



# BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015, 7 P.M.

### FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Don Brown**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated May 14 and June 11, 2015 **(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. Correspondence from Executive **(none)**
9. **PROCLAMATIONS:**
  - a) Recognizing August 27-30, 2015 as Bassmaster Week (offered by Board Chair on behalf of Board; recommended by Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee on 6-23-15) **(page 1) (attached)**

## MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David J. Flynn – Board Chair  
District 4

Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair  
District 11

Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms  
District 10

Andrey Duzyj – 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

10. **Presentation of Proclamations:**

- a) Wayne Oehmke/Bassmaster Week (**Board Chair Flynn**)
- b) Jan Robertjohn (**Commissioner Sabatini**)
- c) Volunteer Award Winners (page 2) **(attached)**

11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Infrastructure/Economic Development, June 23 (**no report**)
- b) Finance, June 24 (page 4) **(attached)**

12. Board Chair's Report (page 17) **(attached)**

13. **RESOLUTIONS:**

- a) Authorizing Actions in Connection with the Issuance of the North Gratiot Interceptor Drain Drainage District Drain Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 (Limited Tax General Obligation) (offered by Board Chair on behalf of Board; recommended by Finance Committee on 6-24-15) (page 51) **(attached)**
- b) Establishing Legislative Priorities to Guide the Review and Adoption of the FY 2016 County Budget (offered by Board; recommended by Finance Committee on 6-24-15) (page 54) **(attached)**
- c) Supporting Michigan House Bill No. 4724 to Amend the Michigan Election Law to Allow a "No Reason" Absentee Ballot (offered by Miller; include all commissioners; recommended by Finance Committee on 6-24-15) (page 57) **(attached)**
- d) Supporting Michigan Senate Resolution No. 66 and U.S. House Resolution No. 233 to Urge Iran to Immediately Release Michigan Resident Amir Hekmati (offered by Miller; recommended by Finance Committee on 6-24-15) (page 60) **(attached)**

14. New Business

15. Public Participation (five minutes maximum per speaker or longer at the discretion of the Chairperson)

16. Roll Call

17. Adjournment

Official Proclamation of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan

**A Proclamation Recognizing August 27-30, 2015, as Bassmaster Week**

The Macomb County Board of Commissioners Offers the Following Proclamation:

**WHEREAS;** from August 27-30, 2015 the Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament will be held at the Lake St. Clair Metropark. This event will be the final one of the Bassmaster Elite Series Season for 2015, a year in which the Series is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and

**WHEREAS;** Lake St. Clair has hosted multiple bass fishing tournaments in the past, including the 2013 regular season Elite finale. This tournament will be the largest to take place on Lake St. Clair; and

**WHEREAS;** the Bassmaster Elite Tournament has drawn upwards of 33,000 people to past tournaments and has proven to draw fishing enthusiasts from locations across the country; and

**WHEREAS,** Lake St. Clair was chosen to host a Bassmaster Elite Series Tournament because of the abundance of smallmouth bass in the fresh water lake. In 2013 Lake St. Clair was ranked first in the nation for smallmouth bass fishing and was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> on Bassmaster's 100 Best Bass Lakes in 2015; and

**WHEREAS;** Lake St. Clair contains one percent of Michigan's freshwater and also contains 46 percent of the Great Lakes' fishing pressure, meaning that nearly half of the region's fishing trips take place there; and

**WHEREAS;** the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Detroit Sports Commission are cooperatively working with Macomb County to ensure tournament contestants and attendees will have a variety of entertainment options to enjoy while in Macomb County; and

**WHEREAS;** many organizations and individuals have diligently worked to bring such a prestigious event to Macomb County.

**Now Therefore,** Be It Resolved By The Board Of Commissioners, Speaking For And On Behalf Of All Citizens As Follows:

I

**That By These Presents,** the Macomb County **Board of Commissioners** hereby publicly calls upon all of its citizens and upon all, to observe the week of **August 27-30, 2015, as Bassmaster Week.**

II

**Be It Further Resolved** that all Macomb County Citizens welcome the Bassmaster Elite Series Season officials, top professional anglers, vendors and spectators to Lake St. Clair.

<u>Volunteer</u> <u>Last Name</u>	<u>Volunteer</u> <u>First Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>District</u>
Bassett	Jolanthe	Rochester Hills	US ARMY (TACOM)		Duzyj	1
Cutter	Jeffrey	Warren	Warren Concert Band, Inc.		Duzyj	1
Hobson	Jenny	Warren	Detroit VA Medical Center		Duzyj	1
Sears	Kingsley	Warren	Warren Symphony Society, Inc.		Duzyj	1
Watters	Wendy	Warren	Roose PTC		Duzyj	1
Weidemann	Kelly	Warren	Willow Woods Elementary		Duzyj	1
Karrer	Peter	St. Clair Shores	St. John Hospital & Medical Center		Klinefelt	3
Adams	Jody	Sterling Heights	St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital		Flynn	4
DeBlauwe	David	Sterling Heights	American Legion Post 351, Utica		Flynn	4
Himmler	Ronald	Sterling Heights	Meals On Wheels		Flynn	4
Mason	Danielle	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Flynn	4
Richards	Ted	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Flynn	4
Schinzing	Don & Ruth Ann	Sterling Heights	City of Sterling Heights		Flynn	4
Barnes	Franklin & Nancy	Sterling Heights	Macomb County DHS		Mijac	5
Baron	Ken	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Caldwell	Kathleen	Sterling Heights	Macomb Center for the Performing Arts		Mijac	5
Forbes	Marge (Margaret)	Sterling Heights	Turning Point		Mijac	5
Garstecki	Mariann	Sterling Heights	American Red Cross		Mijac	5
Goodman	John	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Guzdek	Paul	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Jacks	Ervin	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Koller	Thomas	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Leone	Joseph	Sterling Heights	Kiwanis Club of Sterling Heights		Mijac	5
Metcalfe	George	Sterling Heights	VFW 1146 Cpl. Walter F. Bruce Post		Mijac	5
Minor	Lorne	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Obrest	John	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Spadafore	Dino	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
VanLuven	Scott	Sterling Heights	Citizens on Patrol		Mijac	5
Arno	Eleanor	Shelby Twp.	Macomb Literacy Partners		Carabelli	6
McLaughlin	Carol	Shelby Twp.	Shelby Twp. Beautification Committee		Carabelli	6
Orlowsky	Nancy	Troy	Monfort Elementary - UCS		Carabelli	6
Spondike	Audra	Shelby Twp.	Morgan Elementary		Carabelli	6
Kingsbury	Debra	Washington	Detroit Zoo		Brown	7
Porter	Su	Columbus	Medilodge of Richmond		Brown	7
Gingas	Larry	New Baltimore	Bay Rama, Inc		Vosburg	8
Johnson	Madryn	New Baltimore	Wyandot Middle School		Vosburg	8
Krause	Richard	Chesterfield	Evangelical Homes of Michigan		Vosburg	8

Agosta	Renee	Macomb	Iroquois Middle School		Miller	9
Cannon	Cheryl	Clinton Twp.	Clinton-Macomb Public Library		Miller	9
Kaza	James	Clinton Twp.	CTAO (Clinton Area Optimist Club)		Miller	9
Maquera	Claudia	Clinton Twp.	Anton Art Center		Miller	9
Nitkin	Laurie	Clinton Twp.	Hope Center in Macomb		Miller	9
Nitkin	Don	Clinton Twp.	Hope Center in Macomb		Miller	9
Pickering	Peggy	Mt. Clemens	Zion United Church of Christ		Miller	9
Tilney	Larry	Macomb	St. Peter Lutheran Church & School		Miller	9
White	Eva	Mt. Clemens	Greater Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church		Miller	9
Waller	Keith	Harrison Twp.	Hope Lutheran Church		Marino	10
Dearhamer	Theresa	Roseville	Friends of Roseville Public Library		Tocco	11
Hennigar	Keith	Roseville	Amvets Post 29		Tocco	11
Hodgson	Harry	Fraser	Baumgartner House Museum		Tocco	11
Kakowski	Brandy	Roseville	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - MI Chapter		Tocco	11
Leamy	Garth	Roseville	Macomb County CAC - CARE House		Tocco	11
Sape	Missy (Michelle)	Fraser	Thomas Edison Elementary		Tocco	11
Scott	Sharon	Fraser	St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital		Tocco	11
Baker	Jennifer	Clinton Twp.	Charles C. McGlennen Elementary School		Smith	12
Bannister	Carole	Clinton Twp.	Clinton-Macomb Public Library		Smith	12
Clawson	Laurie	Clinton Twp.	Wyandot Middle School		Smith	12
Kushner	Barbara	Clinton Twp.	Roseville Historical & Genealogical Society		Smith	12
Milton	Denise	Clinton Twp.	Girls Scouts of Southeastern Michigan		Smith	12
Teller	Judy	Clinton Twp.	Cross Lutheran Church		Smith	12
Fields	Jeff	Macomb	Eisenhower High School Instrumental Music Program		Sabatini	13
Lyons	Sian	Macomb	Mohawk Elementary		Sabatini	13
Nowak	Tom	Macomb	Henry Ford Macomb Hospital		Sabatini	13
Bliss	Tami	Macomb	Make-A-Wish		Sabatini	13



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**June 24, 2015**

**TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING OF 6-24-15**

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Wednesday, June 24, 2015, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the June 25, 2015 Full Board meeting for approval:

## **1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a one-year extension of the contract with Nickel & Saph, Inc., to provide property and casualty brokerage and consulting services; the term of this contract is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, in the amount of \$54,000; 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 Carabelli, supported by Smith, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the County of Macomb and the low qualified bidder, Best Asphalt, Inc., in the amount of \$1,093,100 (base bid including Alternate 1B deducting Voluntary Alternate) for the 2015 Paving Projects; funds for this project are available in the Capital Plan; 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.**

## **MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

David J. Flynn – Board Chair	Kathy Tocco – Vice Chair	Steve Marino – Sergeant-At-Arms		
Andrey Duzyj – 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

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 24, 2015**

**PAGE 2**

**3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and City of Fraser outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for concrete pavement repairs on 14 Mile Road from Hayes Road to Utica Road; 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.**

**4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Duzyj, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and Macomb Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the widening of North Avenue from M-59 to 21 Mile Road; 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.**

**5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the reconstruction of streets within the Applewood Subdivision; 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.**

**6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the reconstruction of streets within the Applewood Subdivision, the costs for which will be shared 50/50 between Department of Roads and Township; 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.**

**7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the widening of Van Dyke between West Road and Campground Road; 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.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
JUNE 24, 2015**

**PAGE 3**

**8. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Sauger, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the award of bid and contract for the 2015 Pavement Preservation Program to Cipparrone Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$1,951,224.14; 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.**

**9. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Tocco, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a contract between the Department of Roads and URS outlining the scope of work and costs for staffing of the Traffic Operations Center for Fiscal Year 2015/2016; 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.**

**10. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)**

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners authorize Jordan Harvey to purchase five months of military service time in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System under State Law MCLA 46.12a(14); 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 BROWN.**





# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

06/25/2015

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve a 1-year extension of the contract with Nickel & Saph Inc., to provide Property and Casualty Brokerage and Consulting Services. The term of this contract is July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The cost is \$54,000.

**Introduced By:**

Fred Miller, Chair - Finance Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

This contract provides full-service Property and Casualty Brokerage and Consulting Services. This is an exercise of a one-year extension allowed under the original contract. The fee has been reduced 10% for this extension, from \$60,000 to \$54,000. All other terms and conditions remain the same.

**Committee**

**Meeting Date**

Finance

06/24/2015

Full Board

6-25-15



## MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

### RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Authorization to enter into a Contract between the County of Macomb and the low-qualified Bidder, Best Asphalt, Inc., in the amount of \$1,093,100.00 (Base Bid including Alternate 1B deducting Voluntary Alternate) for the 2015 Paving Projects.

Funds for this Project are available in the Capital Plan.

**Introduced By:**

Jim Carabelli and Robert Mijac, Co-Chairs, Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

Sealed Bids were received and publicly read in the Purchasing Department on May 14, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. for Bid Item 10-15, 2015 Paving Projects.

Background:

The Purchasing Department solicited sealed Bids on the MITN Site. 509 Vendors received notification of the solicitation, 44 Vendors viewed the documents and 3 Bids were received.

Bid Summary, Post Bid Interview and Letter of Recommendation are attached.

**Committee**

**Meeting Date**

Infrastructure/Economic Development

6-23-15

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

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## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and City of Fraser outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for concrete pavement repairs on 14 Mile Road from Hayes Road to Utica Road.

**Introduced By:**

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

Project is part of the Pavement Preservation Program and budgeted in the 2015 Department of Roads Construction Budget.

Infrastructure/Economic Development

**06/23/2015**

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

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## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and Macomb Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the widening of North Avenue from M-59 to 21 Mile Road.

**Introduced By:**

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

Project is budgeted in the 2015 and 2016 Department of Roads Construction Budget.

Infrastructure/Economic Development

**06/23/2015**

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

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## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the reconstruction of streets within the Applewood Subdivision.

**Introduced By:**

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

Project is budgeted in the 2015 Department of Roads Construction Budget.

Infrastructure/Economic Development

**06/23/2015**

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**Resolution Number:**

**Full Board Meeting Date:**

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## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the reconstruction of streets within the Applewood Subdivision, the costs for which will be shared 50/50 between Department of Roads and Township.

**Introduced By:**

Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

Project is budgeted in the 2015 Department of Roads Construction Budget.

Infrastructure/Economic Development

**06/23/2015**

Committee

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

## RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and Washington Township outlining the scope of work and cost sharing for the widening of Van Dyke between West Road and Campground Road

Introduced By:
Commissioners James Carabelli & Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
Project is budgeted in the 2015 and 2016 Department of Roads Construction Budget.

Infrastructure/Economic Development

Committee

Finance

Full Board

**06/23/2015**

Meeting Date

6-24-15

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

## RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the award of bid and contract for the 2015 Pavement Preservation Program to Cipparrone Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$1,951,224.14.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Commissioners Jim Carabelli &amp; Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Econ Development Comm</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

Infrastructure/Economic Development

Committee

**06/23/2015**

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15





# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

## RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the contract between the Department of Roads and URS outlining the scope of work and costs for staffing of the Traffic Operations Center for Fiscal Year 2015/2016.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Commissioners James Carabelli &amp; Robert Mijac, Infrastructure/Economic Dev Committee</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>TOC staffing is budgeted in the 2015/2016 Department of Roads Construction Budget.</p>

Infrastructure/Economic Development

Committee

**06/23/2015**

Meeting Date

Finance

6-24-15

Full Board

6-25-15



# MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

<b>Resolution Number:</b>	<b>Full Board Meeting Date:</b>

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution to:**

Authorize Jordan Harvey to purchase five (5) months of military service time in the Macomb County Employees' Retirement System under State Law MCLA 46.12a(14)

**Introduced By:**

Fred Miller, Chair, Finance Committee

**Additional Background Information (If Needed):**

See attached letter.

Committee	Meeting Date
Finance	6-24-15
Full Board	6-25-15

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ FULL BOARD MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 AGENDA ITEM: \_\_\_\_\_

## MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO receive and file report from Board Chair for June 2015

INTRODUCED 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

- Macomb Orchard Trail – Commissioner Carabelli
- Payroll Process Changeover complete w/ 06-26-15 pay
- HR-LR is providing employees option of converting Leave Time to Cash, forms due 07-31-15
- Freedom Hill – Homeowners Meeting held
- Searches: Equalization Director update
- MTB Update
- RHC Interim Trust Board
- Admin Parking Lot/Structure Groundbreaking held
- Budget Preparations

### Office

- BOC Scanning Project –
  - Phase 1 is underway to digitize existing minute books in BOC Library, protect these historical documents and make them searchable. Two shelving units of binders have been completed.
  - Phase 2 will link committee minutes to agendas and support materials enabling easy searches and creating increased transparency and access.
  - IT provided two scanners and personnel who will continue to work onsite at BOC until project completion.
- Our part-time Special Projects Coordinator – Rico Rowe – has secured full-time employment in the Community Mental Health Department. He'll be with the BOC through July 10<sup>th</sup> and will then move to CMH. Rico has been with us as an intern and then employee since April 2013. Please be sure to thank him for his service and wish him luck in his new endeavor.
- FYI: Parking Structure closes nightly at 8pm; on Full Board nights it will stay open until 9pm.

### Upcoming Items

- Commissioners are welcome to watch the June 26<sup>th</sup> fireworks from our offices; we will be sure to have the A/C turned on. Fireworks are launched (approx. 10pm) from the Mt. Clemens City Hall parking lot. Northbound Gratiot and the Crocker and Dickinson bridges will be closed at 7pm that evening.
- Save-The-Dave: Commissioner Bobby Hill Welcoming Center event to be held at 5pm on his birthday, Monday, July 27, 2015; the sculpted relief, paid for by donated funds has the likeness of Bobby on it and will be unveiled during a short program. Bobby's family, community and the public are invited. Commissioners are asked to attend to honor Bobby's legacy on the BOC.

### Regional

- Mackinac Policy Conference
- GLWA
- DIA is interviewing for person to assume Graham Beal's Director position

### Correspondence:

- Huron County resolution
- Casual Day Program letters of thanks

### Media:

- See attached articles.

**Board Chair Report – June 2015 – Page 2****BOC – Independent Counsel:** Expenditures for Outside Legal Counsel Professional Services

Litigation	Legal Svcs	Legal Services	Budget	
<u>InvoiceCharges:</u>	<u>Budget Amount:</u>	<u>Invoice Totals:</u>	<u>Remaining:</u>	<u>%Utilized:</u>
	\$120,400 (2015)			
		\$ 5,566.00 (January)		
		<u>3,243.00</u> (February)		
		\$ 8,809.00	\$111,591	0.07
		<u>6,992.00</u> (March)		
		\$15,801.00	\$104,599	0.13
		<u>3,334.00</u> (April)		
		\$19,135.00	\$101,265	0.16
		<u>1,265.00</u> (May)		
		\$20,400.00	\$102,530	0.17

**COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE**

Full Board 06-25-15

###

No. 15- 72**RESOLUTION**

To: The Honorable Board of Commissioners  
Huron County  
Michigan

WE, the SAFETY COMMITTEE, respectfully beg leave to submit the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

WHEREAS, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

WHEREAS, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

WHEREAS, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

WHEREAS, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS, Huron County and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare, and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, Huron County fully supports the concept of the *Stepping Up* initiative; and

WHEREAS, through *Stepping Up*, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging public, private, and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Huron County Board of Commissioners does hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in our state and across the country to support a national initiative, and encourage all county officials, employees, and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making at the system, program, and case levels.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and

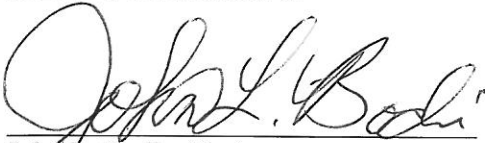
identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.

- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the jail assessment and prevalence data and the examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes; and

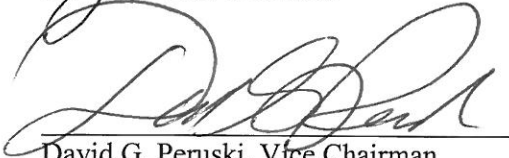
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan counties, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, and members of our State and Federal leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

SAFETY COMMITTEE



John L. Bodis, Chairman



David G. Peruski, Vice Chairman



Clark Elftman, Member

Dated: May 26, 2015

~~VOICE~~ ROLL CALL VOTE:

COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSENT	COMMISSIONER	YES	NO	ABSENT
SAMI KHOURY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JOHN L. BODIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVID G. PERUSKI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RON WRUBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK ELFTMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JOHN A. NUGENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RICH SWARTZENDRUBER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

RESOLUTION:  ADOPTED

DEFEATED

TABLED



Mark A. Hackel  
County Executive

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

21885 Dunham Road, Suite 10 ♦ Clinton Township, Michigan 48036

Phone: (586) 469-6999 ♦ Fax: (586) 469-5530

[www.macombgov.org/MCCSA](http://www.macombgov.org/MCCSA)



Rhonda M. Powell  
Director

June 17, 2015

David J. Flynn, Board Chairman  
Board of Commissioners  
1 S. Main St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Commissioner Flynn,

On behalf of Macomb County senior citizens receiving Project Fresh coupons across our county I extend deepest appreciation for the generous casual day contributions the county employees made to the MCCSA Office of Senior Services in support of our Project Fresh program. This generous donation will support both seniors and Michigan farmers. The donation of \$130.11 will allow us to provide seven seniors a Project Fresh coupon booklet to purchase Michigan-grown produce at registered roadside stands and farmers markets.

Again, thank you for your continued support in our effort to help prevent premature nursing home placement, malnutrition and social isolation among the aging population in Macomb County.

Sincerely,

Katherine R. Benford  
Division Director  
Office of Senior Services



Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all the residents of Macomb County  
by helping to eliminate adult illiteracy.

---

June 16, 2015

David Flynn  
Board Chairman  
Board of Commissioners  
1 S. Main St., 9th Floor  
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Mr. Flynn,

Thank you so much for selecting Macomb Literacy Partners to receive the funds collected for August 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 Casual Day. This generous contribution to Macomb Literacy Partners helps us work toward improving adult literacy in Macomb County. Through the support of our donors, we are able to reach hundreds of adults each year and help them learn to read traffic signs and warnings, fill out job applications, or read to a child for the first time.

Macomb Literacy Partners is committed to our mission of eliminating illiteracy in Macomb County. We bring together volunteer tutors with adult students who need help learning to read or learning English as a second language. Your generous donation will help to provide the resources needed for our tutors and students to effectively work during their weekly tutoring sessions.

Through the efforts of our volunteers, board members and supporters like your employees, we can all take pride in the literacy program's accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Alisa Diez  
Director  
Macomb Literacy Partners

Amount	Date	Money Order No.
\$10.00	6/8/15	172190385755

No goods or services were exchanged for this contribution. Macomb Literacy Partners is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational institution.  
Please keep this letter for your tax records.

*President, James R. Goerlich, Jr.*  
Rehmann

*Vice President, Pam Lavers*  
Assistant Macomb County Executive

*Secretary, Joe Kozlowski*  
JGK Associates

*Treasurer, Maria Bianchini*  
Sterling Green Solutions LLC

**Terri Giampetroni, Esq**  
Legal Solutions

**Steve LaPorte**  
Continental Services

**Geary Maiuri**  
Macomb Community  
College

**Diane McNamara**  
Soroptimist

**Frank L. McNelis, Esq**  
McNelis Law

**Denise Mennucci**  
Utica Community Schools

**Russ Milne**  
Russ Milne Ford, Inc.





# Macomb Homeless Coalition

P.O. Box 856 • Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

[www.macombhomelesscoalition.com](http://www.macombhomelesscoalition.com)

---

June 17, 2015

Board of Commissioners  
c/o Mr. David Flynn  
One S. Main St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Commissioner Flynn:

The Macomb Homeless Coalition and its Board of Directors would like to thank you, your office, and the Macomb County employees donating \$68.00 that was collected during the May 2014 Casual Day. Your donation is very much appreciated and will help aid Macomb County residents experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness.

The Coalition is a community planning body that promotes the prevention and elimination of homelessness. Your donation will allow us to continue coordinating our community's resources and services for the benefit of the 1,101 individuals and family members who are experiencing homelessness in Macomb County every single day. If you would like more information on the Coalition or our Community Connection Days, please visit us at [www.macombhomelesscoalition.com](http://www.macombhomelesscoalition.com).

We are a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. Federal law requires us to notify you that the Macomb Homeless Coalition is providing no goods or services to you in exchange for your donation.

Again, your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise".

Denise Goshton,  
Director

---

**Our Mission:** *To act as an advocate for the homeless and potentially homeless in Macomb County by collaborating efforts that promote and sustain self-sufficiency.*





## Macomb County Warming Center

& Ray of Hope Day Center

2 Crocker Blvd., Suite 201 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

586 321-0998 Website: [www.warmingcenter.org](http://www.warmingcenter.org)

e-mail [kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org](mailto:kathy@macombcountywarmingcenter.org)

June 16, 2015

David J. Flynn, Board Chair  
Macomb County Board of Commissioners  
1 S. Main St., 9<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Macomb County Employees:

We have received your money order #17-219038581 in the amount of \$90.00.

We are writing to acknowledge your support and generosity, and to assure you that these funds will be used responsibly and carefully to shelter, feed and assist homeless and indigent individuals and families.

Since we opened our doors in January, 2002, you have helped us to shelter and feed over 7,000 homeless guests with more than 106,000 shelter nights and 213,000 meals.

You have given us the resources to provide advocacy for more than 3,500 individuals and families in our Ray of Hope Day Center, as well as offering transportation assistance, State ID cards, cell phones, a mailing address, job search assistance, referrals and co-pays for medical and psychiatric care. You gave us the means to provide direct assistance into housing, and referrals for special housing programs. How many lives you have saved with your donations and prayers, we will never know.

Our guests, board and staff are in grateful acceptance of your love and support. Please continue to pray for us and be assured that your intentions are remembered in our prayers as well.

In His Loye,

Kathy McKinley-Goodrich  
Executive Director

# Regional water deal faces hurdles as deadline nears

Chad Livengood and Charles E. Ramirez, *The Detroit News* 11:23 p.m. EDT May 25, 2015



(Photo: Charles V. Tines / *The Detroit News*, file)

Metro Detroit officials are racing to meet a deadline in less than three weeks to ink a deal creating a regional water authority — one of the incomplete parts of Detroit's historic bankruptcy reorganization.

The city's bankruptcy exit plan in December called for Detroit to lease its Water and Sewerage Department's assets to a new Great Lakes Water Authority within 200 days.

But Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel is indicating he may not go along with a rushed deal — adding tension to a long-simmering regional issue as business and political leaders descend on Mackinac Island this week for the Detroit Regional Chamber's annual policy conference.

Last year's policy conference was dominated by a political tug-of-war as Gov. Rick Snyder clashed with Hackel and Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, who were resisting then-Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr's plan to force suburban ratepayers to subsidize city government operations and debt repayment.

The clash triggered summer-long bankruptcy court mediation negotiations and eventually led to a deal in September for a new city-suburb authority that would lease Detroit's vast water and sewer infrastructure.

The tentative agreement stipulated that the authority's \$50 million annual lease payments to Detroit could be used only for water and sewer infrastructure improvements, not propping up the city's budget as Orr originally proposed.

As the June 14 deadline rapidly approaches, city and suburban officials and a team of consultants are trying to finalize audits of the Detroit water system's finances and pension liabilities. They also are attempting to complete a financial feasibility study on the impact of the water authority making the annual lease payments to Detroit.

"I'm not about to participate in something or have someone agree to sign something with a bunch of amendments or addendums or if it depends on some future outcome," Hackel told *The Detroit News*. "In other words, they're going to have to push back that date if they're expecting any support from Macomb County."

Hackel's resistance to the bankruptcy deal comes as Mackinac Policy Conference planners prepare to highlight Detroit's Chapter 9 success with a panel discussion featuring Orr, retired U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes, Ford Foundation President Darren Walker and Chief U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Rosen, who was the city's main bankruptcy mediator.

The Thursday panel of bankruptcy power players is dubbed "Detroit: Architects of Prosperity."

"The bankruptcy was rushed through, so it makes sense that there are a lot of loose ends to tie up," said Matt Fabian, who followed Detroit's bankruptcy as a partner at Municipal Market Analytics, a Concord, Massachusetts-based bond research firm.

## 'Process continues'

The Great Lakes Water Authority lease agreement needs approval of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and a majority of the six-person regional water authority board (<http://qlwater.org/qlwa-board/>).

The water authority board consists of two Detroit appointees; three representatives from Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties; and one appointee of the governor representing water customers outside the three-county region.

"We're cautious on its success," said Brian Baker, the Macomb County representative on the Great Lakes Water Authority board and the city budget director in Sterling Heights. "The process continues."

But Baker said a lease agreement to have the water authority assume operational control of the Detroit water system on July 1 may only be real on paper.

"It was always the plan to get this thing stood up by July 1 ... (but) we may not get the thing stood up for another couple of months," Baker said. "There's a lot to figure out — what assets go where, what employees go where."

Because the June 14 deadline falls on a Sunday, officials hope to get a lease signed on the Friday before, said Bill Nowling, a former Orr spokesman who is now working on the water authority project.

"I think we're on target to get the lease signed by that date," Nowling said. "We hope everyone agrees to it. We need a majority of the parties to agree to it."

Under the plan, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department will retain control of the city's water and sewer lines and become a retail-oriented city department focused on collecting bills, Nowling said.

Nowling said close to 150 local officials and consultants are working out details related to the pension liabilities of the Detroit water system and other long-term financial projections for the water authority, plus finite details of splitting the Detroit water department in half.

"It gets down in the detail of which trucks go to the Great Lakes Water Authority and which trucks stay with DSWD," Nowling said. "There's that much detail."

Wading through minutiae is a reflection of the tension between the city and the suburbs, Fabian said.

"Whenever things get really specific, it means the parties don't trust each other," he said.

#### **'No information'**

Information about the nature of lease negotiations has been hard to come by.

In February, a federal judge ordered the city and counties to hold confidential talks about the authority after county executives criticized the validity of the information the city provided on the water department. U.S. District Judge Sean Cox, the mediator, banned all parties from divulging information about the negotiations.

Lloyd Jackson, a spokesman for Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, said the executive couldn't answer questions about the water authority because of Cox's gag order.

Patterson's spokesman said county officials also would not comment because of the negotiations.

Chip Snider, Northville Township's manager, said he hasn't received any word on the authority's progress in months.

"There's been no information at all," Snider said. "We're all watching this and hoping to find that it has some fiscal benefit to our water and sewer funds."

David Flynn, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, said he also hasn't heard a lot about any progress the regional water authority has made, other than officials are waiting for more financial information from the Detroit water system.

"The (authority's) board has been waiting on extremely important financial documents, such as an audit and a pension actuarial, which (it is) supposed to have by June 1," Flynn said. "A lot of the details in terms of how much cost-saving could be created in order to make the \$50 million payment will be revealed at that time."

Flynn said the situation isn't ideal. "Obviously, we wanted as transparent a process as possible," he said.

Hackel has been especially irked by the process, blasting aspects of the mediation credited with helping Detroit [get through bankruptcy court in 17 months \(/story/news/local/wayne-county/2014/11/13/detroit-bankruptcy-grand-bargain/18934921/\)](http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2014/11/13/detroit-bankruptcy-grand-bargain/18934921/).

"I've been suspicious of the forced mediation and the lack of transparency publicly from Day One," Hackel said. "I don't believe public officials should be prohibited from talking to the people they represent under any circumstances."

"I'm just frustrated with the way this has been controlled ... and forced upon us through bankruptcy with the involvement of the courts, under a gag order and state involvement, which has never happened in a regional initiative in the past."

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[Twitter.com/ChadLivengood](http://twitter.com/ChadLivengood) (http://twitter.com/ChadLivengood)

#### **Mackinac conference**

Among the topics being discussed at the Wednesday-Friday Detroit Regional Chamber's Mackinac Policy Conference:

**Wednesday**

Detroit coalition's plan to reform the city's school system

Gov. Rick Snyder's opening remarks

How to close Michigan's job skills gap

Mayor Mike Duggan on how to maintain Detroit's post-bankruptcy momentum

**Thursday**

Key Detroit bankruptcy officials on the city's promise of prosperity

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin on leadership

Michigan's need for regional transit systems

Interview with Ford Motor Executive Chairman Bill Ford

Detroit officials and Michigan's legislative leaders on their partnership

**Friday**

Michigan's congressional unity

Bridging the racial divide

Read or Share this story: <http://detne.ws/1HH77FB>

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

## Deputies first in Macomb County to be equipped with drug overdose antidote

Sheriff's Office is first agency to equip officers with drug to reverse opioid overdose

By Jameson Cook, *The Macomb Daily*

Wednesday, May 27, 2015



A Macomb County sheriff's deputy for the first time saved the life of a person overdosing on drugs Tuesday night using a newly obtained opioid overdose antidote.

The deputy rescued a 37-year-old Mount Clemens man overdosing on heroin by spraying Narcan, aka naloxone, into his bloodstream through his nose.

"Within two weeks, we have our first save using this drug," Wickersham said today at a press conference at the sheriff's office. "As sheriff, our job is to protect people and also to save

lives no matter what people think of these individuals using the drugs. If people are going to use, if people are going to OD, we want to do everything we can to save lives."

Through a state law passed last fall, the Macomb County Sheriff's Office earlier this month began equipping deputies with Narcan to administer to anyone suffering from an opioid overdose — heroin or a prescription drug such as Oxycontin, Vicodin or Percoset. Eight-one deputies have been equipped with and trained to inject the nasal spray.

The county's remaining police agencies should be equipped with the antidote by the end of June, according to Judge Linda Davis of 41B District Court who is FAN president of Fraser-based Families Against Narcotics. Chesterfield Township and New Baltimore police will be next, she said.

The action is part of an effort called Operation RX, formerly called Project Macomb, to combat heroin and prescription drug addiction and overdoses in the county. Wickersham said 16 people in the sheriff's coverage area, which excludes the county's biggest municipalities, have died from drug overdoses already this year. The county led the state in heroin overdoses in the three-year period of 2010-12 with 202.

Officials are attempting to get doctors and dentists to reduce their prescription of opioids for pain reduction to prevent opioid addiction, which often leads to heroin addiction. Officials also are attempting to improve treatment efforts.

"This (Narcan) is just piece of a puzzle ... where we work as a unified system to make sure when someone overdoses from a narcotic that not only are they brought back to life but that they are given the tools they need to live a more productive life," Davis said.

Davis said people hooked on drugs "are not throw-aways" and should be "turned back into the people

they were before they started using.”

“Part of what we’re trying to do here though this cooperative effort in Macomb County is to educate the public about addiction so they understand the necessity of bringing them back to life and not just letting them die,” she said.

“This a problem that is huge. It has been deemed as the No. 1 epidemic in the United States right now.”

The state law signed by Gov. Rick Snyder last October also allows private citizens to get a prescription for Narcan, typically a family member of a drug addict.

Already, virtually all of the advanced life support ambulances in the county have had Narcan for years, but police officers often arrive before an ambulance, officials said. Also, “basic” ambulances are not equipped with Narcan, officials said.

FAN can sell a person an opioid overdose kit and provide the training. The cost is \$40, a reduced rate secured by FAN.

The sheriff’s office purchased the kits from FAN using about \$4,000 from its drug forfeiture fund.

Doctors from Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township write the Narcan prescriptions for police and FAN.

Drs. Anthony Colucci and Jerry Grieb of Henry Ford Macomb’s emergency room said Narcan will immediately reverse the effects of someone overdosing as long as the person has maintained breathing, even if slight.

The person suffering from overdose almost immediately wake up. “They wonder what happened, or as the sheriff says, they’ll say, ‘I didn’t do any heroin, I didn’t do any drugs,’” Grieb said. “Within minutes they go from barely breathing or not breathing to awake, coherent, without complaint. They’ll be generally be very (lethargic), or in not in a very happy mood because they went from heavily medicated or high to being not high quite quickly. Sometimes they get angry because we just wrecked what they paid a lot money for.”

The person could be charged with a drug possession charge, Wickersham said, but Davis noted, “The only reason to do that is to force them into recovery.”

For more information about FAN and its Narcan program, visit [familiesagainstnarcotics.org](http://familiesagainstnarcotics.org).

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URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/health/20150527/deputies-first-in-macomb-county-to-be-equipped-with-drug-overdose-antidote>

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# Highland Park may be dissolved over water deal

Nolan Finley, Ingrid Jacques and Chad Livengood, The Detroit News 9:41 a.m. EDT May 29, 2015



(Photo: Getty Images)

Mackinac Island — Highland Park may be dissolved as a government entity to finish a long contentious deal to form a regional water authority.

That's one of the solutions under consideration to bust through a major barrier and move the city-owned Detroit Water and Sewerage Department under the control of an authority made up of Detroit and Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, county officials confirm.

In the negotiations, Oakland County is insisting on a resolution of roughly \$32 million in unpaid water bills, most of which is owed by residents of Highland Park and the rest by Detroit.

The initial water authority deal was forged a year ago with the help of Gov. Rick Snyder during the Detroit Regional Chamber's policy conference here. Although a memorandum of understanding was signed by leaders of the city and all three counties, a final pact has been elusive. There is a June 14 deadline to finalize a deal ([/story/news/politics/2015/05/25/regional-water-deal-faces-hurdles-deadline-nears/27944525/](http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2015/05/25/regional-water-deal-faces-hurdles-deadline-nears/27944525/)).



DETROIT NEWS

Highland Park's high school to close as enrollment dips

(<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2015/05/28/highland-park-high-school-closing/28117949/>)

The parties will meet Monday with federal Judge Sean Cox for a mediation session specifically focused on resolving how the delinquent water bills will be covered, according to sources.

Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, supported by Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, is balking at the idea of dissolving Highland Park, which would lead to having the debt absorbed into the water system and spread across all customers. The idea would benefit the city of Detroit.

"It's not the responsibility of the suburbs to cover Detroit and Highland Park's arrearage," Patterson says. "That's a deal-breaker. I can't go to my taxpayers and tell them I agreed to this."

Patterson says the memorandum of understanding originally contained so-called backstopping protection, meaning "we're not going to backstop Detroit if it fails." But he says that language is no longer in the agreement.

The memorandum did not contain language about Highland Park's unpaid bills.

Highland Park is \$25.6 million in arrears on its water bills ([/story/news/local/wayne-county/2015/04/28/highland-park-unpaid-water-bills-detroit-ruling/26537377/](http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2015/04/28/highland-park-unpaid-water-bills-detroit-ruling/26537377/)) and has \$2 million in assets, according to a source familiar with the finances. Collecting the debt from the enclave is a lost cause.

So Patterson is asking the state to float a bond issue to cover the water bill debt. Hackel is also objecting to spreading the arrearages of Highland Park and Detroit (\$5.6 million) across the system.

"This is a huge issue," says Hackel, who has been vocally opposed to the deal since signing the outline. "It's a bad precedent and sends the wrong message to other communities about their responsibilities. It's an example of the inconsistencies between what the (memorandum) says it will do and the reality of how it's being implemented."

One way out that is being discussed is having the state take Highland Park into bankruptcy and asking a federal judge to dissolve it as an organized community, with Detroit absorbing its residents. The judge could then force the regional authority to take on the debt or impose a special tax levy on the region to raise the money.

"The community goes away, but the debt doesn't," Patterson says.

Last month, a Wayne County Circuit judge ordered Highland Park to pay the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department \$20 million for its unpaid water bills. The city's mayor, DeAndre Windom, has vowed to appeal the ruling.



Hackel says another possibility for dealing with Highland Park is to use the first of \$50 million in lease payments Detroit will receive from the authority over the next 40 years to wipe away all of the unpaid water bills. That approach would deny Detroit money it is counting on to fix its water infrastructure, forcing it to dip into its general fund for maintenance and repair dollars.

"If all of a sudden now we're trying to divert that \$50 million to pay for an unpaid debt or for those who aren't able to pay their debt, that's a conflict of what was agreed upon in the beginning," Hackel says. "That's not what this is for. I don't believe the ratepayers would expect that that's what we should agree to."

Oakland County is also demanding tighter restrictions on how Detroit spends the lease payments. Patterson wants the city to spend the money first on fixing water leaks that are driving up costs for the entire system.

A final agreement needs the approval of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and a majority of the six-person regional water authority board (</story/news/politics/2015/05/25/regional-water-deal-faces-hurdles-deadline-nears/27944525/>). The board consists of two Detroit appointees; three representatives from Macomb, Wayne and Oakland counties; and one appointee of the governor representing water customers outside the three-county region.

Cox, who has placed a gag order on participants in the talks, wants Duggan and Patterson to meet alone with him Monday in hopes the two can get to a handshake on the deal. Patterson says he won't do it.

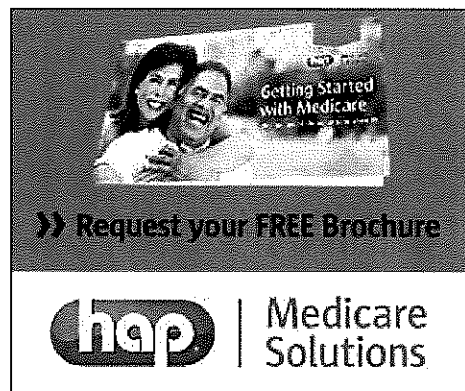
"I'm not going in there without my team," says Patterson, referring to his deputies, Bob Daddow and Jerry Poisson, who have taken the lead in vetting the agreement.

Duggan sidestepped a question Wednesday after a speech to the Mackinac conference when asked to respond to Hackel's public comments about the water authority.

"He's not as afraid of the federal judges as I am," the mayor quipped, referring to the gag order.

[nfinley@detroitnews.com](mailto:nfinley@detroitnews.com) (<mailto:nfinley@detroitnews.com>)

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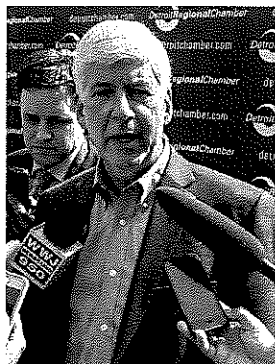
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# Snyder hints he wants to avoid dissolving Highland Park



Chad Livengood, Detroit News Lansing Bureau 10:33 p.m. EDT May 29, 2015



(Photo: Fred Murray Jr.)

**Mackinac Island** — Gov. Rick Snyder signaled Friday he wants to avoid an unprecedented action of dissolving the city of Highland Park through bankruptcy to erase a \$25.6 million water bill debt that has stalled negotiations over a Metro Detroit regional water authority.

Snyder told reporters he didn't want to speculate on whether bankruptcy or dissolution is needed to relieve Highland Park of its debt to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department after years of not collecting water bills from residents.

"The issue in front of us right now is let's see what we can do to solve the problem by working with the counties and the city (of Detroit) and Highland Park," Snyder told reporters at the conclusion of the annual Mackinac Policy Conference.

Snyder addressed the issue after [The Detroit News first reported Friday](#)

[\(/story/news/politics/2015/05/28/highland-park-debt-stalls-regional-water-deal/28131909/\)](#) that Highland Park's

unpaid water bills have become a sticking point in negotiations between suburban, city and state leaders over creation of a Great Lakes Water Authority to operate Detroit's sprawling water system in southeast Michigan.

"There will be some good, healthy discussions to help come up with a resolution in the next week or so," the Republican governor said.

Dissolution of Highland Park could leave Detroit's suburban ratepayers on the hook for the debt, which has stirred opposition from Oakland County and Macomb County's top leaders.

Repeated calls by The News Friday to Highland Park officials for comment were unreturned.

Detroit sells wholesale water to communities in the three counties that operate their own retail service. "Wholesale customers have to pay when other wholesale customers don't pay," said Alexis Wiley, chief of staff to Mayor Mike Duggan.

The governor sidestepped questions about whether the state would be willing to issue bonds to take care of the debt to diffuse the issue with suburban leaders — a proposal by Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson. It would have the effect of spreading the debt to all state taxpayers.

"I don't want to speculate on that because we're only one participant, and I want to do it in a collaborative fashion with all of the members and people involved in the water authority," said Snyder, who has one appointee on the six-member water authority board.

Patterson and Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel are publicly demanding the Highland Park debt be resolved before a water authority lease is signed in two weeks. The deadline is June 14.

The News reported [\(/story/news/politics/2015/05/28/highland-park-debt-stalls-regional-water-deal/28131909/\)](#) that federal Judge Sean Cox, who is mediating water authority negotiations, wants to meet Monday with Duggan and Patterson in hopes the two can get to a handshake on the deal.

This news enraged Hackel on Friday as he was preparing to leave Mackinac Island after the three-day policy summit at the Grand Hotel.

"The whole deal stinks to high heaven," he said.

Hackel, a Democrat, has been an outspoken critic of the secret bankruptcy court negotiations for a regional water authority.

Cox had placed a gag order on participants, but Hackel has been speaking out publicly in recent weeks as the [June 14 deadline nears](#) [\(/story/news/politics/2015/05/25/regional-water-deal-faces-hurdles-deadline-nears/27944525/\)](#) for suburban and city officials to ink a lease deal that will pay Detroit \$50 million annually for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

"Even this judge's involvement at this point in time is suspect," Hackel said. "I'm appalled at the way this is being handled (just) because I disagree with what's going on."

(517) 371-3660

## EAA update

### Gov: Schools set for fall

Gov. Rick Snyder said Friday the Education Achievement Authority will continue operating 15 Detroit schools this fall, even while his administration reviews the future of the school reform district.

"I don't see any immediate change in terms of them having schools and working to do well to educate kids in Detroit, and they're having success with some of their schools," Snyder said at the end of the three-day Detroit Regional Chamber's policy conference on Mackinac Island.

Earlier this month, [Snyder ordered a review \(/story/news/politics/2015/05/12/snyder-education-achievement-authority-detroit-school-reform/27182913/\)](/story/news/politics/2015/05/12/snyder-education-achievement-authority-detroit-school-reform/27182913/) of the three-year-old EAA's "performance and structure" by the state's School Reform Office, which he brought under his control through an executive order moving that office from the State Board of Education-controlled Department of Education.

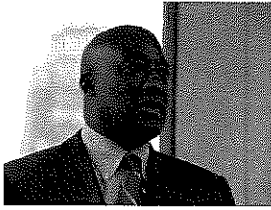
"That will tie into a more thoughtful discussion about the governance structure for the EAA," Snyder said.

Chad Livengood

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# Metro area transit tax faces challenge

Chad Livengood and Leonard N. Fleming, The Detroit News 12:25 p.m. EDT June 1, 2015



(Photo: Steve Perez / The Detroit News)

Regional Transit Authority leaders are trying to build support for a 2016 millage campaign for rapid transit bus routes in Metro Detroit, but the region's top politicians are wary of voter support for a property tax increase.

The RTA's board chairman and chief executive used last week's Mackinac Policy Conference to appeal to the state's most influential business, education, civic and philanthropic leaders to get behind a ballot campaign that remains in its infancy.

Transit officials recently completed a listening tour to gauge the public appetite for increased public transportation service in a car-centric region that spends \$74 per person on transit. The national average is \$184 per capita, said Michael Ford, chief executive of the transit authority.

"This is not a dress rehearsal; we've really got to get something done here," said Ford, the former leader of the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority who helped convince voters there to support a tax increase. "If we don't do anything, we're going to be further behind."

But he said, "Obviously, we've got a herculean job to get out there and communicate."

RTA Chairman Paul Hillegonds said developing an integrated public transit system could help reverse decades of city-suburban divide that was accelerated by the creation of the interstate highway system.

"Regional transit to me is the opportunity to bring us back together in a very real way to think regionally more ...," said Hillegonds, who is also chief executive of the nonprofit Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

But with the overwhelming May 5 defeat of the Proposal 1 sales and fuel tax increases to fund road and bridge improvements, and the public's hesitancy to approve other tax hikes, even proponents eager to bolster mass transit in Wayne, Washtenaw, Oakland and Macomb counties acknowledge the challenges ahead for the 2016 fall election.

"I think the mountain before them is very high, and it's going to take some skillful climbers to get to the top," said L. Brooks Patterson, the Oakland County executive who appoints two members to the RTA board.

Patterson has yet to commit to supporting or opposing the tax increase because he hasn't seen specifics of the plan.

"When you're not very skillful, you lose 80 to 20 (percent)," Patterson added, referring to Proposal 1's defeat.

The RTA has yet to present details of what the tax increase might look like and what it would pay for as it tries to gauge what Metro Detroit residents want in a regional transit system.

Patterson has personally supported every millage proposed by SMART, the suburban bus system, including last year's millage renewal.

But Patterson warned when "you come in with a small bite for the (Detroit) zoo, a small bite" for the Detroit Institute of Arts, voters will eventually have a "breaking point" on dedicated regional property taxes.

## 'Financial sinkhole'

A dedicated millage for regional transit is a political non-starter for Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel after Proposal 1's loss. "Good luck," he said. "With what (voters) did with Proposal 1, it's going to be an incredible challenge."

Macomb County residents, Hackel said, "are very dissatisfied with what's happening right now with their tax dollars and very concerned about adding another layer to transportation."

One of them is Mike Moreau, 72, of Sterling Heights, who attended the RTA's recent Macomb meeting and who views public transit and its costs as a "financial sinkhole."

"What is success going to look at after five years? They can't tell us. I've asked them," Moreau said. "How many buses are we going to have? How many routes are we going to have? How many communities are we going to serve? If you don't know how big it's going to be, how can you come up with a plan? They want an open checkbook."

The Legislature created the Regional Transit Authority to coordinate public transportation in southeast Michigan between the Detroit Department of Transportation and SMART, which operates bus service in Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties.

The RTA wants to create a system of rapid transit buses initially running along the Gratiot, Michigan and Woodward avenue corridors from the suburbs to downtown Detroit, and interlinked with the existing DDOT and SMART bus routes.

"The people in Macomb County are not going to be supportive of that if they put it on the ballot," Hackel said in an interview on Mackinac Island.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan ran the SMART system in 1995 when voters approved a tri-county millage that saved the suburban bus service from closure.

### **Looking for value**

"We passed it because we showed every community exactly what they were going to get in new service in exchange for the dollars," Duggan said in an interview. "And we passed it in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb with 70 percent of the vote."

Duggan said a regional transit millage "hasn't gotten momentum yet," and its success will depend on what services are proposed and how it's sold to Metro Detroit residents.

The Democratic mayor cautioned against comparing a regional transit ballot proposal with the failed Proposal 1 to hike the sales tax from 6 percent to 7 percent in a complex road funding scheme.

"I don't know anybody in Michigan who knew what they were going to get out of the sales tax," Duggan said. "People will open their wallets if they think they're getting value for the money, and it remains to be seen if this authority will offer a service that people think is worth the money."

One who sees the benefit is Elizabeth Dahl-MacGregor, a 40-year-old Ypsilanti attorney who sees an increase in taxes for a better bus system helping her one-car family to have the flexibility to make downtown Detroit trips with her young children.

### **'A tough sell'**

"Public transportation tends to be safer, statistically, than driving in a car," she said. "... Do they want to compete with my vehicle on the road, or would they rather have me out of their way on a train or a bus?"

"... And even if you're not going to get out of your car and use public transportation, it will still benefit you because there will be less traffic."

But Dahl-MacGregor knows other critics don't see it that way and next year's ballot proposal for more regional transportation will be a tall order.

"It's going to be a tough sell," Dahl-MacGregor said. "I think we could all get out of our own particular situations a little bit more and think about community good ... that would be nice, but I think that people have to see the immediate benefits for themselves to really be motivated."

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# Howes: Macomb's Hackel wages own water war on principle

Daniel Howes, The Detroit News

11:06 p.m. EDT June 1, 2015



(Photo: Charles V. Tines / The Detroit News, file)

Mark Hackel's opposition to confidential talks shaping details of the Great Lakes Water Authority, courtesy of a federal gag order, risks leaving Macomb County's chief executive on the outside looking in.

As much as his consistent, and very public, criticism of the mediation overseen by U.S. District Judge Sean Cox may resonate with both constituents and open-government advocates, the simple fact is the other players in this aftershock of Detroit's Chapter 9 bankruptcy don't need Hackel's vote.

They can make the regional authority a reality without him — a risk he says he clearly understands. Whatever the possible ostracism of him or his county, exemplified by his exclusion from a meeting Monday with Cox to discuss details, Hackel shows no sign of muting a rhetorical counter-offensive marked as much by politics as

principle.

"This is not mediation," he said in an interview. "This is dictation. I couldn't talk to the public, I couldn't talk to the media, I couldn't talk to the local" governments across the county. "That's unacceptable.

"I'm the county executive. The reason I'm upset about this is I was told to keep my mouth shut. That gag order should have been challenged day one. I am violating nothing. I am giving my opinion of what I think about this process."

And powerbrokers close to the process are giving their opinions privately about what Hackel's opposition is really about: positioning himself for a potential run at the Democratic Party nomination to run for governor in 2018, and using opposition to stealth negotiations over the water authority to bolster his political chops.

Said Hackel: "I'm not running for anything. My name is not on the ballot for anything at this point in time."

That settles it, right? Not exactly — "at this point in time" is a hole the size of Macomb County itself. Moreover, making a political calculation and taking a principled stand at the same time are not mutually exclusive, especially given the pressure the water authority legislation can exert on holdouts like Hackel.

Namely, the bills forming the regional water authority enable the project to go ahead despite a single "no" vote from either Detroit or Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Detroit needs the help and the capital to restructure its beleaguered water department; Wayne County needs Detroit to succeed; and L. Brooks Patterson, sensing the political winds from his party in the governor's office, seconded his best financial minds to craft a deal that is workable and enforceable.

That leaves Hackel the odd man out, head of a constituency proving consistently to be the most skeptical among the three of regional deals that are perceived to — or, in fact, do — benefit Detroit institutions in need of fresh capital and broader support. Think the millage to support the Detroit Institute of Arts, now controlled by a charitable non-profit, and the city's sprawling Water and Sewerage Department that would be overseen by the regional water authority.

Hackel's right when he says the details are important: "We can be good partners if we have true mediation and it's open to debate. A public debate is a healthy thing, especially when you're talking about something as vital as water."

Mediation in bankruptcy in general, and Detroit's epic Chapter 9 in particular, are not done in the open for a reason. They are conducted under confidentiality, former Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr and others have explained, to allow for frank exchanges of concessionary proposals likely to spark weeks of fierce controversy if aired publicly — before mostly being discarded.

The water deal is no different. Public opposition to Orr's initial proposals, chiefly from Oakland and Macomb counties, evolved into a series of compromises proving to be more acceptable to Patterson's financial sharpies and more likely to culminate in a deal, with or without Hackel.

The Macomb exec's position as official skeptic may resonate with many of his constituents (and many in Metro Detroit who aren't). Still, there is a not insignificant risk that Hackel is betting wrong and he may, as one insider put it, "end up on the wrong side of history."

First, regional management of Cobo Center, an iconic Detroit asset, is proving successful. It's an example of what smart, fiscally sound management can deliver; it's also a template for what regional oversight of Detroit's water department could mean for an asset so important to southeast Michigan.

Second, how could effectively opposing an authority championed as much by Democrats in Detroit and Wayne County as Republicans in Oakland and Lansing be a political winner for someone with statewide political ambitions, should they exist? At a minimum, it's a fraught calculation.

Finally, Michigan's savviest deal-makers in local government today are the ones working with Judge Cox to craft a solution that will affect nearly half the state's population in the years ahead. That, alone, is reason to be part of the process — if you want to shape the outcome.

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Daniel Howes' column runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and can be found at <http://detroitnews.com/staff/27151>.

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# Freedom Hill owner has big vision for metro concert venue



By Tom Walsh, Detroit Free Press Columnist 11:17 p.m. EDT June 7, 2015



(Photo: Kimberly P. Mitchell/Detroit Free Press)

Tom Celani is an accomplished businessman by any measure -- owner of casinos, automobile and motorcycle dealerships, a winery, even a gold mine -- but he admits that he's still learning the ropes as owner-operator of a live concert venue.

Now in his third year since reviving the Freedom Hill Amphitheatre in partnership with Andiamo restaurateur Joe Vicari, Celani is following up a year of strong growth in attendance and sponsorships with a slew of new initiatives at the Macomb County venue, including:

- A new sound and light system from Thunder Audio
- A new VIP Club sponsor in MGM
- And a new Seat Side Service app for patrons to pre-order food.

Freedom Hill has 29 concerts on its summer agenda this year, several more than a year ago. Acts range from country headliners like the Charlie Daniels Band to jazz/pop singer Harry Connick Jr. and rock acts Boston and Counting Crows. In addition, comedian Jay Leno will appear July 25 in a performance to benefit Beaumont Health Center's conQuest initiative to conquer Crohn's disease and colitis.

**Related:** [Pistons' superagent to seek Ilitch partnership \(/story/money/business/columnists/tom-walsh/2015/06/06/gores-tellem-ilitches-red-wings-pistons/28595777/\)](http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/columnists/tom-walsh/2015/06/06/gores-tellem-ilitches-red-wings-pistons/28595777/)

But along with what's working for Freedom Hill, the blunt-spoken Celani was candid during an interview last week about where the venue is headed and hurdles he's had to overcome with sponsors and entertainers.

Two weeks ago, for example, on the week of the season-opening May 23 concert by Clutch and Mastodon, General Motors chose not to renew a \$125,000-a-year sponsorship by Chevrolet, which had been one of Freedom Hill's key sponsors for the first two years after Celani reopened the venue in 2013.

"I am very upset with General Motors," Celani fumed, "because they are our main sponsor and waited until the day before we opened to tell me that they're not in -- after we've met with them about it way back in January. "

**Related:** [Freedom Hill summer concert schedule \(/story/entertainment/music/2015/05/02/freedom-hill-summer-concert-schedule/26739505/\)](http://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/music/2015/05/02/freedom-hill-summer-concert-schedule/26739505/)

Asked about the Freedom Hill decision, Chevrolet spokesman Mike Albano said Friday, "We valued our sponsorship of Freedom Hill and they were a great partner. However, our business priorities required us to evaluate all our promotions and make some tough decisions."



DETROIT FREE PRESS

[Pistons' superagent to seek Ilitch partnership](http://www.freep.com/story/money/business/columnists/tom-walsh/2015/06/06/gores-tellem-ilitches-red-wings-pistons/28595777/)

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Separately, a year ago, Celani said "one of my big mistakes" was chasing a Diana Ross concert. "She was our 2014 opening act and she made a decision that she wasn't going to do any commercials or any interviews. She wouldn't promote the show, and it was a rough start." Ross' concert was favorably reviewed, but attendance was only about 5,000, only about two-thirds of Freedom Hill capacity for 4,400 in the pavilion and 3,300 on the lawn.

"So now we're really trying to focus on entertainers that are committed to making their shows work," Celani said.

Built in 2000 on grounds of a 120-acre-county park at Metropolitan Parkway near Schoenherr, the Freedom Hill concert venue shut down in 2009 and was mired in debt and lawsuits until Celani, with Vicari as his concessionaire, took over.



Celani, 59, is a native Detroit, who at age 26 took over a Miller beer distributorship when he father died unexpectedly. He later built a gaming device company, led a casino gaming ballot initiative in Michigan, partnered with Mandalay Resort group to build MotorCity Casino in Detroit, later selling his interest to Marian Ilitch. He now is an investor in Colorado, California and Oklahoma casinos, and owns the Celani Family Vineyards in Napa Valley. He lives in Bloomfield Hills.



**DETROIT FREE PRESS**

[Hoedown wraps up with visits from Lions, Kid Rock](#)

<http://www.freep.com/story/entertainment/music/brian-mccollum/2015/06/07/downtown-hoedown-saturday-west-riverfront/28632151/>

Celani pumped about \$1.5 million in bars, food service lighting and amenities into reopening Freedom Hill for the 2013 season. Last year, he hired a new general manager, Michael Sydlowski -- formerly of Michigan International Speedway and the Palace of Auburn Hills -- to run the place. And about \$300,000 has been spent to add a gazebo and remodel the banquet center that can seat groups of 30 to 200 people.

"Weddings are kind of our bread and butter now," said Sydlowski, especially during the off-season for concerts.

Celani said he's hoping to line up a replacement for Chevy's sponsorship soon, noting that he already has some ties with smaller Ford-related sponsors -- Suburban Ford and Crest Lincoln of Sterling Heights, which sponsors VIP seating in padded leather chairs.

Celani is also open to doing a bigger longer-term naming rights deal -- like those for Comerica Park or DTE Energy Music Theatre -- for the freedom hill Amphitheatre itself.

"We wanted to wait two or three years to find a title sponsor," he said, "and we haven't locked that down yet. We're looking for a longer-term deal. Most of our sponsorships now are one-to-three-year deals, but if we are going to re-brand the name of it, we'd be looking for a five-year minimum."

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News

## Macomb County Board of Commissioners begins long task of updating files

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

By MATTHEW FAHR

Source Staff Writer

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Phase 1 of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners (BOC) Scanning Project has begun. It is being done as a means to preserve the board's historical records and make them more accessible to the public through digitization.

Currently only single paper copies of board minutes, which date back to the 1940s when the Macomb County Board of Supervisors was the county's governing body, exist. Due to the large amount of information needed to be digitized, several aspects of the project had to be factored into the undertaking, such as server space, hardware acquisition and software.

The Macomb County IT Department is performing the scanning and indexing of the committee minutes and related supplemental information, which encompasses Phase 1. For this phase, IT contract personnel will work onsite in the BOC offices from initial startup to project completion.

Phase 2 will involve linking committee minutes to agendas and support materials to make searches easier and more productive as well as to create more transparency and access.

"This effort is a large undertaking with many facets, we appreciate the IT Department's coordination and expertise," said Board Chair Dave Flynn. "Ensuring our records are stored in a safe and publicly accessible manner not only highlights good governance and transparency, but places value on the history of this office."

Initially, a kiosk located in the board office will make the searchable records available to the public. The long-term goal is to make these records available online, also in a searchable format.

The need for storage backup of these important historical records was recognized about a decade ago. However, the 2013 county building fire served as a focusing event, illustrating the true possibility and danger of losing such valuable records. A concrete solution then began to be investigated by the Board of Commissioners in November 2013.

Contact Matt Fahr at 586-323-8147 or [matt.fahr@advisorsource.com](mailto:matt.fahr@advisorsource.com). Follow him on Twitter @FahrOutMan or on Facebook at Matthew Fahr. Subscribe to his Tout feed at [www.tout.com/u/fahroutman](http://www.tout.com/u/fahroutman).

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The Daily Tribune (<http://www.dailytribune.com>)

## Detroit water system lease OK'd; Macomb rep kicked off search committee

By Norb Franz, [norb.franz@macombdaily.com](mailto:norb.franz@macombdaily.com), [@NorbFranz](#) on Twitter

Friday, June 12, 2015



A new regional authority was formalized Friday to take over operations of Detroit's water and sewer system but already is off to a controversial start.

In a 5-1 vote, a board representing Detroit, its surrounding counties and the state signed off Friday on the Great Lakes Water Authority and its lease of the city's water system for 40 years.

The tally was expected, with Macomb County's representative opposing the deal because of unanswered questions and skepticism that promised limits on water rate increases can be achieved. Following approval of the historic agreement and the vote against it by Brian Baker, budget director for the city of Sterling Heights, authority members removed Baker from a newly formed committee that will search for a new director.

Baker said that upon his arrival Friday morning at Water Works Park in Detroit for the formal decision on the \$50 million-a-year lease, he was told he would be kicked off the search panel.

"I had no idea that was going to happen today," Baker said. "I heard some grumbling that even though they approved me, it might not be fair to have just me on there" representing the suburbs.

Earlier this month, a member of the South Oakland County Water Authority suggested that one of the board members of the GLWA be directly involved in the nationwide search for a new water and sewer system director. Baker volunteered when nobody else did.

"Search is always an important first step. I thought transparency would be an important part of that. I felt more comfortable with another set of eyes overseeing the process," said Baker, adding that the selection of a chief executive to run the water and sewer system in Detroit ultimately would rest with the board that oversees the new authority.

"If they had a problem with only Macomb on the committee, they could have appointed additional reps," Baker said.

Asked whether he felt his removal from the search team was retaliation for his vote against the lease, he replied: "I don't know. I'll let the vote speak for itself. I'm more concerned with trying to lower water and sewer rates for taxpayers. That's the main focus."

But Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel criticized the removal of Baker.

"It was punitive. No question about it," Hackel said. "There is not an explanation other than retaliation.

“Because we had a dissenting opinion (from other authority board members), now we’re punished for it.”

The search panel will be composed of Richard Baird, a political consultant to Gov. Rick Snyder, and Eric Rothstein, who works for the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and hired to assist in the formation of the regional water authority.

Hackel pointed out that Baird and Rothstein are from Chicago. The county executive believes a search committee would be more effective and better serve stakeholders if the hunt for a permanent director to oversee the massive Detroit water and sewer system included a committee member representing Macomb, Oakland or Wayne counties.

Hackel said he’s concerned that the committee’s work will be done in private before names of potential new directors are provided to the GLWA board.

In recent months, the Macomb executive has expressed concern that a gag order imposed by a judge prevented officials directly involved in the lease negotiations between authority members and the city of Detroit, prevented them from discussing details with mayor and township supervisors in the county. Still, Hackel insists he’s not angry.

“The word I have is, ‘extremely disappointed,’” he added.

Detroit’s water system serves about 700,000 city residents and 4 million people in southeastern Michigan. Under plans for the Great Lakes Water Authority, the suburbs will pay Detroit \$50 million a year for 40 years and get a say in how the system is run.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan called the lease approve a “historic step forward in resolving decades of conflict between Detroit and our suburban neighbors.”

Detroit’s plan to emerge from bankruptcy approved last year called for the deal to be in place by Sunday. Detroit retains ownership of the system.

Approval of the lease required “yes” votes from five of the authority’s six board members. The board includes two representatives from Detroit, one from each of the three counties and one appointed by the governor.

Earl Edward Hood, who represents the state of Michigan on the board, said he expected the lease deal would be OK’d.

The GLWA board would have had two options if the lease had been rejected. It could have changed the memorandum of understanding that created the authority last September by extending the deadline and asking Judge Sean Cox to approve it, or the board could have done nothing and made a motion to dissolve the authority.

Under the deal, Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties agreed to negotiate a 40-year, \$50 million annual lease of the city’s water and sewer system. Detroit’s water department provides water to Detroit and 127 suburban communities. It also provides sewer service to the city and 76 neighboring communities.

Detroit’s bankruptcy exit plan, approved in December, called for the city to lease its water and sewer department’s assets to the authority by June 14.

The memorandum of understanding that created the authority also requires the city to use the \$50 million annual payments for water and sewer infrastructure improvements.

Baker's vote in opposition of the lease was anticipated. The Sterling Heights budget director previously said he would oppose the lease because customers will pay close to \$90 million more under the deal. That would result in water rate hikes annually of 10 percent.

However, most authority officials have said rate increases will be capped at 4 percent over the next 10 years. In addition, the authority will service the estimated 3 million customers in the suburbs while the city's water department will provide maintenance and service to customers in Detroit.

"I'm absolutely surprised they're sticking to that and making those comments. It's not feasible," Hackel said Friday. "I hope I'm proven wrong."

On Wednesday, Detroit water department officials released a feasibility study that said the authority could sustain a \$50 million annual lease payment to the city, plus contribute to city pensions and fund a water bill assistance program.

Plante Moran said the authority also could contribute \$45.4 million annually toward pensions of Detroit water department employees and \$4.5 million to a fund to assist residential ratepayers with their unpaid bills.

To meet the lease payments, though, Plante Moran's study said the water authority's revenues will have to be "raised to the maximum 4 percent limitation each year," which would likely result in customer rate increases "in excess of 4 percent" annually, beyond a promised annual rate hike cap.

Hood, the state's representative on the water authority board, said he thinks the region's rate payers will benefit from the deal.

"I don't think the authority would have wanted to be stood up if that wasn't ultimately going to be case," he said. "But there's an awful lot that has to be done before that can happen."

Officials say that following the signing of the lease, it will take several months for the water department's assets to be transferred to the authority and make it operational. Baker said he fears that government officials and individual communities will use the transfers as leverage in an effort to negotiate better water and sewer agreements for their own local residents, prolonging the process.

"We're going to work toward bettering the system for all rate payers," he added.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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URL: <http://www.dailytribune.com/general-news/20150612/detroit-water-system-lease-okd-macomb-rep-kicked-off-search-committee>

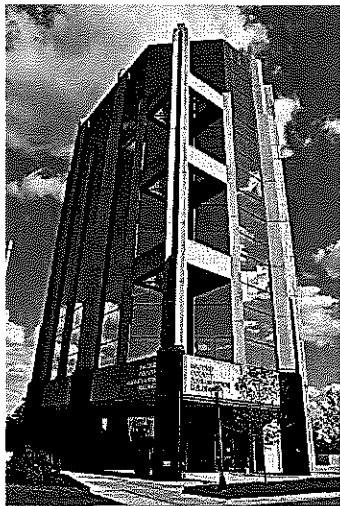
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6/16/2015

UPDATED: Macomb County back on top for 'good government' awards | Politically Speaking

6 days ago UPDATED: Macomb County back on top for  
'good government' awards

**UPDATE:** This updated version includes a few details (below) about each of the award-winning programs.



[<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-AMpLE->

[jxsaw/VXsGSPQksI/AAAAAAAAAMfU/GMjk4\\_xeRzY/s1600/4593829435\\_706756fb35\\_b.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-AMpLE-jxsaw/VXsGSPQksI/AAAAAAAAAMfU/GMjk4_xeRzY/s1600/4593829435_706756fb35_b.jpg)]

Macomb County is back on top as the No. 1 recipient in Michigan of "good government" awards presented by the National Association of Counties.

Macomb was recognized with 13 NACo Achievement Awards, winning half of the 26 honors granted statewide in Michigan's 83 counties. NACo awards single out innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

"Our goal is always to run Macomb County government as efficiently as possible and receiving these awards demonstrates we are doing so effectively," County Executive Mark Hackel said.

Macomb County was Michigan's leader in NACo awards for 26 consecutive years until 2008, when a series of budget cuts and a reduction in the workforce took hold. The winning streak began in 1981 and Macomb typically secured a spot among the top 10 counties in the nation.

With the county back on top in Michigan, this year the Macomb County Clerk's Office received six NACo awards, the Information Technology Department received four awards, the Health Department snagged two honors and the Planning and Economic Development garnered one.

Here are the details on the award-winning programs and services:

#### Clerk's Office

\* **Jury room kiosks** -- Kiosks let jurors check-in for jury duty and then to other clerk services they need.

\* **Election text/email reminders** -- Voters and candidates can sign up for automatic email or text messages of campaign finance filing deadlines and election dates.

\* **Square payment processing** -- Newly implemented, streamlined credit card acceptance and payment processing eases the payment process for customers and staff.

\* **Online marriage application process** -- Applicants can apply for

6/16/2015

UPDATED: Macomb County back on top for 'good government' awards | Politically Speaking

a marriage license online, saving time for them and reducing data entries for clerk's staff.

\* **Vote-bot** -- A robotic "vote-bot" promotes voter registration at annual voter registration drives by answering election questions and calling attention to the need for voter registration.

\* **Real estate fraud alert** -- Homeowners can sign up to receive an email alert when a document regarding their property is presented for recording, providing a way to detect potential fraud.

#### Information Technology Department

\* **Fleet maintenance consolidation** -- An IT software was established to standardize fuel consumption data and fleet maintenance.

\* **Jail inmate locator** -- A web-based application was launched that contains detailed information on county jail inmates including charges, booking, release and court dates, fees and fines and visitation opportunities.

\* **IT Department reorganization** -- Beginning in March 2013 the department reorganized the workplace structure for its 42 employees and created a new Project Management Office.

\* **Website conversion** -- A conversion of the public website created an open-source system with a customized design by recreating nearly 4,000 web pages to the new platform.

#### Health Department

\* **Emergency preparedness** -- The Medical Reserve Corps began an outreach program in fall 2014 that provides a 40-minute educational presentation to fifth grade classrooms about the importance of emergency preparedness.

\* **Breaking language barriers** -- A program was created that provided car safety seat education for families with low English language proficiency.

#### Planning and Economic Development

\* **Closing skilled-trade gap** -- PED partnered with numerous agencies to provide students with a hands-on look at the modern manufacturing world.



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Sabaugh

NACo awards are given in 21 different categories of services, including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, and civic engagement.

"I am proud of our union staff who worked with me to achieve these awards. These awards show that Macomb County is a place for innovation and good public service," Clerk Sabaugh said.



# Shuttle plan between Detroit, Metro Airport takes off

Leonard N. Fleming, The Detroit News 10:34 p.m. EDT June 17, 2015



(Photo: Steve Perez / The Detroit News)

Affordable public transportation to augment hired cars and cabs between Detroit Metropolitan Airport and downtown Detroit could begin as early as next spring and eventually expand to cover the tri-county region.

Regional Transit Authority officials are expected to announce Thursday that they will formally solicit proposals from transportation companies for shuttle service.

The service, which RTA officials estimate may cost \$6.5 million, would be subsidized with various grants when it starts. If it is successful, the cost would be folded into the tax increase the authority is seeking in the November 2016 election, when voters are being asked to fund the RTA and other transit projects.

Specific fares and pickup and drop-off points have not yet been determined, RTA officials said.

"It's just something that's long overdue," said RTA CEO Michael Ford, who helped create the Michigan Flyer airport shuttle service when he was the head of the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority. "Obviously, as my experience in Ann Arbor has indicated, the service is something that continues to grow. I think it will have that same effect for the city of Detroit, as well as Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties."

Standard fare on Michigan Flyer coaches from Ann Arbor to Metro Airport is \$12 one-way and \$22 round-trip. Michigan Flyer also provides a shuttle from East Lansing to the airport with a one-way standard fare of \$30 and \$50 for a round-trip. For travelers who drive to the airport and leave their cars in long-term sites on airport property, or at nearby private lots, the range is roughly \$9 to \$12 a day.

Transit officials say that they will keep the bid process open until the end of July. The RTA service, unlike private transportation companies, will not have to pay a \$10 "departure" fee by the airport authority, officials said.

For years, hotel and business and transit advocates have griped about the lack of affordable transportation service to and from Metro Airport and have pressured airport officials to help reintroduce service.

But previously, most companies' airport shuttle operations struggled and the last full-time service folded in 2001 after years of losing money. Limousines and taxis charge passengers between \$45 and \$60 one way and each one pays an airport departure fee.

The SMART suburban bus system offers service to the airport through its Fort Street-Eureka Road route through the Downriver area, but the ride runs more than an hour from downtown Detroit and sometimes involves transfers and limited hours.

Michael O'Callaghan, the executive vice president and CEO of the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, is hopeful that the RTA will be successful.

"We recognize that reasonably priced transportation options to and from Metro Airport into downtown Detroit and other parts of the region is very important for our region," O'Callaghan said. "Particularly now that we're making serious inroads to bringing more conventions and meetings into Metropolitan Detroit, transportation is key."

O'Callaghan said he hopes the service can help Detroit "become more competitive to cities like Chicago and Atlanta and others who already have a real good transportation system in place."

Tiffany Gunter, the RTA's chief operations officer, has been negotiating with Metro Airport officials for months on the shuttle service. Gunter said the RTA has been working with officials in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties to determine the best pick-up locations.

"We are in the process of trying to secure grant funding and getting close to having the funding to make this a reality prior to November 2016 so people could feel an experience of what regional transportation looks like in some form," Gunter said.

Gunter hopes the commuting time would be 30-60 minutes, depending on the route.

Brian Sadek, the general counsel for the Wayne County Airport Authority, which runs Metro Airport, said the RTA's decision to seek proposals "represents a great opportunity to advance regional transit."

"We were glad the RTA reached out to us, and we've had very productive conversations with the RTA," Sadek said. "It's been a very positive outcome. I think it's really helped that Mike Ford and his team have experienced running airport service and we have folks including me that have experience working in transit. So we are able to speak a common language and come to a common understanding on how airport service should look."

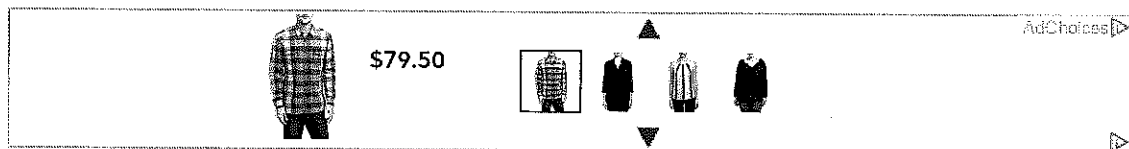
Statistics have shown, Gunter said, that downtown Detroit would likely have the highest ridership, "but we do want to work with our partners to make sure that the understanding is clear that we are moving forward from a regional perspective."

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MACOMB COUNTY

County board approves model humane pet acquisition ordinance

By Thomas Franz

June 20, 2015

36

MOUNT CLEMENS — At a Macomb County Board of Commissioners meeting on June 11, the board unanimously approved a resolution that provides Macomb County communities with a model humane pet acquisition ordinance.

Due to Michigan state law, counties are not given jurisdiction over the regulation of pet stores, but the board's model ordinance could influence cities and townships to implement the regulations it advises.

"We felt that the county definitely has an interest in weighing in," said Commissioner Fred Miller, D-Mount Clemens. "The deeper you dive into this, you don't have to be an animal lover to understand that we, as human beings, have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of pets and other animals."

The motivation for the passing of the model ordinance picked up steam after an April 29 Board of Commissioners meeting. At the meeting, several members of Puppy Mill Awareness of Southeast Michigan asked for a resolution in support of a proposal that would prohibit the retail sale of cats, dogs, ferrets, rabbits, long-lived birds and large reptiles.

The group has spent several years visiting with local governments on the matter, but it had largely been unsuccessful in getting ordinances pushed through in Macomb County communities.

Pam Sordyl, the founder of the group, said that with the county's model ordinance approved, her group, along with the county commissioners, will work with cities to develop their own ordinances.

"We're thrilled. I thought I was dreaming that this is really happening," Sordyl said. "We've been waiting for years to develop this and get this model ordinance. We've been to city to city on our own asking them to adopt an ordinance."

The resolution provides numerous statistics to detail why the model ordinance was created.

It states that according to the Humane Society of the United States, there are approximately 10,000 commercial animal breeding facilities nationwide, less than 3,000 of which are USDA-regulated.

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The resolution also provides information from an animal shelter activity report from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, which lists that 23,000 puppies and dogs were euthanized in 2013, or one in every four canines that arrived at shelters. The report states that open admission shelters have found that less than 10 percent of the dog and cat intake of the shelter is euthanized for health and behavior issues.

Locally, the resolution points out that the city of Warren spent more than \$20,000 in 2013 on animal impound and veterinary care for one pet store seizure that brought in more than 200 animals.

“You really don’t realize what an industry pets are. When you step back and think about what that means for life for these creatures, while there are a lot of actors in that industry who do act responsibly, unfortunately there are some who don’t,” Miller said. “To the extent we can remove that kind of stuff from happening inside the boundaries of our little corner of the world, then that’s a great thing.”

The model ordinance itself, Sordyl said, takes language from other cities’ ordinances throughout the country that have been upheld in courts.

The model ordinance provides four major prohibitions, with the top prohibition stating that “no pet store shall offer for sale, offer for adoption trade, barter, auction, give away or otherwise transfer dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, long-lived birds or large reptiles.”

Individuals or businesses would also be prohibited from those activities on a roadside, public right-of-way, commercial parking lot, outdoor special sale, or in a flea market.

Groups that would be exempt from the model ordinance are publicly operated animal control shelters, animal protection shelters, zoological parks, nonprofit humane societies and animal rescue organizations.

“I benchmarked all of the ordinances that were passed at the time, then whichever ones that were upheld by the federal court, like East Providence, Rhode Island, which was recently challenged in court and they won,” Sordyl said. “The court upheld the ordinance, so I’m using that language to make sure it’s language the courts agree with.”

The model ordinance is unique among others throughout the country in that it includes ferrets, long-lived birds and large reptiles.

“Any city that passes the model ordinance will be the first in the country to prohibit the sale of ferrets, long-live birds and large reptiles,” Sordyl said. “We’re really thinking about all of the animals that there’s issue with retail sales.”

The ordinance defines a large reptile as a reptile that grows to more than 72 inches long. A long-lived bird is defined as any bird with a life expectancy of greater than 25 years, which includes, but isn’t limited to, cockatoos, macaws and amazons.

Going forward, Sordyl hopes that with the model ordinance, she and her organization will have more success in appealing to local governments to pass these regulations.

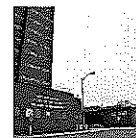
“We can now go to these cities we’ve been talking to and say the county commissioners feel this is very important. This will help us tremendously having the commissioners behind us,” Sordyl said.

Miller said that his goal for the resolution is to reduce to the homeless pet population in Macomb County.

“There are so many animals at our shelter and so many other places that are available for adoption, so that anyone who wanted to adopt a pet, those pets are available,” Miller said. “It’s a way of directing people to the humane way of getting the pets that they want.”

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**MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACTIONS IN CONNECTION  
WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE  
NORTH GRATIOT INTERCEPTOR DRAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICT  
DRAIN REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2015  
(LIMITED TAX GENERAL OBLIGATION)**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of Act 40, Public Acts of Michigan, 1956, as amended (the "Drain Code"), the North Gratiot Interceptor Drain Drainage District (the "Drainage District") previously issued its Drainage District Drain Bonds, Phase I, Series 2008 (Limited Tax General Obligation) (the "Prior Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, the Drainage District desires to refund up to all of the outstanding Prior Bonds in order to achieve interest savings; and

WHEREAS, the Prior Bonds are secured pursuant to the pledge of the full faith and credit of Macomb County (the "County") pursuant to a resolution adopted June 15, 2006 (the "County Resolution"), and pursuant to the County Resolution, the County, through the Macomb County Wastewater Disposal District, established under the provisions of Act 342, Public Acts of Michigan 1939, as amended, assumed 40% of the costs of Phase One the project for which the Prior Bonds were issued, in an amount not to exceed \$8,260,000, and of the costs \$250,000 for Phase Two of such project; and

WHEREAS, the refunding of up to all of the Prior Bonds will be effectuated by the issuance by the Drainage District of its North Gratiot Interceptor Drain Drainage District, County of Macomb, State of Michigan, Drain Refunding Bonds, Series 2015 (Limited Tax General Obligation) (the "Bonds") in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000, pursuant to Section 275 of the Drain Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 609 of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended a refunding security issued pursuant to the Drain Code to refund municipal securities issued shall be construed to be a continuation of the refunded outstanding municipal security, and the County's full faith and credit pledge with respect to the Prior Bonds will continue to be in effect with respect to the Bonds; and

WHEREAS, to assist the underwriter(s) for the Bonds in complying with their responsibilities under the federal securities laws, including Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Rule"), it is necessary and desirable for the County to take certain actions with respect to the Bonds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

1. The Macomb County Finance Director and his designee, and either of them, are authorized and directed to take all necessary legal procedures and steps necessary or desirable, for and on behalf of the County, in connection with the sale and delivery of any of the aforesaid Bonds, such legal procedures and steps to include, without limitation, (a) including financial and

operating information concerning the County in any preliminary or final official statement relating to such Bonds and approving the circulation of a preliminary or final official statement relating to such Bonds, and (b) executing and delivering a continuing disclosure certificate and any amendments thereto in accordance with the requirements of the Rule. To the extent a continuing disclosure certificate is executed and delivered, the County hereby covenants and agrees that it will comply with and carry out all of the provisions of such continuing disclosure certificate. The remedies for any failure of the County to comply with and carry out the provisions of the continuing disclosure certificate shall be as set forth therein.

2. The Macomb County Finance Director and all other officials of the County, and their designees, or any of them, are authorized and directed to execute and deliver and such other certificates, documents and instruments as may be required by the underwriter(s) in connection with the sale and delivery of the Bonds.

3. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same hereby are rescinded.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Macomb, Michigan, at its regular meeting held on June 11, 2015, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., local time, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

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Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

**2015 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan*

**Resolution Establishing Legislative Priorities To Guide  
The Review And Adoption Of The FY 2016 County Budget**

**The Macomb County Board of Commissioners Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, Section 8.7 of the Macomb County Home Rule Charter requires the Board of Commissioners to adopt a balanced line item operating budget and an appropriations ordinance before the beginning of each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, since 2013 the Board of Commissioners has instituted a performance based budget review process to thoroughly examine each department/agency's budget and their respective fund(s) based on short-term and long-term goals, challenges/risks, and key performance measures; and

WHEREAS, the following set of guiding principles have directed the performance based budget reviews since 2013 and will continue to be followed for this year:

1. **Institutional Accountability** – Assure there is sufficient transparency and institutional accountability by evaluating a detailed line item budget and conducting public discussions
2. **Due Diligence** – Conduct thorough analysis of budget by evaluating goals and programs proposed by each department, comparing against historical budget proposals, actual year-to-date spending, and evaluating published best practices
3. **Performance Based Decisions** – Review budget based on current performance and potential performance of departments/agencies and their programs
4. **Long-Term Planning and Sustainability** – Review budget based on long-term planning and long-term financial sustainability for the county
5. **Legislative Priorities** – Evaluate and amend budget based on legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners continuously evaluates legislative priorities to provide direction in reviewing, analyzing, evaluating, and amending the county's budget to address the most pressing needs for our county and its constituents; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2016 legislative priorities have been thoughtfully determined using inputs from the county's key socio-economic trends, constituent feedback, known department/agency priorities, and State and Federal funding changes; and

WHEREAS, the legislative priorities will enhance the Board of Commissioner's budget review and adoption process by providing additional transparency to the public and to county departments/agencies.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners establishes the following legislative priorities to guide the review and adoption of the FY 2016 County Budget:

- 1. Establish a sustainable, efficient, and innovative county government for the next generation**
  - a. Update county policies and procedures to retain existing talent and attract new talent to the county workforce
  - b. Implement innovative solutions that enhance customer experience for county services
  - c. Leverage cutting edge technologies and methods to operate a more efficient county government
  - d. Keep obligations to county employees by continuing to fully fund pension and retiree health care benefits
  
- 2. Foster a safe and healthy community**
  - a. Foster substance abuse and mental health programs that implement practical solutions to reduce the number of drug related deaths, where Macomb County ranks highest in Michigan
  - b. Reduce jail overcrowding by encouraging alternatives to incarceration including pretrial services, mental health services, and specialty courts for individuals with non-violent offenses
  - c. Support programs and services that leverage Macomb County's green spaces and maximize recreational opportunities at the Metroparks, Macomb Orchard Trail, etc.
  
- 3. Encourage collaboration with our local municipalities**
  - a. Expand capabilities to foster consolidation of resources (i.e. Animal Control, COMTEC, Police Services, Consolidation of Fire Department Study, etc.)
  - b. Support projects that encourage collaboration between municipalities
  
- 4. Support the changing demographic ("New Macomb")**
  - a. Encourage collaboration and coordination between agencies and organizations that support the growing refugee and immigrant community
  - b. Ensure county services and programs accommodate the growing refugee and immigrant community
  - c. Expand outreach and programs to the increasing number of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans
  - d. Explore new solutions to accommodate the increasing aging (65 years and older) population which will swell to 25% of the county's population by 2030
  - e. Support innovate solutions to combat increasing poverty rates in suburban communities

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies if possible, be provided to all Macomb County Electeds, Macomb County Human Services Board, Director of Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility Jennifer Morgan, Macomb County Community Mental Health Board, Macomb County Veterans Commission, Macomb County Ethics Board, Macomb / St. Clair Workforce Development Board and Macomb County Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Valerie Nunn, and Macomb County Welfare Director of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Michael Patterson.

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Dave Flynn  
Chairman, Macomb County Commission  
Commissioner, District 4

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Fred Miller  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 9

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Don Brown  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 7

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Andrey Duzyj  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 1

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Marvin Sauger  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 2

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Veronica Klinefelt  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 3

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Robert Mijac  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 5

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James Carabelli  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 6

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Kathy Vosburg  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 8

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Steve Marino  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 10

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Kathy Tocco  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 11

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Bob Smith  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 12

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Joe Sabatini  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 13

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Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

*Passed at <Date> Full Board Meeting*

**2015 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan*

**Resolution Supporting Michigan House Bill No. 4724  
To Amend The Michigan Election Law To Allow A “No Reason” Absentee Ballot**

**The Macomb County Board of Commissioners Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2015, Michigan House Bill 4724 was introduced to amend the 1954 PA 116, entitled "Michigan Election Law," to permit any eligible voter, without offering a reason, to apply for an absent voter ballot in person with the local clerk by providing a driver's license, an official state identification card, or another generally recognized picture identification card; and

WHEREAS, around the country, 36 states have some form of early voting or no-excuse absentee voting, with 27 states adopting no-excuse absentee voting of which 26 of those states allow both early voting and no-excuse absentee voting, and additionally 6 states allow for early voting only, and 3 states have mail only voting, which leaves Michigan to be one of 14 states that do not have any provision for early or no-excuse absentee voting; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Commission on Election Administration, which included Chris Thomas of the Michigan Bureau of Elections, submitted the “The American Voting Experience,” a report which provided recommendation on reforming the country’s election system, where one of the primary recommendations included extending the period for early voting, which includes “no reason” absentee voting; and

WHEREAS, the Presidential Commission on Election Administration endorses the expansion of “no reason” absentee voting, however, the Commission also encourages the increased use of safeguards such as online tracking of absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, according to Pew Research’s 2012 Election Performance Index, Michigan earned high marks on a number of election performance indicators, however voters spent an average of 21.9 minutes waiting at the polls in 2012, which was the 6th longest average in the country, up from 20.4 minutes in 2008 and nearly twice the national rate of 11.9 minutes; and

WHEREAS, expanding absentee voting provisions will help relieve congestion at polling places and decrease wait times; and

WHEREAS, nearly one third of voters in the 2012 election cast their ballot before Election Day, more than double the rate of the 2000 election, a trend the Presidential Commission predicts would continue; and

WHEREAS, absentee voting is a critical element to our most vulnerable constituents such as our physically disabled, disabled veterans, senior citizens, military personnel who are away home, and “away from home” college students who prefer to vote at their home districts; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, college students prefer to vote in their home district by a ratio of 2 to 1, and 8 to 1 in swing states; and

WHEREAS, early voting offers Americans opportunities to participate in the electoral process that simply cannot be afforded by the contained 12-hour period of the traditional Election Day.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan House Bill No. 4724 to amend the Michigan Election Law to allow a “No Reason” Absentee Ballot.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges the Michigan House of Representatives to also consider legislation to allow for early voting 30 days prior to an election, and to mandate online voter registration, both of which would allow for a more comprehensive early voting system for Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies if possible, be provided to Governor Rick Snyder; Michigan Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, Michigan State Representative and Elections Committee Chair Lisa Posthumus Lyons; Michigan State Representative and Elections Committee Majority Vice-Chair Eric Leutheuser; Michigan State Representative and Elections Committee Minority Vice-Chair Gretchen Driskell; all members of the Macomb County State Legislative Delegation; Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds Carmella Sabaugh, Macomb County Chief Election Clerk Roger Cardamone, Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Director of Legislative Affairs Deena Bosworth, and GCSI Associate Gary Owens.

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Dave Flynn  
Chairman, Macomb County Commission  
Commissioner, District 4

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Fred Miller  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 9

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Bob Smith  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 12

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Joe Sabatini  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 13

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Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

*Passed at <Date> Full Board Meeting*

**2015 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

*Official Resolution of the Board of Commissioners  
Macomb County, Michigan*

**Resolution Supporting Michigan Senate Resolution No. 66 and U.S. House Resolution No. 233  
To Urge Iran To Immediately Release Michigan Resident Amir Hekmati****Commissioner Fred Miller On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,  
Offers the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2015, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously adopted House Resolution No. 233, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Iran should immediately release the three United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2015, the Michigan Senate adopted Resolution No. 66 supporting U.S. House Resolution No. 233; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2015, the President of the United States also called for the release; and

WHEREAS, three United States citizens have been held captive in Iran, some of them for multiple years and one United States citizen disappeared in Iran over eight years ago; and

WHEREAS, one of the captives is Flint resident and Marine veteran Amir Hekmati; and

WHEREAS, as of June 24, 2015, Hekmati has been unjustly imprisoned for 1,395 days and counting making him the longest-held American political prisoner in Iran; and

WHEREAS, Hekmati joined the Marines in 2001 and served honorably as an infantry rifleman during Operation Iraqi Freedom and was awarded the following decorations: Good Conduct Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, GWOT Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Combat Action Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Hekmati was arrested at the home of a relative by Iranian intelligence agents while visiting his ailing grandmother, just days before he was to return home to begin school at the University of Michigan. After four months, in January 2012, Hekmati was unjustly charged with espionage, waging war against God and corrupting the earth and he was sentenced to death. He was the first American to receive the death penalty in Iran in more than 33 years. His death sentence was overturned by a higher court in March 2012, citing insufficient evidence and a new trial was ordered. Hekmati languished behind the walls of Evin prison, much of this time in solitary confinement. In April 2014, it was discovered that Hekmati had been tried in a secret, closed-door proceeding in December 2013. Neither Hekmati nor his attorney were notified of this proceeding and were not allowed to present a defense. As a result of this hearing, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison on the charge of "cooperating with hostile governments;" and

WHEREAS, Hekmati is innocent, has done no wrong and he continues to be held because of his service to our country as a U.S. Marine; and

WHEREAS, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has recently stated that his government wishes to engage in a constructive interaction with the world.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Michigan Senate Resolution No. 66 and U.S. House Resolution No. 233 to urge Iran to immediately release Michigan resident Amir Hekmati and the other two United States citizens that it holds, as well as provide all known information on any United States citizens that have disappeared within its borders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners urges all Macomb County residents to send a signal to the Iranian government by using the **#FreeAmirNow** hashtag on Twitter and other social media channels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution, digital copies if possible, be provided to President Barack Obama; Vice-President Joe Biden; the White House Office of Public Engagement; all members of the Michigan Federal Legislative Delegation; all members of the Macomb County State Legislative Delegation; Michigan State Senator Jim Ananich; and Amir Hekmati's Attorney Ambassador Pierre-Richard Prosper.

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Dave Flynn  
Chairman, Macomb County Commission  
Commissioner, District 4

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Fred Miller  
Macomb County Commissioner, District 9

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Carmella Sabaugh  
Macomb County Clerk/Register of Deeds

*Passed at <Date> Full Board Meeting*