



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043
586.469.5125 ~ Fax: 586.469.5993
www.macombBOC.com

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2014, 7 P.M.

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Board Chair Dave Flynn**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated 12-19-13, 1-13-14 and 1-16-14 **(previously distributed)**
7. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker, or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson related only to issues contained on the agenda)
8. Public Hearing on Parks and Recreation Master Plan
9. Correspondence from Executive (**none**)
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a) Health & Human Services, January 27 (**no report**)
 - b) Infrastructure, January 28 (**no report**)
 - c) Finance, January 29 (**page 1**) **(attached)**

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair
District 11

Mike Boyle – Sergeant-At-Arms
District 10

Toni Mocerri – District 1
Don Brown – District 7

Marvin Sauger – District 2
Kathy Vosburg – District 8

Veronica Klinefelt – District 3
Fred Miller – District 9

Robert Mijac - District 5
Bob Smith – District 12

James Carabelli – District 6
Joe Sabatini – District 13

11. Board Chair's Report (page 4) (attached)
12. **Adoption of Resolution:**
 - a) Requesting the Macomb County Executive to Nominate Qualified Persons to the Macomb County Solid Waste Planning Committee (offered by Brown; recommended by Infrastructure Committee on 1-28-14) (page 37) (attached)
13. Presentations by Bid Respondents for Board of Commissioners Independent Counsel:
 - a) Beier Howlett
 - b) Bellanca LaBarge
 - c) Clark Hill
 - d) Dickinson Wright
 - e) Secrest Wardle
 - f) Seibert and Dloski
14. New Business
15. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)
16. Roll Call
17. Adjournment



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January 29, 2014

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE
RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2014

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Wednesday, January 29, 2014, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the January 30, 2014 Full Board meeting for approval:

1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a budget amendment to the 2013/14 MCCSA Head Start budget in the amount of \$35,427; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission’s approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County’s Contracting Policy or the County’s Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Mijac, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the contract between the Macomb County Department of Roads and the Michigan Department of Transportation for the Hagen Road Bridge Replacement Project scheduled for 2014; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners’ action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

A MOTION TO ADOPT THE COMMITTEE REPORT WAS MADE BY CHAIR MILLER, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR MOCERI.

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------|------------------------------|
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District 10 | | |
| Toni Moceri – District 1 | Marvin Sauger – District 2 | Veronica Klinefelt – District 3 | Robert Mijac - District 5 | James Carabelli – District 6 |
| Don Brown – District 7 | Kathy Vosburg – District 8 | Fred Miller – District 9 | Bob Smith – District 12 | Joe Sabatini – District 13 |



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve a budget amendment to the 2013/14 MCCSA Head Start budget in the amount of \$35,427.00.</p> <p>*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately.</p> <p>FORWARD TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.</p> <p>*(This language was added by Health & Human Services Committee Chair Mocerì.)</p>

Introduced By:
Toni Mocerì, Chair, Health & Human Services Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>MCCSA is seeking an amendment to the previously approved 2013/14 Head Start budget to accept grant funds.</p> <p>MCCSA has received three small grants for the Head Start program. MCCSA is seeking an increase to the previously approved 2013/14 Head Start budget in the amount of \$35,427.00 with the following breakdown:</p> <p>Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) Early On program - \$3,500 Great Parents, Great Start-Macomb - \$30,177 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Domestic Hunger Grant - \$1,750</p> <p>There is no impact on the County's General Fund, as these are grant funds.</p> <p>Through these grants, MCCSA's Head Start program will be able to assist children and families with referrals for evaluations through MISD, improve school readiness through early mathematics and reading literacy, and provide food to needy Head Start families in Macomb County.</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Health & Human Services	1-27-14
Finance	1-29-14
Full Board	1-30-14



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the contract between the Macomb County Department of Roads and the Michigan Department of Transportation for the Hagen Road bridge replacement project scheduled for 2014.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Jim Carabelli, Chair Robert Hoepfner, Director of Roads Infrastructure Committee</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

	1-28-14
Infrastructure Committee	12/17/2013 Meeting Date
Finance	1-29-14
Full Board	1-30-14

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGANRESOLUTION TO receive and file report from Board Chair for January 2014INTRODUCED BY: Dave Flynn, Full Board

- The following is a report on activities within the Board Office which do not usually appear on committee agendas.

Current Issues:

- **Appropriations Ordinance (See Binder #1)**

- Tab 1: Appropriations Ordinance 2013-08, as adopted in September
- Tab 2: Amended Appropriations Ord 2013-08, with lined changes
- Tab 3: Amended Appropriations Ord 2013-08, clean copy
- Tab 4: Ordinance 2014-XX to amend Appropriations Ord 2013-08
- Tab 5: Final Adopted Budget
 - *Key Changes* included in Final Adopted Budget (**See Binder #1, Tab 5**):
 1. Personnel Line Items (See sample on Page C-18)
 2. Includes appropriations made by the BOC (various depts.) on 09-12-13

Key Changes to Appropriations Ordinance 2013-08 (**See Binder #1, Tab 2**)

- Grants (Section 4.E)
- Transfer Limits and Reporting (Section 9)
- Lawsuit Settlements (Section 10.C)

- **Quarterly Reports Requirements Ordinance (See Binder #1)**

- Tab 6: Quarterly Reports Requirements Ordinance 2013-3, as adopted in June
- Tab 7: Amended Quarterly Reports Requirements Ord 2013-3, with lined changes
- Tab 8: Amended Quarterly Reports Requirements Ord 2013-3, clean copy
- Tab 9: Ordinance 2014-XX to amend Quarterly Reports Requirement Ord 2013-3

Key Changes to Quarterly Reports Ordinance 2013-3 (**See Binder #1, Tab 6**)

- Removed requirements Section 2.C-H; some requirements will be provided to the BOC via monthly reports; excel databases are to be placed online; substitute info in Recommended Budget.

- **Procurement Ordinance (See Binder #2)**

- Tab 1: Procurement Ordinance 2012-1, as adopted in January 2012
- Tab 2: Amended Procurement Ord 2012-1, with lined changes
- Tab 3: Amended Procurement Ord 2012-1, clean copy
- Tab 4: Ordinance 2014-XX to amend Procurement Ord 2012-1
 - *Key Changes* to Procurement Ord 2012-1 (**See Binder #2, Tab 2**)
 1. Clarification of Emergency definition (Section 1.3.M)
 2. List of subcontractors to sealed bids for procurement/construction added (Section 4.2.N)
 3. Food Procurement Policy for locally grown products added (Section 8A)

- **Contracting Policy (See Binder #2)**

- Tab 5: Contracting Policy Res 2012-1, as adopted in February 2012
- Tab 6: Amended Contracting Policy Res 2012-1, with lined changes
- Tab 7: Amended Contracting Policy Res 2012-1, clean copy
- Tab 8: Resolution R14-XX to amend Contracting Policy Res 2012-1
 - *Key Changes* to Contracting Policy Res 2012-1 (**See Binder #2, Tab 6**)
 1. Clarification of Emergency definition (Section 1.B.9)
 2. Waiver Provision with parameters of use included (Section II.C.6)
 3. Requirement for Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance to be provided by vendors which service the county without contract (Section II.D.4)

Office:

- **Communications Coordinator vacant position**
 - Posting closed and there were more than 100 applicants;
 - Initial HR screening resulted in 41 candidates being determined to have met requirements for position;
 - 10 first interviews conducted;
 - Interviews for three final candidates to be held next week.

- **HR-LR Policies**
 - Several policies have been modified following contract settlement
 - Patti to review changes/highlights with staff

Region:

- **DIA**
 - Meeting held with Graham Beal, Annemarie Erickson, Gene Gargaro, OCE
 - Approximately \$350million raised from private foundations during the course of past 20 years
 - Separate from City of Detroit; terms for separation include transfer of title to museum building to non-profit that runs operations free and clear, transfer of art collection and all related assets.
 - See attached documents.

- **DWSD**
 - Commissioners received Corp Counsel Opinion requested by OCE regarding Intergov Agreements
 - Meeting scheduled to address issue was canceled
 - Met with Rich Sulaka from Macomb County Public Works
 - MOU has been drafted in detail but has not been signed on behalf of Macomb County
 - Avenues to discuss confidential negotiations between Macomb, Oakland, Wayne and Detroit Emergency Manager team are being explored.

Media:

- See attached articles.

BOC – Independent Counsel: Expenditures for Outside Counsel Professional Services

2012 Litigation InvoiceCharges:	Contract Svcs Budget Amount:	Contract Services Invoice Totals:	Budget Remaining:	%Utilized:
Total: \$134,327.00	\$122,500 (2013)	\$10,167.00 (Jan)	\$112,333	0.082
		3,893.00 (Feb revised)		
		\$14,060.00	\$108,440	0.114
		3,985.00 (March)		
		\$18,045.00	\$104,455	0.147
		5,205.00 (April)		
		\$23,250.00	\$ 99,250	0.189
		13,205.12 (May)		
		\$36,455.12	\$ 86,044.88	0.297
		10,573.00 (June)		
		\$47,028.12	\$ 75,471.88	0.383
		7,043.00 (July)		
		\$54,071.12	\$ 68,428.88	0.441
		7,874.00 (August)		
		\$61,945.12	\$ 60,554.88	0.505
		3,215.00 (Sept.)		
		\$65,160.12	\$ 57,339.88	0.531
		3,335.00 (Oct.)		
		4,554.00 (Nov)		
		5,244.00 (Dec)		
	2013 Total	\$78,293.12	\$ 44,206.88	0.639

COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE

Full Board 01-30-14

Life

Macomb County native honored by senator for military service

Thursday, December 26, 2013

By Katelyn Larese, Staff Writer

A Macomb County native was recently honored by State Sen. Phil Pavlov for his military service in the U.S. Air Force.

Pavlov, who serves communities in Lapeer and St. Clair counties, asked local residents to share their military stories in anticipation of Veterans Day this past November. The senator chose to honor the story of Senior Airman Nathan Cyr, a four-year member of the U.S. Air Force from Macomb County.

Cyr, 22, previously served at the Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma, where he became a distinguished member of the Honor Guard and was also responsible for training recruits. He was named "Honor Guard Member of the Year" and received the "Airman below the Zone" award. These accomplishments helped him earn his promotion to senior airman.

His story was submitted to the senator's office by St. Clair resident Lisa Fountain, who met Cyr while participating in the Civil Air Patrol's cadet programs. The volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary organization was founded one week prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Seven years later, it was established by Congress as the auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force. The Michigan wing of the Civil Air Patrol is located at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

"I think he's a great guy," Fountain said of Cyr. "He's done really well for himself in the service. I was impressed watching what he's done in the time he's been in."

Cyr was transferred to Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska in October. His service duty currently involves refueling aircraft on the ground.

He lives on the Alaska base with his wife, Paige, from Warren.

"I'm incredibly proud of my husband," she said from Alaska, where the temperature was 45 below zero.

Fountain recalled Cyr always setting a good example for others in the cadet program.

"He has set an excellent example," she said. "He's come an awful long way."

She also complimented the efforts of others involved in the cadet programs, as well as all military members.

"I think it's great they are setting an example for their peers of self-sacrifice," Fountain noted. "I think everybody that goes in voluntarily sets a wonderful example for the people who chose not to do that."

@bhead:State of Michigan working to help veterans

@body:On March 20, the 10th anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the state launched the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in an effort to assist local vets. The agency works to connect those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their families, to services and benefits throughout Michigan, according to the agency's website.

"Many Michigan veterans are unaware of the benefits they have earned," Pavlov wrote in a recent public newsletter. "That's one reason the state has ranked low in federal VA money spent per-capita. There is a renewed urgency to do a better job and the new agency is charged with making sure our veterans know about, and receive, the assistance they need."

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will also continue to support the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund and Michigan's Homes for Veterans, the newsletter states.

Next May, honorably discharged veterans will be able to request a veteran designation on their driver's licenses or state identification cards, according to the state senator. The designation will help veterans more easily access the special discounts offered to veterans and their families.

In addition, the state has launched a website to help veterans find employment. Vets can find a variety of employment services online at mitalent.org/veteran.

In 2013, Pavlov supported a \$1.5 million state budget appropriation to develop a program that links the federal Hero 2 Hired software to the state's job program, making it a more effective tool.

The senator also said he supported legislation proposed by Sen. Judy Emmons that would allow high school diplomas to be granted to Vietnam War veterans who joined the armed forces instead of completing high school. The state currently allows Michigan school boards to grant diplomas to veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict. The bill is now in the hands of the House of Representatives.

Pavlov, a St. Clair native who currently resides in St. Clair Township, was elected to the state Senate in 2010. He serves as chairperson of the Senate Education Committee and vice chairperson of the Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes Committee. He previously served on the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners and the Michigan House of Representatives.

For more information about the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, go to michiganveterans.com.

Contact Katelyn Larese at (586) 716-8100, ext. 300 or katelyn.larese@voicenews.com. She can be followed on Twitter [@katelynlarese](https://twitter.com/katelynlarese).

URL: <http://www.voicenews.com/articles/2013/12/27/life/doc52bc9f2a57e9b234488930.prt>

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Macomb Co. to buy former bank for \$950K for some government offices

Tue, Dec 31

detroitnews.com



The Talmer building at 120 N. Main in Mount Clemens will house Macomb County offices such as clerk and register of deeds.

Purchase Image

The Talmer building at 120 N. Main in Mount Clemens will house Macomb County offices such as clerk and register of deeds. (Todd McInturf / The Detroit News)

Mount Clemens— While Macomb County awaits a decision on repairs to its fire-damaged Old County Building, commissioners have approved buying a nearby bank building to house some county

workers.

On Monday, the county completed the purchase of the two-story Talmer Administrative Building for \$950,000. The Board of Commissioners had approved buying the building at its Dec. 19 meeting.

The building on North Main will be the new home

☐ of the county clerk's office and register of deeds and elections, said Deputy County Executive Mark Deldin.

A space study conducted by Plante Moran Cresa suggested the county purchase the building, which it had been renting for \$10,000 a month plus utilities, since the April fire.

The study was prompted by an electrical fire in the Old County Building, Deldin said. The 13-floor facility housed such departments as finance, file storage

☐, human resources and administrative offices. More than 200 county employees were relocated.

Deldin said the county and the insurance company are close to settling the insurance claim on the closed county building.

"We anticipate by the end of January the total claim for the damages and loss will be settled," he said. "Whatever money is received from the insurance claim will be reinvested into the Old County Building. We definitely think it will be in the millions."

In November, Deldin and Plante Moran Cresa's Greg VanKirk and Gino Del Pup presented the

board with the \$61 million proposal to add space for some county departments and revamp some facilities, including a 37-year-old county parking garage.

The study suggested replacing the garage next to the 16th Circuit Court. The county spends up to \$300,000 a year maintaining the 600-vehicle structure.

A new parking structure would cost up to \$25 million and accommodate 700 vehicles. Del Pup said the overall project could be done in 30 months.

The county has a 100 percent employee dedicated parking system, making it difficult for the public to find a spot near county departments. The study found 300 parking spaces could be reallocated and made available to the public.

Deldin said the approval by the board to make the purchase bodes well for the proposed space study.

"It is an indicator to the executive's office that the board will likely be supportive of the recommendations," Deldin said.

2014 North American International Auto Show will be affair to remember

By Carol Cain Filed Under Commentary and criticism Carol Cain Detroit Auto Show L. Brooks Patterson
Mark Hackel
Jan. 07

freep.com

The upcoming North American International Auto Show will be interesting.

The NAIAS kicks off Jan. 13 for media/industry week, the black-tie charity preview is Jan. 17 and the show opens to the public Jan. 18.

■ **Related:** Rewed up for Detroit auto show? Fun starts Jan. 12

■ **Related:** Auto show organizers try to calm anxiety over Detroit's finances

Newly installed Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan will take his place on the Big Four dais along with Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano Jan. 16 as headliners of the Detroit Economic Club luncheon.

The luncheon will mark their first official confab together and is being staged with the Detroit Auto Dealers Association and CBS 62 at Cobo Center.

As moderator, I can guarantee there will be questions for the foursome about the Motor City, the water department and politics — for starters.

Duggan, who showed he can deliver zingers with the best of them during the debates, will have an interesting time alongside the quick-witted Patterson and Hackel.

If you have a question to suggest for the Big Four, send it to clcain@cbs.com.

For DEC tickets: 313-963-7399 or www.econclub.org.

Barra takes control

Mary Barra — the first female CEO of General Motors — assumes control of the world's largest automaker Jan. 15 during industry days.

There will be 60 exhibitors at this year's show. The annual auto event has had an economic impact of \$10 billion on our region over the past 25 years.

After hearing complaints about aching feet from people walking around the sprawling NAIAS Charity Preview, a sponsor will provide slippers and a tote bag that evening.

Cars.com will provide 5,000 pairs of slippers, said Rod Alberts, executive director of the Detroit Auto Dealers Association, which puts on the NAIAS.

They will be distributed from a Cars.com kiosk on the main show floor and inside the Grand

Ballroom at 8 p.m. that night.

Alberts and his team expect to sell 14,000 tickets to the preview — which is a fund-raiser for children's charities.

And there is a new twist — Studio 25 — an after party at Cobo to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the international element of the show. You need a preview ticket as well as a Studio 25 ticket (another \$150 each).

Charter One/RBS Citizens is the presenting sponsor of the preview and Opportunity Detroit for Studio 25.

Performances set

Grammy winner Sheryl Crow will perform at the charity preview. It's déjà vu for Alberts.

Crow was the roommate of a friend of Alberts in the mid '80s in St. Louis where she taught.

"She played the piano and filled in singing at a local club periodically."

The Commodores will perform at Hyundai's exhibit.

And there will be an aerial acrobat performing at the Via Motors display to delight the media Jan. 13 and 14.

For more: www.naias.com

Contact Carol Cain: 313-222-6732 or clcain@cbs.com. She is senior producer and host of "Michigan Matters," which airs at 11:30 a.m. Sundays on WWJ-TV (Channel 62). You can see L. Brooks Patterson, Kelly Rossman-McKinney and Cliff Russell on today's show.

Metro Detroit's county executives reflect on how Detroit's 2013 will impact new year

Tue, Jan 7

detroitnews.com

The region's county executives said Detroit's historic bankruptcy filing, mayoral election and the city being taken into emergency management will affect Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties as 2014 gets underway.

Wayne County's Robert Ficano, Oakland's L. Brooks Patterson and Macomb's Mark Hackel summed up the year's end on WJR-AM (760) Tuesday and gave their forecast of the big issues they'll face in the new year, including working with incoming Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.

"I have a lot of confidence in Mike Duggan and his ability to work with the emergency manager," Ficano said of the working relationship between Detroit's newest mayor and the city's state-appointed leader, Kevyn Orr.

Orr in 2013 was granted sweeping authority to walk the city through bankruptcy proceedings in federal court and appoint officials to help make decisions, to the dismay of City Council, labor leaders and activists who oppose state intervention in city government.

The three executives agreed it will be up to Duggan and the new City Council to find ways to collaborate with Orr so the city can make a smooth transition once his appointment expires.

Hackel, the newest of the three county executives, pointed to his relationships with Ficano and Patterson for the successes the region has achieved in recent years, particularly in economic development.

"What you're seeing in Macomb County is an understanding for regional partnership," Hackel said.

The three all pointed to an upswing in economic development — including a resurgence of jobs growth in manufacturing and health care — as bright spots for 2013.

Patterson said continued job growth to replace the exodus of employment in 2008 and 2009 is among his goals for next year.

Ficano said Wayne County's financial situation will be one of his biggest challenges for the new year. The county has a cumulative budget deficit of about \$220 million.

Other areas the Big 3 county executives will be keeping a close eye on in 2014 include transportation, infrastructure and service improvements and negotiations with the region's water system.

- Compared to Detroit, the South Pole is starting to look like Miami Beach. The overnight low in Detroit was 8 degrees below zero. The temperature at McMurdo Sound at Antarctica was 33 degrees.

MACOMB COUNTY

January 8, 2014

County workers' new contracts include \$4,000 boost

*By Jeremy Selweski
C & G Staff Writer*

MACOMB COUNTY — New contracts for about 2,500 Macomb County employees do not include any salary increases, but they do provide a series of lump-sum payments and put an end to unpaid furlough days.

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in favor of these labor agreements, which were negotiated with 17 of the county's labor unions by Executive Mark Hackel and his staff, at its Dec. 19 meeting. By approving the three-year contracts, the board authorized the Executive Office to make the necessary budget adjustments to allow the lump-sum distributions to be made. The additional expense for Macomb County will amount to about \$8.2 million, \$5.4 million of which will be paid for via the county's general fund.

The new contracts include payments of \$3,000 per full-time employee — for both union and nonunion workers — which were issued in their final paychecks of 2013. They also include one-time payments of \$500 in 2015 and 2016. In addition, part-time employees received a \$300 payment at the end of 2013. While county officials stated that there should be sufficient funding within the existing budget, these changes may also require budget transfers between individual departments.

Deputy Executive Mark Deldin referred to these expenditures — the first pay increases of any kind for Macomb County employees since 2007 — as “restitution” for enduring such a long period without additional compensation.

“That money was given to our employees not only to recognize that their pay was frozen for the last several years, but also that they have accepted reduced health care benefits and unpaid furlough days,” he explained. “There was no hesitation at all on our part to do this. This was the end of our budget year, so we saw that there was more than enough money available to make these payments.”

County officials have estimated that, by the end of 2014, the county budget will boast a fund balance of about \$80 million, which amounts to roughly 42 percent of its total general fund expenditures of \$191 million. This number is well above the commonly recommended benchmark of 15-20 percent.

These lump-sum payments will not apply to elected officials, however. Deldin pointed to a stipulation within the county charter stating that the salaries of elected officials cannot be changed mid-term.

According to Board Chair Dave Flynn, D-Sterling Heights, “While I initially had some reservations about these new contracts, I was persuaded when I saw that the union membership agreed on these one-time payments in lieu of salary increases. The collective bargaining process was fully respected, which is why I voted in favor of this.”

In addition to the lump-sum payments, the new contracts include the elimination of the six unpaid furlough days that workers have endured for the last four years. Deldin noted that this provision essentially amounts to a 2.3 percent pay increase for county employees, which will cost Macomb County about \$2 million in 2014 alone. Still, he said, by restoring these six furlough days, the county will be adding about 75,000 more work hours each year.

But by accepting these increases, county workers also agreed to a number of cuts to their health care and retirement benefits, particularly those for recent hires and future employees. Workers hired after Jan. 1, 2016, will be hit the hardest: They will not be eligible to participate in the same pension system as other county employees and will instead be given the option to contribute to a 401(k) retirement plan. They also will not be entitled to any of the county's retiree health care benefits, although the county will still set aside money for future medical expenses. In addition, all employees hired since January 1, 2012, will now receive reduced health care coverage.

Deldin and Flynn agreed that officials must take steps to decrease Macomb County's ballooning legacy costs, while at the same time honoring any previous agreements made with county workers.

"Our biggest priority is to make sure that we maintain our commitment, our promise, to current employees for their post-retirement benefits," Deldin said. "If you look at what's been happening in Wayne County lately, that's a disaster we want to avoid at all costs. Future employees will be taking major cuts, but we have to give current employees what they deserve. To pull the rug out from under them and put their pensions in jeopardy would be completely unfair."

Some county officials were more ambivalent about the new contracts, however. Commissioner Fred Miller, D-Mount Clemens, chair of the board's Finance Committee, was the only member to vote against the lump-sum payments at the committee level. He cited concerns over what these changes could mean for union employees over the long haul.

"I really agonized and wrestled over this decision," Miller said. "From an organizational and management standpoint, this was a very smart financial move for Macomb County to make. We're taking steps to rein in our legacy costs, and this will save us a lot of money in the long-run. But from the standpoint of someone who supports the middle class, I think this was not necessarily a great deal. Ultimately, it will result in a lot fewer dollars in our employees' pockets after retirement. This was a huge concession for our unions to take."

Still, like Flynn, Miller was encouraged by the fact that "a huge majority" of union members voted in support of the new contracts. He was also glad to see that the county is in good enough financial shape to give something back to its employees in the form of lump-sum payments.

According to Deldin, the county is still in the process of negotiating new contracts with three of its unions: two representing employees at the Department of Roads and another representing corrections officers at the Macomb County Jail. He admitted, though, that the trend of offering modest financial incentives in exchange for reduced post-retirement benefits is likely to continue as the county moves forward.

"This is something new for Macomb County government, but it's nothing new for other units of government or private companies all over the country," Deldin said. "Unfortunately, this really has become the new normal."

Macomb officials meet with Moody's on bond rating

January 13, 2014

By Christina Hall

Detroit Free Press Staff Writer

A half dozen of Macomb County's top officials went to Chicago today to talk with representatives of Moody's Investors Service in a trip that's come less than two months after another credit ratings agency downgraded the county's AAA bond rating.

In November, Standard & Poor's Rating Services downgraded the county's bond rating to AA+.

A bond rating from Moody's Investors Service is expected this year.

Officials who went to the Windy City include County Executive Mark Hackel, Deputy Executive Mark Deldin, Finance Director Peter Provenzano, Treasurer Ted Wahby and Commission Chairman David Flynn.

Most of them are expected to return Tuesday.

In November, county officials said changes that give more weight to the economy, including unemployment, income levels and home values, were behind the Standard & Poor's downgrade.

Officials vowed to work to restore the AAA bond rating the county had since 2004 and kept during its darkest economic times in the late 2000s.

They said the impact was psychologically damaging, but probably wouldn't be too financially significant since a AA+ bond rating was still good.

They said Moody's Investors Service most recently gave the county a Aa1 bond rating after bumping it down from AAA status. That downgrade, it was said, had to do with unbalanced county budgets in prior years.

Contract ends furloughs for Macomb Co. employees, adds lump-sum payments

Mon, Jan 13

detroitnews.com

Mount Clemens — After several years of tough concessions, a new contract for most of Macomb County's 2,500 employees puts an end to unpaid furlough days and includes several lump-sum payments.

The money is part of three-year contracts that begin this month and expire Dec. 31, 2016. The contracts do not include raises.

Mark Deldin, deputy executive, said non-elected, full-time county employees received a lump sum of \$3,000 in their final checks at the end of 2013. They will also receive one-time payments of \$500 in 2015 and 2016.

"We want to give credit to the employees," Deldin said. "They were asked to go seven years without raises, paid more for health care and took unpaid days. We have turned the county around and we want to share some of that success with its employees."

David Flynn, board of commissioners chairman, said a budget adjustment to cover the lump-sum payments totals more than \$8 million, with more than \$5 million coming from the county's general fund.

Flynn said while he had some concerns, he voted in favor of the contracts. The full board of commissioners approved the changes Dec. 19.

In 2011, the county faced a \$13.5 million deficit. Now, the county has added \$30 million to its fund balance reserve, which is back to 2003 levels. That was partly accomplished by cutting 450 positions since 2006.

"The employees really took a beating. I am glad they have received a payment," Flynn said. "I did have some concerns in regards to changes in retiree pension and healthcare but the unions reached an agreement and their members voted in favor of those changes."

Brian Schrier of the Macomb County Professional Deputy Sheriff's Association, which represents 160 corrections deputies, said the members did not receive \$3,000 like other employees. The union is battling a unilaterally imposed contract by the county from last year and just started negotiating its 2014 contract.

"We have a court date set with the Michigan Employment Relations Commission on Feb. 28," he said.

"We feel discouraged. We read the reports, too, that the county is in the black and we want to share in the wealth," Schrier said. "It makes it all the more difficult for them to justify severe wage deductions, removal of longevity pay and elimination of holiday pay."

Eric Herppich, county human resources director, said a contract in place expired Dec. 31.

"We were in negotiations for over two years for that contract and were unable to reach agreement," he said.

The county has 24 bargaining units, with all being settled on major issues except for four units, said Herppich.

- **Contract ends furloughs for Macomb Co. employees, adds lump-sum payments**

Mount Clemens — After several years of tough concessions, a new contract for most of Macomb County's 2,500 employees puts an end to unpaid furlough days and includes several lump-sum payments.

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Flynn anticipates year of harmony with Hackel

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Tuesday, January 14, 2014



The county Board of Commissioners opened the new year by embracing the status quo and hoping for a year of peace and “equilibrium” between the legislative branch and County Executive Mark Hackel.

In a routine vote on Monday, Commissioner Kathy Tocco, a Fraser Democrat, was re-elected by the 13-member board as the vice chair. Commissioner Mike Boyle, a St. Clair Shores Democrat, was re-elected as sergeant-at-arms. Both votes were unanimous.

Board Chairman Dave Flynn, who does not face re-election from his colleagues until next January, said his lineup of committee chairs will also remain intact in 2014.

“The commissioners’ goals continue to be to have a balanced budget and to have a performance-based budget” based on past benchmarks and metrics that indicate the efficiency of each department and program, said Flynn, a Sterling Heights Democrat.

While Hackel’s initial two years as Macomb’s first executive were marked by political fights, vetoes and lawsuits, in the past year the board under 28-year-old Flynn has extended the olive branch and avoided messy confrontation.

“Things have been productive, conducive to conducting business,” the chairman said, who meets weekly with Hackel’s team to discuss policies, as well as compromises on budgeting and government contracting issues.

Hackel, a Macomb Township Democrat, agreed that the focus is now on policy, not personalities. The executive offered the example of a trip to Chicago on Monday when a contingent of county officials gave a presentation to executives from the Moody’s bond rating agency in the hopes that the investment firm will not lower the county’s Aa1 bond rating. The travel group included Hackel, Flynn, Treasurer Ted Wahby and members of Hackel’s finance team.

“Anybody who was sitting in that room watching what we did ... they’d be extremely proud of how we have worked together,” Hackel said.

Flynn became the youngest Macomb County board chairman ever last January after winning election in 2006 at age 20, making him the youngest commissioner ever.

The chairman said he hopes the commissioners in 2014 will embrace the "Complete Streets" concept, which calls for major roads that are more friendly for bicyclists and pedestrians. Improvements would be initiated when a road repair project is scheduled. That means bike lanes, crosswalks at every half-mile, and sidewalks and turn signals that make it easy for seniors to go for a walk.

Yet, the most challenging issue facing the board and the Hackel administration in the coming year is an expansive, \$61 million plan to revamp the quarters for a majority of county employees.

That plan could mean renovating five government buildings in downtown Mount Clemens and engaging in a major shuffling of department locations.

The proposal comes several months after the old County Building on Main Street in the downtown area was shut down following an electrical fire, forcing dozens of employees to take up temporary quarters, a situation that continues.

In addition to the County Building, changes would be in store for the Administration Building, the courthouse and two facilities located in an adjacent shopping center. The 36-year-old, 600-space county parking structure, which is literally crumbling in places, may be demolished and replaced as part of this multi-phase project.

The moves would mean resettling some of the county's busiest departments, including the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court, Juvenile Court and Friend of the Court.

Flynn said the board must wrestle with two funding options: selling long-term municipal bonds to finance the projects, or to minimize interest-expenses on bonds by including some up-front money from the county's growing "rainy day" fund.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140114/flynn-anticipates-year-of-harmony-with-hackel>

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Hertel decision puts regional transit system at square one

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Thursday, January 16, 2014

John Hertel's decision to stay with the SMART suburban bus system and surrender his position as CEO of the Regional Transportation Authority has plans – four decades in the making -- for a fully functional regional bus system pushed back to square one.

Hertel stunned officials this week when he announced that he would stay at SMART, the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation, rather than complete the transition to RTA boss. He had been working in a dual role without RTA pay for five months as he negotiated a contract with the regional authority.

The authority's job is to create a \$500 million, 110-mile regional transit system that would feature a surface rail line on Woodward Avenue in Detroit and express buses in the suburbs that would be similar to small trains on tires. Those buses would operate on Gratiot, Woodward, Michigan and M-59.

Eventually the RTA would run a fully integrated, consolidated tri-county transit system like those that service most U.S. major metropolitan areas.

But the fledgling RTA, created by the Legislature in 2012, so far was surviving on a minimal \$500,000 budget with no other funding in the works. A regional tax of some kind is a must if the plan is to go forward, but Hertel said he is more focused on a separate tax, the upcoming renewal of SMART's tri-county millage in August.

The RTA board members last summer hailed the selection of Hertel and the 40 years of political experience and a "wealth of knowledge" that he would bring to the job. On Tuesday, they were trying to restart their engines.

RTA Board Chairman Paul Hillegonds said in a statement: "I am disappointed that John will not be leading the Regional Transit Authority but understand his concern about leaving SMART shortly before an important millage campaign."

A prominent figure in recent Macomb County politics, Hertel did not comment on his decision but he issued a statement: "Because the millage is less than seven months away in all three counties and all the other duties I have at SMART, I will remain as the general manager."

"I am pleased to have been involved for the last seven years moving the Regional Transit Authority process along to this point. I also appreciate everything the RTA Board members have done and are doing to make major transit improvements in southeast Michigan."

Before joining SMART as general manager in 2010, Hertel served as director of the RTA's predecessor, the

Regional Transit Coordinating Council. Before that he was the chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

A Lenox Township resident, Hertel has also served as state senator, state Agriculture Department director, State Fairgrounds general manager, and a 25-year member of the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority board.

He is one of three commissioners in the history of the metroparks to be appointed to the board by three different governors, and the only commissioner to have represented two different counties.

Hertel also holds the distinction of being the only Michigan official ever to serve as chair of two different county boards of commissioners – in Wayne and Macomb.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140116/hertel-decision-puts-regional-transit-system-at-square-one>

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3 highlights from the Detroit Economic Club luncheon

By Matt Helms Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News City of Detroit L. Brooks Patterson
Robert Ficano Mark Hackel
Jan. 16

freep.com

Here are some other highlights from Thursday's Detroit Economic Club luncheon:

■ **Related:** County leaders divided on Detroit water deal, warn of huge rate hikes

Who'll run again?

Among the first questions: the political plans of the Big Four.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson made no bones about sticking around for the job, despite recently turning 75. Patterson said he's not ready to retire.

"I'm churning full speed," he said.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano begged off on whether he'll seek another term, saying he's dealing with running the county and has plenty of time to decide later.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said he'll stick with his job and doesn't currently have plans to seek higher office.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, who just took office Jan. 1, said he may decide later this summer whether he'll endorse someone in the race for Wayne County executive — perhaps Kevin McNamara, son of Duggan's political mentor, the late Wayne County boss Ed McNamara.

"I'm just 100% about delivering services to the city," Duggan said.

Patterson jabs

Patterson's jabs, always a highlight of the Big Four gathering, brought laughs.

Given 90 seconds for opening remarks, Patterson said he'd cede his time to Ficano, "because he's going to need all the time he can get."

He joked that he likes hanging out with U.S. Rep. John Dingell, a Democratic congressman from Dearborn since 1955 and 12 years Patterson's senior, because "he's the only one who says, 'How's it going kid?'"

And asked what issues he thought should be highlighted but weren't getting attention, he said the air-conditioning at the newly renovated and expanded Cobo Center was working great on a chilly day in Detroit.

More money for local governments?

State Democratic Party Chairman Lon Johnson asked the Big Four whether they would pressure

Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to restore cuts to state revenue sharing for local governments that have been slashed in recent years.

Not all got the chance to respond, but Patterson seemed to indicate he's not inclined to take up the fight.

"I'm budgeting with the idea that it's never going to be restored," he said.

Ficano, however, said something has to be done for counties and cities struggling to provide services with lower revenue sharing and loss in property tax revenue from the national housing bust.

"The model's broken," he said.

Ficano said that state sales tax and income tax revenues have gone up, helping state coffers, but property taxes that provide the bulk of local government funding have not returned to pre-crash levels, with devastating effects. That includes the possibility that Wayne County could undergo an emergency financial review by the state — the same process that led to appointment of an emergency manager in Detroit.

"You can't EM your way out of this problem," Ficano said.

Detroit, tri-county leaders to meet regarding water department

*By John Wisely Detroit Free Press Staff Writers Filed Under Local News Metro Detroit Kevyn Orr Mark Hackel L. Brooks Patterson
Jan. 20*

freep.com

The future of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department could come to a head this week as negotiations between the city and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties intensify ahead of the release of new rates.

The Board of Water Commissioners, which has not been involved in the negotiations, is to meet behind closed doors Tuesday with the staff of Detroit emergency manager Kevyn Orr.

“Hopefully, the Board of Water Commissioners will be updated on how those talks are proceeding,” Board President James Fausone, who represents Wayne County, said Friday.

Fausone said the board was briefed in November, but a December meeting was put off as negotiations slowed.

The city hopes to create a new regional authority to run the sprawling department, giving the suburbs more control in its operations. In exchange, the authority would lease the department’s assets from Detroit, providing a new source of revenue for the bankrupt city.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said he’s frustrated with the way the city has handled the negotiations. He hadn’t heard about Tuesday’s meeting, but knew additional meetings were scheduled over the weekend.

“Meetings are taking place at times without everyone being at the table,” Hackel said Friday. “It seems like they are negotiating with factions, pitting people against each other.”

Hackel and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson criticized the city last week for withholding important information they say they need before considering any deal.

Last year, Orr floated a proposal that would have a new authority pay the city \$9 billion over 40 years — payments averaging more than \$200 million annually. Suburban leaders shot down that price immediately, and the two sides have been negotiating since.

Tuesday’s meeting comes just before a public hearing on the department’s proposed budget, which calls for a 4% revenue increase.

Individual communities will learn Thursday what kind of rate changes they’ll face beginning July 1. The increases will vary by community, and historically, Detroit users have had higher increases to cover unpaid bills within the city.

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

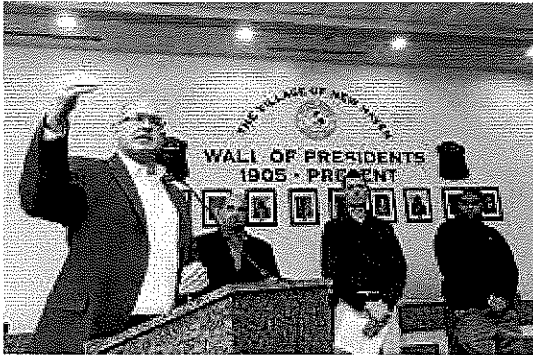
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Hackel rejects no-landfill compromise deal

By Chad Selweski, The Macomb Daily

Tuesday, January 21, 2014



Macomb County Executive Mark stunned key figures in the waste hauling industry and in local politics on Tuesday by essentially blocking a compromise that would eliminate plans for a new landfill in New Haven in exchange for shipping more of Macomb's trash to nearby counties. What started out as a day of celebration turned into a moment of agitation for representatives from Rizzo Environmental Services, New Haven, St. Clair County and a grassroots landfill group, Citizens for a Better Macomb County.

After a 6-month effort to hammer out a compromise, the four parties involved held a press conference at the New Haven Municipal Building to announce that they had put their differences aside and that Sterling Heights-based Rizzo has dropped its controversial plan to develop a second Macomb County landfill, a proposed 316-acre disposal facility that would have been located adjacent to the only current garbage dump, the Pine Tree Acres landfill.

In exchange, Citizens for a Better Macomb County agreed to help Rizzo win approval from county officials to ship some of its waste out of the county, to St. Clair and Genesee counties, rather than to Pine Tree Acres. The group said the plan was a "fair and logical" approach to create more competition and perhaps lower garbage-hauling rates.

A few hours later, Hackel said that he is pleased that the proposal for a second landfill was dropped, but the executive also indicated that he does not favor new trash exports for Rizzo.

In an interview with The Macomb Daily, Hackel said moneyed interests are pushing their own agendas and Macomb County should steer clear of private and public efforts to cash in on the lucrative garbage disposal business.

Hackel said that Pine Tree Acres, operated by the waste-hauling giant of North America, Waste Management, has plenty of capacity for the future and there is no need to alter the waste disposal rules laid down by the county in 1999.

"I have absolutely no reason to open up that Solid Waste Plan," he said. "The DNR (state Department of Natural Resources) has told us without hesitation that we have lots of landfill capacity for the future."

In fact, Hackel said he has no plans to appoint anyone to the vacant Solid Waste Planning Committee, which saw its members' terms of office expire about two years ago.

That committee's approval would be the first step required for an open-borders policy, followed by the OK from two-thirds of Macomb's cities and townships and passage by the county Board of Commissioners.

At the Rizzo company, officials said they had been given indications that Hackel was "on board" and they were flabbergasted by the position he staked out after the press conference.

"Perhaps the county executive needs time to evaluate our proposal, which he just received (Tuesday) morning," said company spokesman Joe Munem. "The proposal we've laid out is not opposed by anyone involved. And ... as far as I can tell, you only have one opponent – the owners of the 'monopoly' landfill, Pine Tree Acres."

Located on 29 Mile Road just east of Gratiot in Lenox Township, Pine Tree Acres is, by far, the busiest landfill in Michigan, thanks to a continuous caravan of trash trucks from Canada. It is also reportedly one of the most profitable landfills in the nation.

The now-defunct Rizzo plan called for a new landfill adjacent to the Pine Tree property, extending south from 28 Mile Road into the village of New Haven.

Many Michigan landfills have expressed concerns about unprofitable trash volumes due to recycling, new disposal technologies, a sluggish economy, and a slowdown in Canadian imports into Michigan. But Munem said it would be "ludicrous" for Hackel to express concerns about the future financial viability of a lucrative waste site like Pine Tree.

The players involved in this issue are:

- Rizzo, which collects the trash for 10 Macomb County communities, including Clinton Township, Shelby Township and St. Clair Shores, and is hoping to add more. In November, the family-owned business was named as one of two private haulers that will replace the Detroit sanitation department under the ongoing city bankruptcy process. The inner city trash will be hauled to the Detroit incinerator. The compromise plan they presented to Hackel calls for unlimited exports from Macomb to St. Clair, Genesee, Livingston and Sanilac counties.
- Waste Management, which has operated Macomb County's lone landfill for household trash since 1986. The company has maintained in recent months that southeast Michigan has a robust, competitive waste disposal market and that the export limits in the county Solid Waste Plan are guidelines, not hard-and-fast restrictions.
- St. Clair County, a county closed to exports, which has seen the trash volume at its Smiths Creek landfill, located west of Port Huron, dwindle in recent years. Hoping to avoid a spike in trash disposal rates for residents, county board Chairman Jeff Bohm said that he believes his colleagues would move quickly to end their closed-county status in order to make room for Macomb garbage, though "Macomb County politics a lot different than politics in our county."
- Citizens for a Better Macomb County, based in New Haven, which had already lined up commitments of varying degrees from more than a dozen cities and townships in opposition to the proposed Rizzo landfill. Members of the group applauded at the conclusion of the press conference but later in the day the group's leader, Daniel VanDeKerkhove, expressed dismay at Hackel's "close-minded" reasoning.

VanDeKerkhove said he didn't understand why the county executive was supporting "out-of-date export quotas (that) are single-handedly securing a monopoly for Waste Management...For him to do that suggests that he's already picked a side. It's important that the (solid waste planning) committee form, to sort through all the details, and report their findings to him and the county commissioners."

- Citizens for a Better New Haven, a group that is attempting to recall four village officials -- President Jammie Kincaid and Trustees Daniel Stier, Jeremy Davis and Jennifer Podgurski -- in a May 6 election.

The recall drive initially focused on the village council's "host agreement" for the Rizzo landfill, a pact that was later rescinded. But one of the group's leaders, Ann Pridemore, who is running for Davis' trustee seat, said earlier this month: "It's not just the landfill; what we see is fiscal irresponsibility."

Yet, just as Lenox Township collects millions of dollars in fees from Pine Tree, the Rizzo landfill could have generated up to \$3 million for the cash-strapped village in the first five years of operation.

Hackel said he is willing to engage in waste disposal discussions that might be originated by the Board of Commissioners or local officials, though he showed no signs of compromising on existing export limits to other communities, including Wayne County.

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URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20140121/hackel-rejects-no-landfill-compromise-deal>

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Detroit emergency manager could cut Oakland, Macomb counties out of water deal

By John Wisely Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News Metro Detroit L. Brooks Patterson
Kevyn Orr Mark Hackel
Jan. 21

freep.com

If Oakland and Macomb counties won't agree to a new regional authority to run the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, the city's emergency manager will try to create one without them, according to sources involved in the negotiations.

The move would be an end run around suburban leaders who have criticized Detroit's handling of negotiations on the future of the department, which serves more than 4 million Michigan residents. It also would be a blow to regional cooperation that many leaders say is desperately needed in metro Detroit.

"They'd be going forward without two-thirds of their customer base," Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson said.

But were it to happen, it would allow the city to resolve one of the thorniest issues of its bankruptcy case. For several months, Detroit has been negotiating with the counties on a possible deal to create a regional authority in which the suburbs lease the system's assets and pay the city — money that could be used for services such as police and fire.

Officials in Oakland and Macomb counties repeatedly have said they're not getting the information they need from the city in negotiations and called one proposal for the suburbs to pay \$9 billion over 40 years dead on arrival. The Detroit Board of Water Commissioners met privately Tuesday afternoon for almost an hour to discuss negotiations, but no members would comment afterward.

■ **Related:** Detroit water board members tight-lipped about negotiations with suburbs

The exact structure of an alternative to a regional authority isn't clear, but sources say it appears to involve the City of Detroit, Wayne County and the State of Michigan. Because any proposal involves city assets, it likely would need the blessing of federal Bankruptcy Judge Stephen Rhodes.

Bill Nowling, a spokesman for emergency manager Kevyn Orr, declined to comment.

Patterson dubbed the idea a "Rube Goldberg" proposal, adding: "No deal is better than a bad deal."

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said he hadn't heard of the plan, either.

"I'd be extremely disappointed if they did that," Hackel said. "To pressure the suburbs into a deal, just because we're doing our due diligence, is really inappropriate."

Hackel said he understands the city's bankruptcy filing creates pressure to get a deal done, but

he said he can't move forward without full details.

Suburban leaders have been asking for months for updated financial data from the department, as well as reports detailing the cost of repairs and upgrades needed in coming years. Hackel said he's still waiting for that data.

Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano wouldn't comment on the idea of going ahead without Oakland and Macomb, but he said a regional deal is still the best solution.

"We are committed to finding a solution that makes sense for the entire region," Ficano said in a statement late Tuesday. "All of us — Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Detroit — have worked through tough deals before and made sure that the region's interests were put first."

He cited the deal to regionalize Cobo Center as an example of what's possible.

"I'm confident we can find a similar path with the water system," Ficano said.

Late last year, Orr floated a plan to create a regional authority to run the department and lease its assets from the city, which could raise cash for other services. His initial proposal called for the three counties to pay the city more than \$200 million annually in lease payments for 40 years.

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco said the most recent figure he'd heard for the lease payments was \$41 million annually.

But those payments wouldn't necessarily come from new fees. Instead, money the ratepayers already contribute to cover the the cost of health care for department retirees would be directed into lease payments, Marrocco said. The city would be responsible for the costs of the retiree health care after the authority was created.

One of the perceived benefits of such a deal would be reducing the interest costs the department pays on almost \$6 billion in outstanding debt. But it's unclear whether those savings would be less without Oakland and Macomb counties, which both have high bond ratings.

"It would make things more difficult," said Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash. "I think it's a regional asset, it should be regionally held. That would be the best solution."

Detroit water board members tight-lipped about negotiations with suburbs

By John Wisely Detroit Free Press Staff Writer Filed Under Local News Wayne County
Jan. 21

freep.com

The Detroit Board of Water Commissioners met privately this afternoon for almost an hour to discuss negotiations with Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties over the future of the city's Water and Sewerage Department.

No county officials were present, but the meeting included attorneys from Miller Canfield and Miller Buckfire, who are working on the city's historic bankruptcy case.

Also present were Matthew Schenk, a former water department official, and Bart Foster, a rate consultant

☒ who has helped the department for years.

Officials who were in the meeting declined comment afterward, but chairman James Fausone downplayed comments made by suburban officials last week who speculated that water and sewer rates

☒ could double or triple in the future.

A budget presentation calls for the department to raise revenue 4% this year.

"This board intends to operate on a business as usual basis," Fausone said.

The department is scheduled to release new water and sewer rates for individual communities on Thursday.

William Wolfson, the department's chief operating officer, had asked the board to meet in closed session to discuss a possible settlement with the counties. Holding such an update in public would have a detrimental effect on the city, Wolfson said.

Detroit has been negotiating with the counties on a possible deal to create a regional authority to run the sprawling system. The suburbs would lease the system's assets and pay the city's general fund

☒ — money that would be used for things like police and fire service.

ST. CLAIR SHORES

January 24, 2014

A year to try out TNR

*By Kristyne E. Demske
C & G Staff Writer*

ST. CLAIR SHORES — Unanimously moving ahead with an ordinance change, the city of St. Clair Shores will give trap-neuter-release for feral cats a try over the next year, giving it the ability to continue to contract with the Macomb County Animal Shelter as a place for the city's animal control officer to take cats.

City Council approved an amendment to a city ordinance dealing with the restraint of animals in order to proceed with TNR. Under the previous ordinance, dogs and cats were to be kept under restraint and were not allowed to leave the owner's premises unless wearing a leash. The portions of the ordinance referring to cats were stricken at the Jan. 20 City Council meeting.

"Prior to 1988, there never was an ordinance in St. Clair Shores requiring the restraint of cats," said City Attorney Robert Ihrie. "It wasn't a problem."

With the new change, he said, the county shelter would be able to neuter and release cats back into the city without violating city ordinance.

"That is what they required in order to become involved in St. Clair Shores again," Ihrie said.

The 2014 contract with Macomb County Animal Control specified that the county would not accept stray, feral or domestic cats caught by any city that did not participate in its TNR program.

City Manager Phillip Ludos said the cats would all be scanned for microchips first, so if it is a personal domestic animal, that would be discovered before the surgery took place.

After the surgery, the cats would be placed back in the same location they were taken from to prevent them from trying to cross busy roads to get back to their home territory.

"I'm glad we're going with this policy," said Councilman Chris Vitale. "This makes us ... a forward-thinking community."

Macomb County Chief Animal Control Officer Jeff Randazzo said the county moved to a TNR policy in June and let city officials know of the change at that time. At that time, all Macomb County communities the shelter has jurisdiction over — which excludes Warren, Roseville, Sterling Heights, Eastpointe and St. Clair Shores — began to participate in the TNR program.

Randazzo said when he became chief, it only made sense to investigate what was being done with feral cats across the country.

"This county was euthanizing all these cities' cats. The whole goal is to change things and make things better for the animals in our care," he said. "It only made sense to not euthanize healthy animals if the animal is already thriving out there."

To stop the growth of the feral cat population, any stray cats brought into the county that are candidates for TNR are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and then have an ear clipped — to

identify the surgery as having been completed — by All About Animals animal rescue. Cats that are declawed, too young, too old or unhealthy are kept at the shelter for rehabilitation and adoption or for pull by a rescue organization.

“We do not have time limits here” for how long a cat can remain without being euthanized, he said. Only those extremely ill or extremely aggressive cats would not be kept for adoption.

City Council also agreed to change the wording of the ordinance to allow for retractable leashes on dogs; the ordinance previously called for a leash not to exceed six feet in length.

The cat restraint amendments will be in effect for a year, after which the ordinance will be brought back to City Council to review how the TNR program is working.

Diana Rascano of 4 Paws 1 Heart said this was a move in the right direction for St. Clair Shores.

“Most people don’t know the magnitude of what you did tonight,” she said after the vote. “There are still four cities — Sterling Heights, Warren, Eastpointe and Roseville — that are going to continue every day killing cats that are picked up by their animal control officers.

“We in St. Clair Shores have taken the lead to do something different.”

Mayor Kip Walby said this is the financially responsible way for the city to go, as well.

“It is actually cheaper this way than euthanizing,” he said. “We didn’t do it for the money, but it happens ... it is less expensive.”

Randazzo said the county would not be charging the city for TNR through December 2014. He said they planned to meet with St. Clair Shores officials the week of Jan. 27 to finalize terms of the new contract.

“They’ve been euthanizing cats at the (county) facility since day one,” he said. “It’s still not working ... so why not try to think outside the box.”

Shelby Township, Utica Governments Recognized for Partnership Plans

The two communities were honored by Executive Mark Hackel, along with six others in Macomb County.

Posted by Timothy Rath (Editor) , January 27, 2014 at 12:57 PM

Source: Macomb County Executive Office

Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel today honored eight local communities for working together to provide more efficient services to residents.

"Municipalities combining services with one another is a key part of government running as economical as possible," said Executive Hackel, who recently spearheaded the county's Communications and Technical Center (COMTEC), which combines the services of several departments both inside and outside of the county.

The communities given a Certificate of Community Excellence are as follows:

- The **Charter Township of Clinton and the City of Sterling Heights** were both involved consolidating their police, fire/rescue and EMS dispatch services at Macomb County's new Communications and Technical Center (COMTEC). Both also played a key role in initiating the exploration of combined fire services with other nearby municipalities.
- The **Charter Township of Armada** for sharing fire services with the Charter Township of Bruce.
- The **Charter Township of Bruce** for sharing fire services with the Charter Township of Armada. The township also began a combined recycling program with the Charter Township of Almont and the Charter Township of Dryden.
- The **City of Utica** for utilizing the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development for planning services.
- The **Charter Township of Harrison and the City of Mount Clemens** for their innovation in initiating the exploration of combined fire services with other nearby municipalities.
- The **Charter Township of Shelby** for its innovation in partnering with the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development to use the Prime Properties portal, which is a mapping and property analysis tool that highlights Macomb County's prime industrial development sites.

Macomb County Exec Says Cities, Townships Considering Combining Fire Departments

January 27, 2014 4:29 PM
CBS Local -

MOUNT CLEMENS (WWJ) – In central Macomb County, several local governments are taking a closer look at the possibility of combining their fire departments into one regional unit.

County Executive Mark Hackel says officials in Clinton Township, Sterling Heights, Mount Clemens and Harrison Township will look at the feasibility.

“You gotta talk about deployment, you gotta talk about personnel, you’ve got to talk about, you know, efficiency, as well as costs — especially with labor contracts, retirement,” he said. Hackel said fire departments, unions and local leaders are on board. Cities and townships, in general, he said, are warming up to the idea of sharing resources.

“There are municipalities that we are reaching out to that we know we want to really assist and help them, and we’re in those discussions right now,” Hackel said. “So, we’re starting to see a lot more of that taking place.”

“I think people are less guarded,” said Hackel. “They’re not looking at it as, you know, territorialism as opposed to: You know what? This is just contracting the service with the county. We’re still going to maintain, you know, our specific municipalities and the leadership of it, and the direction as to where they wanna go.”

No timetable has been given for the study.

The Macomb Daily (<http://www.macombdaily.com>)

Macomb County exec wants drivers to call 911 to report bad potholes

Macomb County has new guarantee -- call 911 on bad potholes for response within an hour

By Mitch Hotts, The Macomb Daily

Wednesday, January 29, 2014



Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel wants local motorists to call 911 if they see a particularly bad pothole on major roads and he guarantees a response within one hour.

The ambitious new plan carries the slogan "Macomb County: We Care - Potholes Beware."

"Rather than having some obscure phone line that no one will remember, we want people to call 911 immediately if they see a pothole that will cause damage to vehicles," Hackel said Wednesday.

Hackel said the county Department of Roads will send a crew out to address the situation 24 hours a day. The responding crew will decide whether a patch can be applied or if other personnel need to be called in, he said.

"Overtime is not an issue, our No. 1 concern here is public safety," he said. "We are going to get the job done."

When a driver calls 911 about a vehicle-damaging pothole, a dispatcher will ask for the location and then contact the Macomb County Department of Roads. Road crews will assess the situation within an hour and address the situation.

Non-hazardous potholes can be reported at 586-463-8671.

Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said the pothole patrol won't cause dispatchers much additional work.

"It's no different than someone calling to say there's a broken-down car or obstacle in the road. It's a quick call, we'll take the information and say 'Thank you' to the caller," Wickersham said.

But not everyone is on board with the plan.

The Michigan State Police late Wednesday put out a news release saying law enforcement is not the appropriate forum for the complaints.

"Law enforcement is not able to fix potholes or report them to the proper road commissions," Lt. Michael Shaw said in the release.

Shaw said state routes that begin with an "I," "US," or "M-" should call the pothole hotline at 888-296-4546³⁶ or go to Michigan.gov/mdot. To report potholes on county or local roads, contact the county road commission where the hole is located.

In response, Hackel said he doesn't "need the Michigan State Police telling me how to run public safety in Macomb County."

"If the State Police are not concerned about public safety, that's OK with me," he said. "Here in Macomb County, the sheriff and the executive agree the easiest way to handle these hazardous potholes is through the 911 system. We know how to prioritize our incoming calls for assistance from the public."

The county executive said he wanted to start the 911-pothole campaign now because the number of car-jolting craters will increase once the weather warms up. But he also wants the public to focus on long-term solutions such as funding and changing gross vehicle weight limits for trucks.

Hackel blasted state lawmakers who sponsor contests for finding the worst potholes, which he feels trivializes the issue.

"Shame on them for coming up with cornball ideas instead of answers -- they should be chastised for not doing their jobs," he said.

Hackel singled out state Rep. Marilyn Lane for having the "political courage" to explore funding solutions.

Lane, a Fraser Democrat who serves as vice chair of the state House transportation committee, said cities and counties need more funding -- now -- just to maintain roads, let alone repair or replace them.

She agreed with Hackel that the pothole issue will only get worse as the spring thaw sets in during the next few months.

"We're going to have unprecedented problem this spring because the locals and counties are already short on their budgets due to the record-setting snowfall we've had," Lane said.

"These potholes are going to wreak havoc on our cars. And the only place they can turn to for relief is the state."

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20140129/macomb-county-exec-wants-drivers-to-call-911-to-report-bad-potholes>

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Official Resolution
Of The Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan

A Resolution Requesting the Macomb County Executive to Nominate Qualified Persons
to the Macomb County Solid Waste Planning Committee

Commissioner Don Brown, on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Resolution:

Whereas, the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994) calls for the establishment of a Solid Waste Management plan which is to be reviewed and updated every five years (MCL 324.11533(2)), as proposed by a county Solid Waste Planning Committee, approved by the Board of Commissioners and ratified by two-thirds of the communities in Macomb County; and

Whereas, the last amendment to the Macomb County Solid Waste Plan was in 1999 with the plan not being updated or amended in the past fifteen years despite dramatically different circumstance in cost effective and environmentally friendly methods of disposing of waste, along with major developments in recycling; and

Whereas, the residents of Macomb County deserve the most effective means of waste disposal and recycling, from both cost and technological standpoints.

Now, Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners, speaking for and on behalf of all county citizens as follows:

That By These Presents, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the Macomb County Executive offer to this body the names of qualified individuals to serve on the Macomb County Solid Waste Planning Committee in order to review and update or amend the Macomb County Solid Waste Plan.

Be It Further Resolved that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Macomb County Executive.