have the power to create a tax increment finance zone to help fund the project. MAC will continue to work with the bill sponsors in an effort to ensure that the same type of county opt-out protection found in HB 6114 mentioned in the previous article, is present in this package as well.

BILL ALLOWING ELIMINATION OF MACOMB COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION APPROVED BY HOUSE

In its last day before Thanksgiving break, the House of Representatives approved House Bill 4291, legislation that would allow the county board of commissioners, either through the amending of their charter or through the adoption of a new charter, the power to eliminate its county road commission. On the bill, designed to only affect Macomb County, MAC remained a neutral bystander. While it is unclear whether it will get any traction in the Senate, MAC will continue to monitor and report any progress it makes.

TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE RELEASES LONG AWAITED REPORT

The Transportation Funding Task Force (TF2) established by executive order to assess the status of the state's transportation system and make recommendations for the future sent their final report to the Legislature. The 69 page report contained funding scenarios for three potential outcomes and the level of funding required to reach those outcomes. The task force suggested that if the state "does nothing", which translates to the appropriating of \$241 million per year, Michigan could stand to lose \$112 million in potential federal funding and could lose over 3500 jobs. The "good" scenario has the

state providing \$773 million a year for transportation which would include \$256 million in federal matching funds, creating 35,000 jobs and leverage \$4.3 billion in other benefits. The "better" scenario suggests that a \$1.3 billion dollar investment, invoking \$557 million in federal funding could result in the creation of 59,000 jobs and leverage \$7.5 billion in other benefits. On the question of methods to create the revenue needed to reach either the "good" or "better" scenarios, the list of suggestions included the following:

- Adjust motor fuel taxes by either increasing the tax or converting it from cents per gallon to percent of sales price
- Equalize diesel and propane tax rates with gasoline (instead of 4-cents less)
- Increase the state sales tax by one percent and dedicate the additional revenue to transportation (constitutional amendment required)
- Direct the sales tax on fuel to transportation
- Enable a broad spectrum of local revenue options to local / county agencies
- Enable Public-Private Partnerships for toll-financed reconstruction or expansion of freeways or other transportation systems

The report in its entirety can be found at www.michigan.gov/tf2. MAC supports many of the suggested funding alternatives put forth by the task force and encourages counties to contact their legislators to express support of these recommendations. If you have any questions or comments on the report, please contact Eric Davis at the MAC office at (800) 258-1152.

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