



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015, 5 P.M.

FINAL AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Invocation by **Commissioner Joe Sabatini**
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of Minutes dated 11-12-15 and 12-10-15 **(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:**
 - a) Response to BOC Questions – Return on Investment (ROI)/ Reference Radio System Enhancement Project **(page 1)** **(attached)**
 - b) ROI Spreadsheet/Reference Radio System Project **(page 5)** **(attached)**
 - c) Follow-Up Question and Response from Sheriff Re: Bear Cut Armored Vehicle **(page 6)** **(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

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

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Infrastructure/Economic Development, December 15 (no report)
- b) Finance, December 16 (page 7) (attached)

10. Approve or Reject John Paul Rea as Executive Director of the Planning and Economic Development Department (page 19) (attached)

11. Board Chair Report (page 24) (attached)

12. **PROCLAMATIONS:**

- a) Commending Patricia Bill for Her Service as a Member of the Macomb County Board of Canvassers (offered by Flynn and Duzyj, recommended by Finance Committee on 12-16-15; previously provided at committee meeting)
- b) Honoring the 2015 Romeo High School Football Team on Achieving 2015 MHSAA Division 1 State Championship Title (offered by Brown) (page 55) (attached)

13. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) Public Act 2/Liquor Tax Funds Consideration (MCOSA/MCCMH Response to Jim Carabelli memo) (page 56) (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

Response to BOC Questions - ROI
Reference Radio System Enhancement Project

Based on a discussion with Commissioner Sabatini after the December 16, 2015 Finance Committee meeting I would like to offer the following information regarding a return on investment (ROI) for the radio system. I have also provided some of this information in a spreadsheet format that is attached for items A – D that have corresponding dollar amounts. It should be noted that for this is not in a typical ROI format, nor can this type of project be categorized as such. The below information is meant to provide more detailed information on the project funding and system maintenance funding. If a known or educated estimated dollar amount could be provided it has been done so to correlate to one of the specific areas.

A) County Capital Investment

1) Initial County Investment - \$13.5 million

As mentioned previously, the BOC supported and approved the initial 800 MHz radio system project proposal back in 2003. This proposal was to join the State of Michigan's Public Safety Communications System as provided by Motorola. A bond was issued for this project in the amount of \$13.5 million and included the necessary system infrastructure (towers, microwave links, base radios) as well as new equipment for the Sheriff's Office (dispatch consoles, mobile and portable radios).

2) Current Proposed County Investment - \$7.2 million

B) 800 MHz Operating Budget

As part of the initial radio project implementation, personnel at the time realized that there would be on-going costs associated with maintaining our own infrastructure as part of the State's larger system. We were and are fortunate to have an in-house radio department that has been in existence since the 1930's serving our public safety departments. The decision was made that this department would be responsible for the daily and on-going maintenance of the system and a capital budget would be created. It was further decided that like the State, we would create a County Membership Agreement and charge membership fees to anyone who joined our system and used our system as their primary means of communication. These fees would be a means to fund the on-going maintenance of the system. Below, you will also find further information on the County and State fees that were provided in a previous document to the BOC.

Revenue Source - County Membership/User Fee

The current county user fee is \$50/radio on the system. The initial fee was set at \$25/radio when the system was first implemented. The fee was increased to \$50/radio in 2010 by the BOC. The initial \$25 fee was based on assumptions for expenses made at that time. The fee was increased in 2010 based on known history and presumed adjustments for future expenses for maintenance. The intent of this fee was/is to cover routine current expenses as well as provide for some capital expenditures to maintain the system.

Revenue Source - State Membership/User Fee

Up until October 1, 2015 the State also charged a membership/user fee of \$200/radio for full service members. However, due to the infrastructure investment that the county made, we received credits against this membership fee for public safety/public service providers. In essence, we never made any payments to the State for these membership fees but were instead charged these fees against our credit amount. These credits were passed on to all of our local members as well, but in exchange for this benefit we charged them a State membership fee of \$25/radio as long as the credits existed, as a way to provide some benefit back to the county/radio system for our investment. These membership fees were also collected and deposited into the county's 800 MHz operating/maintenance budget.

As more departments have joined the radio system over the last several years the amount of NET revenue collected from these fees has grown as well. We currently have close to 4,000 radios in use on the system. Our recent yearly revenue for these fees are at/near \$250,000.00.

Revenue Source - Tower Lease Fees

In addition to membership fees, we have been able to collect revenue for leasing tower space to various cell phone carriers over the years. As of today, T-Mobile leases space from us at 3 of our tower sites. We also have a lease agreement with a public safety consortium in NE Wayne County that has equipment on one of our sites whom we charge a fee to as well. Our recent yearly revenue for these fees are at/near \$50,000.00.

Since the creation/use of the 800 MHz operating budget in late 2007 our total revenues to date are \$6,071,239.00 or an average of \$758,905/year.

Expenditures

Expenditures for the radio system are essentially related to the tower sites and system infrastructure. These costs provide for on-going maintenance of the system and replacement of some small capital items. Typical expenditures include utility bills for the sites, HVAC and generator maintenance, radio equipment repairs and replacement; radio technician labor costs; system training and insurance.

Since the creation/use of the 800 MHz operating budget in late 2007 our total expenditures to date are \$5,455,088.00 or an average of \$681,886/year.

This leaves us with a current fund balance of \$616,151 with an additional \$250,000 expected when the 2015 membership billing cycle is complete for an expected \$866,151 or \$108,269/year.

It should also be noted that since the implementation of the radio system/budget approximately \$400,000 in revenue has been provided to the general fund budgets for Emergency Management & Technical Services (radio department). This is due to the fact that we bill the 800 MHz budget for administration and labor costs attributable to the system.

C) State Investments - Advantages

There are many advantages to being a partner with the State of Michigan on their public safety communications system. While we own and maintain our 7 tower sites and the State maintains 2 sites that are part of our coverage area (9 total), we gain the benefit of all system software and major infrastructure upgrades. Since first coming on the system we have benefited from major software releases and beginning in 2016 and continuing into 2017 the State will make physical radio equipment upgrades at our sites. While I do not have any dollar amount associated with the software upgrades we have received over the years, I was provided with an estimate of \$4,000,000.00* for the equipment upgrades they will be making at our sites in 2016-2017. All of these upgrades come at no cost to the county. It should be noted that these upgrades are not dependent on the expansion of our system and will be forthcoming whether the current radio system enhancement project is approved or not.

*According to Motorola, if we had to make these improvements ourselves, the cost would be closer to \$8,000,000.00.

Another recent advantage that was provided to us by the State, was the discontinuance of their State membership fee as of October 1, 2015. Due to our initial investment in the radio system, the county was given credits toward the State membership fee. Our credits were set to expire within this current billing cycle which meant that all users of the system would have collectively owed the State close to \$690,000.00 per year starting in 2016. Since that fee no longer exists we are essentially saving those funds on an annual basis.

D) Reflects Changes to our 800 MHz Operating Budget if the Radio System Enhancement Project is approved

Obviously, if the current radio system proposal is passed this will have an effect on the on-going maintenance of the system and our 800 MHz operating budget. The information on the spreadsheet recognizes that we will see both increases to our revenue and expenditures to account for the 5 additional tower sites and infrastructure. As has been the past practice, this budget will need to remain self-sustaining as well as provide for some fund balance/revenue to be carried forward each year for some small capital expenditures. The spreadsheet estimates that we will see increased revenues in 3 areas: additional Warren subscriber units will be added to the system; an increase in the county membership fee (at most I estimate it will be double of our current fee of \$50/radio/year); and potential new leases on our new tower sites. Expenditure increases will essentially be limited to site specific costs such as utilities, HVAC and generator maintenance, equipment repair and replacement and associated labor costs. All of this information is based on estimates only.

Finally and most importantly from a public safety perspective, there are major advantages to this radio system and proposed project that do not correlate to any dollar amount. The radio system provides interoperability between public safety departments in the county, region and State;

equipment is standardized as well as policies and procedures related to the use of the radios. System reliability has been increased and the fear of equipment or system failures has all but been eliminated. Provisions for redundant and backup communication facilities will be provided and known gaps within our communication capability have been and will be solved with the approval of this project. All of this results in better safety and protection of our first responders and the public; lives and property saved and an increased efficiency and effectiveness.

A) County Investments

1) Initial investment	\$ 13,500,000	County Bond
2) Proposed Radio Enhancement Project	\$ 7,200,000	General and "other" funds
Total Investments	\$ 20,700,000	

B) 800 MHz Operating Budget*

Total Revenues	\$ 6,071,239	*Total revenues and expenditures are from the start of the budget in 2007
Total Expenditures	\$ (5,455,088)	through 12/16/15
Net Revenue/Fund Balance	\$ 616,151	

2015 Membership Fees (revenue) not yet billed \$ 250,000

Net Revenue/Fund Balance **\$ 866,151** Estimated final figure for FY end 2015

Estimated revenue provided back to general fund budget for Emergency Management & Technical Services

\$ 400,000

Fund is self-sustaining for yearly maintenance & provides for future capital expenses. Annual fund balance/net revenue amount is \$108,269. Indirect cost allocation and labor for radio technicians maintenance/oversight of the system

This is at no direct cost to the county. Motorola estimates that if we did these upgrades ourselves the cost would be closer to \$8,000,000. These upgrades will occur whether we expand our system or not.

C) State Investment - Planned Upgrades 2016/2017

\$ 4,000,000

D) Radio System Enhancement Project - Budget Effect - if approved

1) Estimated future annual revenue increase due to Warren Membership Fees	\$ 25,000	This is based on current annual membership fee of \$50/radio
2) Estimated future annual revenue increase (above current) - Increase County Membership Fees to account for additional towers/infrastructure (this is inclusive of Warren's fees from above)	\$ 275,000	Current annual membership fees generate appx. \$250,000 in revenue. Total estimated annual revenue to be collected under a new fee schedule is \$525,000.00
3) Potential annual tower lease revenue at one new site	\$ 16,000	
Total New Revenue	\$ 291,000	

4) Estimated future annual expenditures increase (above current) for radio system expansion \$ (175,000) Estimated annual maintenance costs for 5 new sites. Current annual expenditures are \$681,686

5) Estimated annual net revenue/fund balance increase (above current) **\$ 116,000** Current annual revenue is \$758,905

6) Projected Yearly Fund Balance	
Current average amount	\$ 108,269
Projected additional amount	\$ 116,000
Total Projected Yearly Fund Balance	\$ 224,269

Follow-up question to Sheriff Wickersham RE: BearCat armored vehicle

Do other Macomb County local municipalities also have SWAT teams?

- If so, what armored vehicles do they use?
- If not, will they have access to the county's armored vehicle and if so, how is the use coordinated between the Sheriff Office and the communities?
- Can we share the cost of the BearCat with the local municipalities?

E-mail Response from Sheriff Wickersham:

Wed, Dec 16, 2015 at 3:48 PM

Following cities have their own team or a small version of an emergency response team:

- Warren
- Sterling Heights
- St. Clair Shores
- Roseville
- East pointe (suspended at this time per their chief)
- Clinton Township

There is an APC that his housed at Warren that is available to area departments. The make is unknown. St. Clair Shores and Roseville have their own Bearcat. No others that I am aware of.

As I stated previously, our team is Multi Jurisdictional (Sherif, Fraser, Chesterfield) and we respond to those areas along with others jurisdictions that need are help. As with all our services, one phone call can bring any asset to any community.

I feel as a County office, we should provide support and services to communities that do not have the resources or funding to support their own teams. That is the Law Enforcement model called "mutual aide" where we support each other in time of need and do not charge them. With that being said I would be opposed to charge or split the cost.

As I said in my presentation, our team is the only team in the state that is certified with a Level II (CBRNE) capable response and the only team that trains monthly.

Sheriff Anthony Wickersham



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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December 16, 2015

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FROM: FRED MILLER, CHAIR, FINANCE COMMITTEE
RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEETING OF 12-16-15

At a meeting of the Finance Committee, held Wednesday, December 16, 2015, the following recommendations were made and are being forwarded to the December 17, 2015 Full Board meeting for approval:

1. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Brown, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the 42nd District Court Romeo – Audio Visual System proposed quotes for purchase; 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 Marino, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of 600 additional Onix Google Aps user licenses; 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.**

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Carabelli, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the additional Avamar Node purchase; 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 |

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Mijac, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a 2016 budget amendment in the amount of \$88,546 to fund the addition of one Senior Graphic Systems Data Specialist in the Planning & Economic Development Department; the amendment will increase revenues from Transfers In-Other Funds by \$87,489 and Utilization of Fund Balance by \$1,057 and increase expenditures in the following line items in the General Fund: Full Time Wages-\$53,071, FICA/Medicare-\$4,060, Pension/Retiree Health Care-\$16,829, Health Care/Dental/Life Insurance-\$12,770, Work Camp/Other-\$754 and Internal Services (liability insurance)-\$1,062; a corresponding amendment will be required in the December year-end Sheriff Grant Fund to increase fund balance utilization by \$87,489 and increase Transfers Out by the same amount; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.**

5. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Carabelli, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve a 2016 General Fund budget amendment in the amount of \$6,177,303 to provide funding for the proposed 800MHz Radio System Coverage Enhancements Project; the Finance Director has indicated that funding is expected to be available from 2015 budgetary savings in operating expenditures and operating transfers to other funds; the budget amendment will increase the utilization of fund balance by \$6,177,303 and increase Operating Transfers Out (to the Capital Improvement Fund) by the same amount; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED.** (roll call vote: Yes-Brown, Carabelli, Duzyj, Klinefelt, Marino, Mijac, Miller, Sauger and Smith; No-Flynn, Sabatini, Tocco and Vosburg)

6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Vosburg, supported by Smith, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the radio system coverage enhancements contract proposal with Motorola Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$9,687,066; 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 WITH FLYNN, SABATINI AND TOCCO VOTING "NO."**

7. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Duzyj, supported by Sauger, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the inter-local funding agreement with the City of Warren as it relates to the Radio System Cover Enhancements Project; 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 WITH SABATINI VOTING "NO."**

8. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Sabatini, supported by Brown, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve an increase in the Sheriff Department's 2016 budget by up to \$350,000 in the Capital Outlay category through the use of fund balance generated through 2015 operating expense savings in the Sheriff's Department; further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately; further, a copy of this Board of Commissioners' action is directed to be delivered forthwith to the Office of the County Executive. **THE MOTION CARRIED WITH MILLER VOTING "NO."**

9. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – MOTION (SEE ATTACHED)

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Marino, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the building use agreement between the County of Macomb and the Macomb County Human Services Board as presented; 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 Tocco, supported by Marino, to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt a continuation budget for the Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility that authorizes expenditures at the level appropriated for 2015 on a pro rata basis for the first 45 days of 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.**

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:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the 42nd District Court Romeo - Audio-Visual System proposed quotes for purchase.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Co-chair Commissioner Carabelli and Co-Chair Commissioner Mijac</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>To standardize and expand For the Record (FTR) technology and Video Conferencing for Macomb County 42nd District Court in Romeo by providing new installations in order to preserve court recordings digitally.</p> <p>Improved technology will provide a Court Record including sound and video. The current system is obsolete and further maintenance cannot be justified.</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure & Economic Development	12/15/2015
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the purchase of 600 additional Onix Google Aps user licenses.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Co- Chair Carabelli or Mijac</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>This will add 600 licenses to ensure compliance with enough required Google licenses per individual County user.</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure and Economic Development	12/15/2015
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
Approve the Additional Avamar Node purchase

Introduced By:
Co Chair Carabelli or Mijac

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
This hardware purchase will increase disc space for backups. Typically, hardware increases are required every 18 months, however recent changes in data types have increased the volume 20% in the last two months which is significantly higher than our predictions. We are getting close to maximum backup capacity and must purchase additional hardware immediately.

Committee	Meeting Date
Economic Development and Infrastructure	12/15/2015
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve a 2016 budget amendment in the amount of \$88,546 to fund the addition of one (1) Senior Graphic Systems Data Specialist in the Planning & Economic Development Department. The amendment will increase revenues from Transfers In - Other Funds by \$87,489 and Utilization of Fund Balance by \$1,057 and increase expenditures in the following line items in the General Fund: Full Time Wages - \$53,071, FICA/Medicare - \$4,060, Pension/Retiree Health Care - \$16,829, Health Care/Dental/Life Insurance - \$12,770, Work Comp/Other - \$754 and Internal Services (liability insurance) - \$1,062. A corresponding amendment will be required in the December year-end Sheriff Grant Fund to increase fund balance utilization by \$87,489 and increase Transfers Out by the same amount.

*SEE BELOW

Introduced By:

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

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The Planning & Economic Development currently has an employee in the position of Geographic Informations Systems Specialist whose work responsibilities have substantially increased over the past several months. The employee is now working primarily at COMTEC supporting the dispatch operation by developing and maintaining the parcel database. The work required at COMTEC has taken the incumbent employee away from his regular job responsibilities in the Planning Department, thereby resulting in a need for an additional position. I am requesting that the employee in the Geographic Informations Systems Specialist be promoted to a new position of Senior Graphic Systems Data Specialist, a previously existing position within the County and the vacated Geographic Informations Systems Specialist position be posted and filled as soon as possible. The budgeted 2016 salary for the new position of Senior Graphic Systems Data Specialist will be \$53,071 and the total cost is approximately \$88,546 including fringe benefits and liability insurance. Funding in the amount of \$87,489 will be provided by Sheriff Department through E-911 cell phone fees distributed by the State of Michigan and the remaining \$1,057 will be funded through the temporary vacancy created when the incumbent employee vacates their existing position. Funding from the Sheriff Department for this position will be provided for three years, at which time the position will be reevaluated.

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately. FORWARD TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

*(This language was added by Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee Co-Chairs Carabelli and Mijac.)

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure/Economic Development	12-15-15
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:

Full Board Meeting Date:

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RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

Approve a 2016 General Fund budget amendment in the amount of \$6,177,303 to provide funding for the proposed 800MhZ Radio System Coverage Enhancements Project. The Finance Director has indicated that funding is expected to be available from 2015 budgetary savings in operating expenditures and operating transfers to other funds. The budget amendment will increase the utilization of fund balance by \$6,177,303 and increase Operating Transfers Out (to the Capital Improvement Fund) by the same amount.

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately. FORWARD TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

*(This language was added by Justice and Public Safety Committee Chair Vosburg.)

Introduced By:

Kathy Vosburg, Chair, Justice and Public Safety Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

The purpose of the project is to improve the County's 800MhZ radio system infrastructure and dispatch communications in order to provide increased radio interoperability between public safety departments in the County. The project calls for a) the installation of five (5) new radio towers and associated infrastructure in the northern sections of the County and the City of Warren, b) a fire paging solution for the fire departments in the northern areas of the County, c) radio equipment for the City of Warren to join the 800MhZ system and d) dispatch consoles for the Sheriff Department. The total cost of the project is \$9,687,066. The County is responsible for \$7,232,910 and the City of Warren is responsible for \$2,454,156. Of the County portion, \$6,177,303 will be provided by the General Fund and the remaining \$1,055,607 will be provided as follows: \$55,607 through grants, \$500,000 from user fees charged to local units who are connected to the 800MhZ radio system and \$500,000 from emergency 911 cell phone fees distributed to the County by the State of Michigan. The Finance Director has indicated that funding of this project will not impact the long range fund balance forecasts previously presented to the Board because the anticipated 2015 budgetary savings that will be used to finance the project have not been built into those forecasts. Representatives from the Office of the County Executive, Sheriff Department and the Emergency Management and Finance Departments will be available at the meeting to answer questions.

Committee

Meeting Date

~~Justice and Public Safety~~

~~12-9-15~~ *moved to 12-10 Finance

Finance

12-10-15 (for discussion only)

Finance

12-16-15

Full Board

12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the Radio System Coverage Enhancements contract proposal with Motorola Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$9,687,066.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Kathy Vosburg, Chair, Justice and Public Safety Committee</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>Funding Sources:</p> <p>County General Fund - \$6,152,303.00</p> <p>Other Funds - \$1,430,607.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2014 UASI/HSGP - \$25,000.00 -2015 UASI/HSGP - \$350,000.00 -800 Mhz Funding - \$500,000.00 -2010 COPS Funding - \$55,607.00 -Sheriff's Office (ESTC & Forfeiture) - \$500,000.00 <p>City of Warren - \$2,104,156.00</p> <p>TOTAL - \$9,687,066.00</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Justice and Public Safety	12-9-15 *moved to 12-10 Finance
Finance	12-10-15 (for discussion only)
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Approve the Inter-local Funding Agreement with the City of Warren as it relates to the Radio System Coverage Enhancements Project.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Kathy Vosburg, Chair, Justice and Public Safety Committee</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p>City of Warren Funding Obligation: \$2,454,156.00</p> <p>Macomb County Funding Obligation: \$7,232,910.00</p> <p>TOTAL - \$9,687,066.00</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Justice and Public Safety	12-9-15 *moved to 12-10 Finance
Finance	12-10-15 (for discussion only)
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:

To increase the Sheriff Department 2016 budget by up to \$350,000 in the Capital Outlay category through the use of fund balance generated through 2015 operating expense savings in the Sheriff Department.

*Further, this budget action addresses budgetary issues only. It does not constitute the Commission's approval of any County contract. If a contract requires Commission approval under the County's Contracting Policy or the County's Procurement Ordinance, such approval must be sought separately. **FORWARD TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

*(This language was added by Justice and Public Safety Committee Chair Vosburg.)

Introduced By:

Kathy Vosburg, Chair, Justice and Public Safety Committee

Additional Background Information (If Needed):

As the result of an Executive Order from the President of the United States, the Armored Personnel Carrier given to the County in 2004 must be returned to the Federal Government. The Sheriff is requesting the carry forward of unspent 2015 budget dollars to purchase an armored vehicle from Lenco Armored Vehicles to replace the unit being returned to the Federal Government. An attached letter to the County Executive explains more clearly the benefit of having such a vehicle in the Macomb County fleet. The funds for this purchase are available in the 2015 Sheriff Department budget but generally accepted accounting principles do not allow the purchase to be charged against the 2015 budget since delivery of the vehicle will not take place until 2016. Therefore, a carryover of these funds to 2016 is necessary.

Committee	Meeting Date
Justice and Public Safety	12-9-15 *moved to 12-10 Finance
Finance	12-10-15 (for discussion only)
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Resolution Number:	Full Board Meeting Date:

RESOLUTION

Resolution to:
<p>Adopt a Continuation Budget for the Martha T. Berry Medical Care Facility that authorizes expenditures at the level appropriated for 2015 on a pro rata basis for the first 45 days of 2016.</p> <p>And approve the attached Building Use Agreement between the County of Macomb and the Macomb County Human Services Board as presented.</p>

Introduced By:
<p>Andrey Duzyj, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee</p>

Additional Background Information (If Needed):
<p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 150px;">*WAIVED BY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR</p>

Committee	Meeting Date
Infrastructure/Economic Development *	12-15-15 (for discussion only)
Finance	12-16-15
Full Board	12-17-15



Macomb County Executive

Mark A. Hackel

Mark F. Deldin
Deputy County Executive

TO: David Flynn, Board Chair, and Members of the Commission

FROM: Mark A. Hackel, County Executive

DATE: November 12, 2015

RE: Director of Planning and Economic Development Appointment

As you may know, Steve Cassin has informed us of his intention to retire at the end of the year. Steve has provided outstanding leadership and service to the County and we appreciate everything he has accomplished. We all wish him well as he transitions to this next chapter in his life.

After careful consideration of what is best for the Department and the County, I am pleased to inform you that I have appointed John Paul Rea to succeed Steve as director of PED. JP, as we all know him, worked in the planning department for many years before joining my staff as an Assistant County Executive. In that role, he worked on a number of projects that complimented the County's planning and economic development initiatives. I am confident that his leadership will allow us to continue and build upon the momentum that Steve has created.

Attached for your information is a copy of the position description and JP's resume. I hope you will share our enthusiasm and will confirm his appointment.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/10/15

MACOMB COUNTY

CLASSIFICATION/POSITION DESCRIPTION

CLASSIFICATION TITLE: Executive Director

DEPARTMENT: Planning and Economic Development

F.L.S.A. STATUS: Exempt

HIRING AUTHORITY: County Executive

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

This position is "at-will" under the Home Rule Charter of Macomb County.

Under direction, directs, develops, formulates, implements, and administers planning and economic development, solid waste management, land and water resource programs, mapping and geographic information systems, and related activities for Macomb County; promotes and furthers the interests of Macomb County on a regional, state, national, and international level; performs related duties as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

Directs the tasks involved in developing, coordinating and implementing County planning, economic development, solid waste management, mapping & geographic information systems, and land & water resource programs, and other projects and initiatives.

Develops, administers, evaluates, and coordinates programs, projects and activities identified in the Work Program.

Plans, directs, evaluates, and administers departmental planning, budgeting, and operational activities including the development of goals, objectives, performance measures, Work Program preparation, annual budget requests and revenue projections.

Develops and provides information regarding available planning resources and services and coordinates a cooperative effort toward project planning, land use, zoning, municipal planning and other special projects.

Directs business development initiatives for the development of public and private resources to attract, retain, and grow business in the County.

Develops, implements and coordinates strategies designed to further the interests of Macomb County in intergovernmental and community relationships.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (continued):

Develops and implements administrative procedures and directs appropriate reviews to ensure delivery of program and administrative services within funding and scheduling limitations.

Provides technical expertise and program information to Federal, State, and local agencies and officials.

Relates programs and communicates concepts to individuals, groups and organizations with diverse interests to develop consensus and support for various issues.

Develops department and programmatic budgets and grant recommendations and applications; administers approved budgets and grants.

Operates an automobile while performing assigned job duties.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS:

The statements contained in this position description are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by individuals assigned to this position. They are not to be construed as an exhaustive list of all job duties performed.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE:

A Master Degree with a major in Urban Planning, Business Administration, Public Administration, Economics, or a directly related field, from an accredited college or university.

A minimum of eight (8) years of experience in the administration and/or management of programs, projects and initiatives in planning and economic development.

Current certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners is preferred.

Be physically able to perform the essential functions of the position, with or without reasonable accommodation.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge of professional principles of urban planning and economic development.

Knowledge of land use and infrastructure relationships and the physical and socioeconomic variable that affect community growth.

Knowledge of Federal and State sources of financial support for programs and of the qualifications and procedures for receiving financial support.

Knowledge of the organizational practices of government administration.

Ability to develop and analyze financial and operational reports regarding programs, budgets, and operations.

Demonstrated organizational ability and initiative.

Knowledge of policy development and administration techniques.

Ability to effectively speak, write and understand the English language.

Ability to speak and understand a language other than English is preferred.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with administrators, staff, officials, and the staff or private and government organizations.

Possession of a valid Michigan driver's license and an operable insured automobile for authorized travel.

Ability to conduct oneself with tact and courtesy.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT APPROVAL:

NAME: Eric A. Herppich SIGNATURE: 
TITLE: Director, Human Resources and Labor Relations DATE: November 10, 2015

EDUCATION

Fall 2005 – 2007

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Allendale, MI

Master of Public Administration – Graduated April 2007

- Emphasis in Urban and Regional Policy and Planning

Fall 2001 – 2005

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Allendale, MI

Bachelor of Science in Political Science – Graduated April 2005

- Minor in Public Administration
-

EXPERIENCE

Apr. 2015 – Present

MACOMB COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE (OCE)

Mount Clemens, MI

Assistant County Executive

- Manage communications, including traditional and social media strategies, for all departments which report to OCE
- Develop comprehensive marketing and promotions campaigns showcasing Macomb County as a preferred destination for residents, visitors and businesses
- Coordinate intergovernmental relations including municipal outreach and regional initiatives
- Organize county lobbying efforts at the local, regional and state level
- Administer Macomb County's non-motorized trail network including the Macomb Orchard Trail

Oct. 2012 – Apr. 2015

MACOMB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mount Clemens, MI

Senior Planner

- Managed municipal planning services, including drafting local planning documents, zoning ordinances and site plan review proposals
- Facilitated information requests and databases, developing comprehensive demographic and economic studies
- Developed quality-of-life initiatives, including the county's parks and recreation system, downtown development authorities, major commercial developments and placemaking
- Supported the county's economic development team with business attraction, retention and expansion projects
- Organized capital improvement strategies targeting major transportation corridors and regional transit
- Cultivated relationships with municipal, regional and statewide planning and economic development partners
- Orchestrated countywide visioning sessions and public input processes on many community development ventures
- Supported Macomb County Executive's Office in pursuing major community and economic development opportunities
- Notable Projects: Macomb County Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Village of New Have Master Plan, City of Memphis Master Plan, City of Utica Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and Prime Properties

Dec. 2007 – Oct. 2012

MACOMB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mount Clemens, MI

Associate Planner

- Developed comprehensive planning and community development documents
 - Analyzed land use and development trends to help establish local planning assistance services
 - Managed information requests and community outreach regarding community and economic development trends
 - Spearheaded downtown assistance program providing planning and economic development services to the county's downtown development authorities
 - Coordinated county operations associated with the Macomb Orchard Trail
 - Notable Projects: "Aging of Macomb County" (2009 Planning Excellence for Public Outreach Michigan Association of Planning), Gratiot Avenue Corridor Improvement Plan and Macomb County diversity brochures
-

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Institute of Certified Planners – Certified (May 2012)

American Planning Association – Member (January 2008 – Present)

Leadership Macomb – Graduate LMXVII (June 2014)

Michigan Association of Planning – Member (January 2008 – Present)

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments – Member, Transportation Coordinating Council (Fall 2014); Alternate Delegate, SEMCOG Executive Committee (Spring 2013)

Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation – Board of Directors (October 2015)

8 Mile Boulevard Association – Chairperson Planning Advisory Committee (March 2015)

SKILLS

Technology – Proficiency in ArcMap GIS, ESRI Business Analyst, Economic Modeling Specialists International, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite, Google Calendar/Documents, Mac/PC Literate

MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION TO: receive and file report from Board Chair for December 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

- MTB

Office

- Part-time Special Projects Coordinator candidate has been selected; starting in January
- BOC and Health Department Mural Project: Winners announced – see attached press release
- 2016 Casual Day charities and the contribution calendar has been established; see attached.
- BOC Scanning Project: Phase 1 scanning is complete; Phase 2 scanning is nearly complete; next steps are User Training and kiosk installation. Specs for the next project – Automated Agenda Management System have been identified by a BOC staff/IT team. Vendor demos will begin after the first of the year.

Upcoming Items

- County offices are closed Dec. 24/25, 30/31; BOC office will be staffed all other days.
- Elected Official Compensation Study RFP - Commissioners interested in participating in Work Group should contact Patti by December 30th.
- Boards/Comms appts: Building Authority, Hospital Finance Authority, Zoo Authority
- Four CMH Board appointments expiring in March

Regional

- DIA's newest exhibition, 30 Americans, is ongoing through January 18, 2016.
- RTA Master Plan in final stages
- BTBB group to formulate Call to Action in early 2016

Correspondence:

- Casual Day Program letters of thanks

Media:

- See attached articles.

BOC – Independent Counsel: Expenditures for Outside Legal Counsel Professional Services Litigation

InvoiceCharges:	Legal Svcs Budget Amount:	Legal Services Invoice Totals:	Budget Remaining:	%Utilized:
	\$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	\$100,000	0.17
		<u>1,380.00</u> (June)		
		\$21,780.00	\$ 98,620	0.18
		<u>1,065.00</u> (July)		
		\$22,845.00	\$ 97,555	0.19
		<u>10,355.00</u> (Aug)		
		\$33,200.00	\$ 87,200	0.28
		<u>7,670.00</u> (Sept)		
		\$40,870.00	\$ 79,530	0.34
		<u>4,864.00</u> (Oct)		
		\$45,734.00	\$ 74,666	0.38
		<u>4,723.15</u> (Nov)		
		\$50,457.15	\$ 69,942.85	0.42

COMMITTEE/MEETING DATE

Full Board 12-17-15

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 14, 2015

Media contact: Courtney Flynn
(586) 469-5713
Courtney.flynn@macombgov.org

Macomb County Mural Project Winners Announced

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — The Macomb County Board of Commissioners and the Macomb County Health Department are ready to turn the paint brushes over to a group of artistic Macomb County students.

These students represent three different schools and have been chosen as the winners of the Macomb County High School Mural Contest. The winners, along with the title of the mural they will be painting and the three health department locations they will be painted at are:

- "Healthy Imaginations" by Angelo Evans from Mount Clemens High School, Adult Sponsor: Maureen Cusenza: WIC - Verkuilen Bulding;
- "Leading Healthy Lives in the Community" by Rachel Coy, Ann Krause, and Bethany Williams from Sterling Heights High School*, Adult Sponsor: Jennifer Kay-Rivera: Southwest Health Center;
- "LSHSAC" by Claire Chuning Wang, Petra Zipei Zhang, Grace Geshi Wang, and Annie Yaxin Tu from the Lake Shore High School Art Club*, Adult Sponsor: Holly LoGrasso: Southeast Health Center.

“The dedication these students have put in already truly shows in the art work submitted,” said Board Chair Dave Flynn. “Their commitment to their artwork and their interest in the overall health of Macomb County citizens will surely shine even brighter once these submissions are brought to life.”

The Board of Commissioners and the Health Department held this contest to help inspire students to harness their creativity while also truly considering what being healthy means. The ultimate goal of the contest is to encourage the thousands of people who walk through the doors of the County health departments to live a healthy lifestyle.

The 2015/16 High School Mural Contest was open to Macomb County students in grades nine through 12. Students were given the opportunity to submit artwork that showed what it meant to them to be “healthy in Macomb County.”

Three winners were chosen through a public voting process and a panel. Entries were posted on County Websites and Facebook Pages, with open voting taking place from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4. Then, the 10 entries with the most votes went before a panel of County representatives who chose the top three.

Murals must be completed by April 29, 2016.

###

Charity	Address	Description	Date
Michigan Lupus Foundation	29433 Southfield Rd. Southfield, MI 48076	Serves Macomb County with every day support groups, an emergency grant called the Lupus Love Project, education, and research.	26 January 8, 15, 22, 29
Ted B. Wahby Cancer Center at Karmanos	1080 Harrington Blvd. Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	Treatment, education, and support for those affected by cancer, and their families.	February 5, 12, 19, 26
Salvation Army	16130 Northland Dr. Southfield, MI 48075	Provides help and services to the homeless, elderly, and low income families.	March 4, 11, 18, 25
Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan	42800 Garfield Clinton Twp., MI 48038	Will provide financial assistance for girls from economically distressed families in Macomb County to enable them to participate in Girl Scout activities.	April 1, 8, 15, 22
Compassion Pregnancy Center	37540 S. Gratiot, Ste 100 Clinton Twp., MI 48036	Offers women facing a crisis pregnancy a place to go for information, assistance, and encouragement.	Special April 29 th
Michigan Anti-Cruelty Society	13569 Joseph Campau Detroit, MI 48212	Dedicates its efforts to providing refuge to stray, injured, and forgotten animals. They never turn any animal away or charge for the shelter and rescue services rendered to people that cannot afford a donation.	May 6, 13, 20, 27
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)	24359 Northwestern Hwy. Southfield, MI 48075	The Metro Detroit Chapter serves people and institutions affected by type 1 diabetes within the community with research to treat, prevent, and eventually cure T1D.	June 3, 10, 17, 24
T3: Teens Talking Truths (CARE)	31900 Utica Rd. Fraser, MI 48026	A Youth Advocacy group at CARE that seeks to empower teens to develop skills and confidence to avoid unhealthy behaviors.	July 1, 8, 15, 22
Play Place for Autistic Children	41105 Technology Park Sterling Heights, MI 48314	Focused on the development, independence, and better quality of life for otherwise disenfranchised families.	Special July 29 th
Samaritan House	62324 Van Dyke Washington, MI 48094	Devoted to serving individuals and families in crisis by providing emergency basic needs assistance.	August 5, 12, 19, 26
Meals on Wheels	21885 Dunham Rd, Ste 10 Clinton Twp., MI 48036	Delivers warm meals to more than 1,700 of the county's vulnerable population of frail, homebound seniors.	September 2, 9, 16, 23
Macomb County Warming Center	2 Crocker Blvd., Suite 201 Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	Provides food and shelter to the homeless community.	Special September 30 th
Rainbow Connection	621 W. University Rochester, MI 48307	Provides support services, information, referrals, special holiday get-togethers, picnic, and a listening ear to families.	October 7, 14, 21, 28
Friends of Foster Kids	55196 Meadow Ridge Ct. Shelby Twp., MI 48316	Provides "Christmas" to children removed from their homes, and assistance to college-bound foster children.	November 4, 10, 18, 23
Vision Hopes' Champions for Life Kids Camp	31700 Couchez St. Clair Shores, MI 48082	Inspire hope through love, encouragement, and life-changing experiences to children in our community by sending them to camp.	December 2, 9, 16, 22
Anton Art Center	125 Macomb Place Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	Funds children's programming, and looks to increase free & affordable access to art opportunities for seniors.	Special December 29 th



935 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906
517-372-5374 Fax 517-482-4599
www.micounties.org
Timothy K. McGuire, Executive Director

November 11, 2015

David Flynn
Macomb County Board Chair
County Administration Building
1 S. Main St., 9th Floor
Mount Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Commissioner Flynn,

Thank you for sending a copy of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners resolution supporting Senate Bill 524 and House Bill 4909 to stop the use of the "Dark Stores" approach and eliminate unfair tax advantages for "Big Box" retailers.

MAC appreciates being apprised of the legislative activity of your county. Please be encouraged to continue sending updates and resolutions. Your resolution will be posted on the MAC website as a resource for other counties.

As a cost saving measure, we will only be mailing resolution correspondences to the County Board Chair and County Clerk. We would be glad to send additional copies of the correspondence on a per request basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy K. McGuire".

Timothy K. McGuire
Executive Director

TKM/EKL

cc: Macomb County Clerk

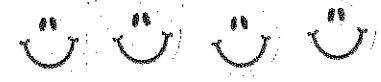
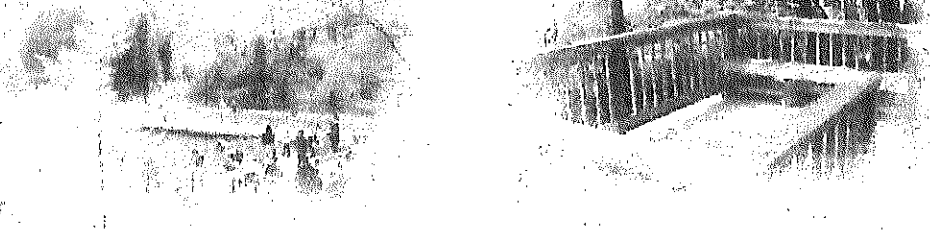
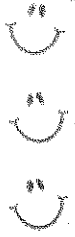
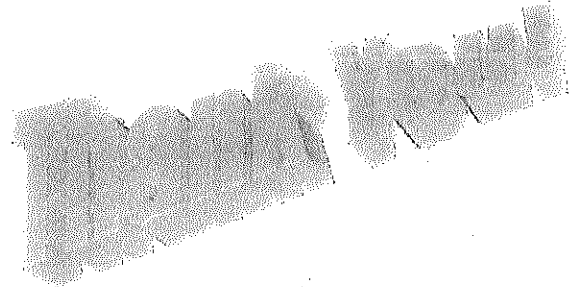
From the:

Michigan Outdoor Opportunity Fund

To: Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Date: November 10, 2015

By: Sidney Keeler, Chairman



Each smile is of a special child sent to camp for a special weekend with your donation of \$721.86 from 2015

Casual Day.



"Making The Outdoors Accessible To All"





P.O. Box 1123
Mt. Clemens, MI 48046

Main: (586) 463-4430
Crisis Line: (586) 463-6990
Fax: (586) 463-1771

December 8, 2015

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

Dear David,

“Although I was going through the most difficult time in my life I was able to wake up here and go to sleep with a smile on my face, because I knew my son and I were safe. The staff was always there for my son and I with every need, whether it was clothing, support or just to vent. I cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to stay here. I have learned so much and grown as I faced many of my issues. My self-awareness, patience, compassion and tolerance have reached new peaks. I am eager to continue my journey. I would like to personally thank all the staff and volunteers... Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Bravo!! Turning Point...you make a difference!”
–Former Shelter Resident

Spending the holidays in a shelter isn't something any of us would choose for ourselves. However, it isn't an option for many women and children. But, thanks to you, those women and children will be able to have a safe and happy holiday! On behalf of everyone here at Turning Point, we'd like to thank the **Board of Commissioners** and also the Macomb County employees for your recent donation of \$33.00 from the **October 30th Casual Day**. Because of your outstanding commitment to our mission, the total amount raised at Casual Day was \$286.87!

For 35 years, we have been making a difference in the lives of our survivors with your help. Your support will provide life-saving services to women and their children fleeing violence, including a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, support groups, counseling, and more. Every day in our shelter, meals and beds are provided for up to 40 women and children. In addition, our Prevention Education program aims to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence among our youth in order to create a violence-free future.

Please visit our website at www.turningpointmacomb.org to find more information about our mission and updates on our accomplishments, challenges, and progress. We also encourage you to become a friend of ours on Facebook, Linked In or Twitter.

Wishing you a very happy Holiday Season!


Suzanne Coats
CEO



This letter serves as a receipt for your donation. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation
Amount of gift: \$33.00 Date of gift: 12/4/2015 Type of gift: Money Order-Ind
FMV of goods/services received: \$0 Designation of Gift: General Turning Point Tax ID#: 38-2292020





December 8, 2015

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Madeline Bialecki

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Krista Bur

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Shauna Ryder Diggs, MD
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Jeffrey Zonder, MD

Contact us:
The Lake House
26701 Little Mack
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

586.777.7761 - Office
586.777.7763 - FAX
www.milakehouse.org
info@milakehouse.org

Mr. David J. Flynn
Macomb County Board of Commissioners
1 S. Main Street 9th Floor
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043

Dear Mr. Flynn,

The Lake House was honored to have been selected as the beneficiary of the Macomb County Employees Casual Dress Day program. We are grateful for the \$970.00 which was collected during the month of October, 2015.

The Lake House is a gathering place where people who have been touched by cancer can find companions for their journey through support groups, wellness activities, social opportunities and educational seminars. I have enclosed the story of one of our members, Kristann; you will see how important The Lake House has been for her since she got cancer. Your support enables us to offer programs that respond to the needs of Kristann and others who have been touched by cancer.

On a Friday evening in November, one hundred people gathered at Macomb Mall for a *Celebration of Life*, a ceremony of remembrance. Snowflake ornaments created by our "Make It Monday" craft group decorate a *Tree of Memories*; each ornament bears the name of a loved one who has died. The tree is near Kohl's, and I invite you to stop by to see it. Please let me know if you would like to remember a loved one, and I will gladly add an ornament for you.

When cancer touches a child's life, it is so important for them and their families to have a safe place where they can share and process the experience with others on a similar journey. Whether the child has cancer—or a parent, family member, friend or classmate—a caring community can have a profound impact. Trust and hope can replace fear and anxiety. In the New Year, children and families will be able to find this crucial support through new children and family programs at The Lake House.

Your gift directly affects people who have been touched by cancer; you are making a difference.

With appreciation,

Madeline *Thanks so much!*
Madeline Bialecki
Executive Director

P. S. Please mark your calendar for *Laughs for The Lake House*, a night of comedy, to be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, at the Lakeland Banquet and Event Centre, 21801 E. Nine Mile, St. Clair Shores, 6:30-9 p.m. Call (586) 777-7761 or visit milakehouse.org to purchase tickets.

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

The Lake House is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation in the State of Michigan.

Metroparks board approves daily fee increase to \$10

Joel Kurth, The Detroit News 12:42 p.m. EST November 12, 2015



(Photo: Daniel Mears / Detroit News)

Brighton — Huron-Clinton Metroparks officials on Thursday unanimously approved entrance fee increases and a budget that includes a host of new spending initiatives.

With little discussion, the board approved 2016 daily entrance fees of \$10. That's up from \$7 now and double the \$5 the system of 13 parks in southeast Michigan charged in 2013.

Annual vehicle fees were already increased to \$35 from \$30 for 2016. Michigan's state parks, by contrast, cost \$11 per vehicle for annual passes.

Metroparks board chairman John Hertel said the system can't raise taxes beyond the 0.21-mill rate it charges homeowners in five counties. Like other governments, the Metroparks are hurt by declines in home values after the 2008 real estate crash, he said.

"The quality of the parks has been maintained throughout good and bad economic times," Hertel said.

The fee hike will raise \$1.2 million. It will help fund new expenses included in the \$50 million budget including a \$500,000 expansion to the system's headquarters at Kensington Metropark in Brighton, where the board met Thursday.

The panel also hasn't ruled out building new offices altogether.

Sterling Heights resident Jerry Sieja asked the board to reconsider.

"If you are going to have increases, they shouldn't go for new offices ... It's going to leave a bad taste in people's mouths," he said.

Fees also are increasing for other activities, such as cross-country skiing and boat storage and special events such as after-hours fireworks shows, which is increasing to \$15 from \$10.

The fee increases are expected to help pay for numerous investments, such as an increase in part-time staff, \$2 million in new vehicles and mowers and \$8.3 million in capital improvements. Big projects include \$1.6 million in improvements to the Lake St. Clair Metropark in Harrison Township and \$700,000 for boat ramp upgrades at Stony Creek Metropark in Shelby Township.

The fees increased one day after parks officials again rebuffed a land acquisition deal from Southfield developer Todd A. Wyett that he says would have reduced the need for a fee increase.

For nearly four years, he's tried to buy 30 unused acres owned by the system near Kensington. The triangle-shaped property bordered by I-96, Grand River and Martindale is inaccessible to the public and abuts a mobile home park.

On Wednesday, Wyett offered market value, plus a donation of \$500,000 to the parks. He wants to build light industrial office space for a project he said would create 700 jobs.

"This would have paid for their new office. They wouldn't need to raise the fees so much," said Wyett, principal of Versa Development.

The Metroparks system owns about 25,000 acres. Officials are studying the system's inventory and may sell some unused land, but the property near Kensington was bought with federal funds and is difficult to sell, said George Phifer, Metroparks director.

By law, the parks would have to refund the price to the federal government and replace the land with property of equal or greater value. The metroparks took decades to assemble and selling land isn't done lightly, Phifer said.

"We want to see what's in the best interest of Metroparks users and people of southeast Michigan," he said.

Wyett said he's offered numerous pieces of property over the years and repeatedly restructured the offer. He plans to take up the case with Oakland County and state officials.

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

County road crews stocked with salt with the approach of winter

County roads crews stocked with salt

By Norb Franz, *The Macomb Daily*

Saturday, November 14, 2015



While most residents planned warm weather activities over the summer, county road officials were thinking about Old Man Winter.

That's when they began buying and taking delivery of road salt.

Officials in Macomb and Oakland counties say they have plenty of salt available to help improve driving conditions when travel on the roadways turns treacherous.

"We're full to the brim," said Robert Hoepfner, director of the Macomb County Department of Roads.

"We're in good shape this year," said Craig Bryson, spokesman for the Road Commission for Oakland County.

"We have them fill the domes each year," Bryson said. "Our supplier doesn't anticipate a supply issue this year."

Milder Winter

Weather [forecasters predict a milder winter](#) in store than the past two years, with warmer than normal temperatures and less than average snowfall, at least into February.

"We love wishful thinking," Macomb's Hoepfner quipped. "We look at the information and just embrace it, but we realize it's Michigan, and who knows what the winter is going to be."

Warmer temperatures, however, can mean more potholes.

"We could have half as much snow and twice as much cost," said Gary Piotrowicz, deputy managing director of the Oakland Road Commission.

Piotrowicz said the most common winter complaint is that subdivisions are lower on the priority list behind state and county roads when it comes to plowing and salting after a snowstorm.

By The Numbers

Throughout the state, Michigan uses more than a million tons of road salt on freeways and state highways, spending \$60.7 million to battle ice- and snow-covered roads.

The bulk of road salt is used in Wayne County, weighing in at 191,710 tons at a cost to the state of \$10.4 million, according to the Michigan Department of Transportation,

Oakland County ranks second, costing \$2.6 million for 47,350 tons of road salt.

Macomb County figures show the county used 52,539 tons of road salt between October 2014 and April 2015, at a cost just under \$3 million.

The cost of salt has fluctuated in recent years. In 2012, road salt statewide was almost \$60 per ton, according to MDOT. It dropped significantly over the next two years, to \$44.99 per ton.

This year, the statewide average jumped to \$65.81.

MDOT figures show 343,158 tons of road salt was used in 2012. Usage spiked to 653,506 tons in 2014.

Salt On Hand

Macomb has more than 43,700 tons of road salt on hand. The salt is stocked nearly equally at the county service center domes located near Harper Avenue and Interstate 94 in Clinton Township; 23 Mile Road and M-53 in Shelby Township, 31 Mile Road and M-53 in Washington Township; and in downtown New Haven. The department also has a salt storage facility near Mound Road and Interstate 696 in Warren that road crews visit to treat roads in the southern part of the county.

Macomb County paid \$55.15 per ton to its salt supplier this year. That's far less than the \$78 per ton a year ago.

The supplier began making numerous trips to fill the salt domes in late summer, known at the "early fill."

Officials anticipate ordering another 28,000 tons of seasonal back-up at a cost of \$58.05 per ton.

Road officials aren't surprised if the supply has to be replenished well into winter but the late fill has been costlier. But on fewer occasions, the initial stock has lasted the season.

"It depends how powerful El Nino is this year. If it's a mild winter, we may get through" without requesting more, Hoepfner said.

For residents who cross county lines for work, play or other reasons, the road salt supply picture is equally bright.

In Oakland County, Bryson said the amount the road commission paid for salt is up significantly from last year – from \$49.90 per ton to \$58.05 per ton.

In an average winter, 130 trucks in the Oakland County fleet will plow and use 64,000 tons of salt. The Road Commission has a \$4.8 million salt budget and a total winter budget of \$12 million.

Road commissions often serve as MDOT's contractors for clearing state roads. Bryson said, at least in Oakland County, the road commission in turn hires municipal public works departments to be its contractors on county roads within municipal jurisdictions.

Oakland County's road commission has a 2,700-mile road system, plus 230 miles of state roads it takes care of under contract to the state. But 760 miles within the county are gravel roads that are not salted.

Overall, the landscape is a little less vast for the Macomb County roads department. Crews are responsible for plowing and salting 1,800 miles, including state roads that the county clears via contract with MDOT.

Macomb's salt budget this year is \$2.5 million. Frequent snowfalls eat up that budget more rapidly than one or two big wintry wallops like the record snowstorm that buried the area last February.

"If we get one 18-inch snowfall, it's not as bad as 10 one-inch snowfalls," he said.

Macomb County has 83 trucks in its county fleet for road maintenance.

Maintenance Superintendent Leo Ciavatta said nearly all have been fitted already with winter blowing blades and salt spreading equipment. On days of deep accumulation, the county contracts with private companies that operate large rigs to help plow snow. The county also has agreements with officials in Clinton, Chesterfield, Shelby and Washington townships in which the local DPW crews are called upon in a backup role to plow subdivision streets only.

But neither the township crews nor private firms apply salt.

(Paul Kampe of The Oakland Press contributed to this report.)

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20151114/county-road-crews-stocked-with-salt-with-the-approach-of-winter>

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Is Metro Airport biased against public transit users?

Eric D. Lawrence, Detroit Free Press 10:22 p.m. EST November 30, 2015



(Photo: Detroit Free Press)

With his white cane in hand, Fred Wurtzel is on a mission.

Wurtzel, the former head of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan, wants to show the challenges facing some disabled riders inside the Ground Transportation Center at Detroit Metro Airport's McNamara Terminal garage. A year ago, the Wayne County Airport Authority, citing safety concerns, moved the bus stop for public transportation providers.

What had been essentially curbside service for riders like 64-year-old Wurtzel, blind since age 40, now means a walk hundreds of feet farther, past a line of stops for shuttle buses and an elevator. The Free Press estimated the distance just to get to an indoor waiting area at five times as far. And the distance to and from the security area once travelers are inside also is farther.



DETROIT FREE PRESS

[Metro Airport accused of special treatment for students](#)

[\(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/11/29/metro-airport-accused-special-treatment-students/76309210/\)](http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2015/11/29/metro-airport-accused-special-treatment-students/76309210/)

The Ground Transportation Center is inside one of the world's largest parking garages. For Wurtzel, the vehicle noise and fumes, which are often amplified by jets parked at the terminal, create a confusing environment to navigate. He calls the effect "a wall of sound."

"The noise levels are just excruciating sometimes," said Wurtzel, who lives in Lansing and occasionally flies out of Metro Airport. "It's so loud, you can hardly hear the other passengers if there are any other passengers moving ahead of you. It removes a blind person's primary means of orientation, using their ears."

Wurtzel and others use the public-private AirRide service, a bus service connecting riders in Ann Arbor to the airport, and disability advocates want the bus stop returned to the terminal's International Arrivals area. Their concerns continue to dog the airport authority, which runs the facility, and are influencing a broader debate about whether the authority supports or acts as a barrier to regional public transportation.

The authority defends its record, saying it's an industry leader in its relationship with disabled people and that it values public transportation.

But the authority's decision to move the bus stop has raised concerns.



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[Metro Airport fights \\$200K FAA fine](#)

[\(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2015/11/18/metro-airport-faa-fine/76006894/\)](http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2015/11/18/metro-airport-faa-fine/76006894/)

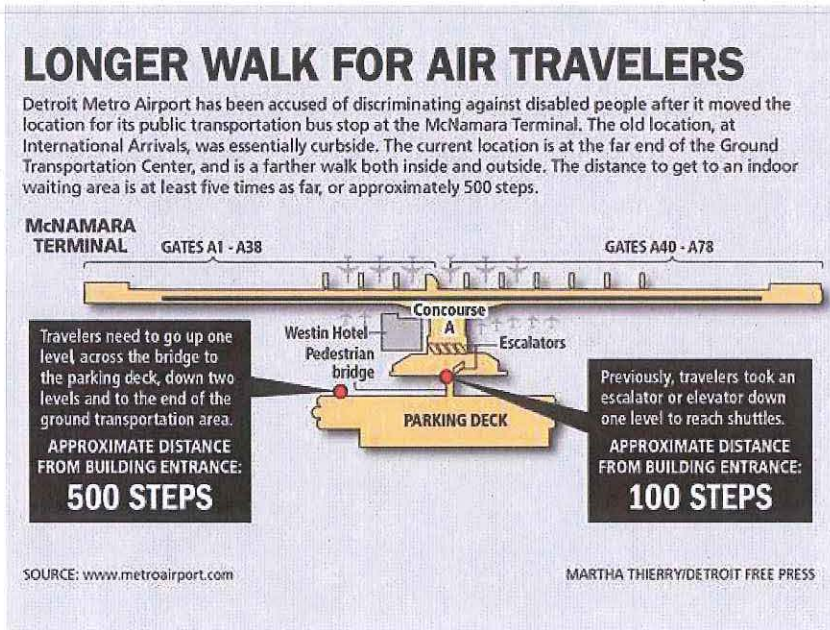
An initial flurry of letters seeking a resolution to the dispute or advising against the move came from officials including Gov. Rick Snyder, state Attorney General Bill Schuette and former U.S. Rep. John Dingell. That has given way more recently to a Federal Aviation Administration review of access issues at the airport, federal lawsuits and renewed requests from state legislators decrying "discrimination."

State Sen. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, and state Rep. Peter Pettalia, chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, sent a letter to FAA officials, calling on the agency to end the authority's "discriminatory practices" against the disabled community.

"As chairs of the state House and Senate transportation committees, we will not sit by and watch disabled public transportation users be effectively barred from using public transportation services, including travel service to DTW," reads the Oct. 14 letter. It says the new location "is unusable by many disabled riders, particularly those who wish to maintain their independence and travel alone."

Pettalia, R-Presque Isle, noted in a follow-up phone conversation that the distance from the public transportation stop is "quite a haul if you're in a handicapped situation. Whether you're in a walker or a wheelchair, it's quite a challenge."

Buy Photo



Longer walk for air travelers (Photo: Martha Thierry, Detroit Free Press)

One lawsuit, filed last month against the airport authority and Delta Air Lines in U.S. District Court by Lansing resident Paul Palmer, who has cerebral palsy, and Donna Rose, who is blind and lives in East Lansing, takes issue with the location of the drop off. The bus stop for public transportation providers AirRide and the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) is at the farthest possible spot of the Ground Transportation Center away from the terminal.

Despite the lawsuit, the attorney in that case, Jason Turkish of Southfield, is looking to the FAA.

"The FAA could end this," he said. "The FAA has direct oversight over Detroit Metro Airport. They can order the airport to make this accessible again, which is what I hope they do."

Even airport authority board member Sue Hall said she would like to see the airport make some kind of compromise for disabled riders using public transportation, perhaps dropping those riders closer to an entrance. She noted that the issue is close to her heart because she has a sister who has been blind since birth.



DETROIT FREE PRESS

[Laser strike at Metro-bound jet joins a dangerous trend](#)

(<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2015/11/12/laser-beam-hits-jet-detroit-metro-airport/75664820/>)

Airport says it was obliged to act

The airport authority has maintained since last year that its decision to move the stop was a matter of safety, and officials point to a handout with 17 photos taken at different times in the International Arrivals area as proof of unsafe congestion.

"We have observed numerous recurring instances of AirRide motor coaches loading or unloading passengers two or three lanes from the curb and have observed vehicles passing the AirRide bus on the right while pedestrians are in the street," airport authority CEO Thomas Naughton said in the news release announcing the change in September 2014. Naughton, along with John Hertel, general manager of SMART, and Michael Ford, who was then head of the Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) and now is CEO of the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan, signed the agreement that allowed AirRide to load and unload at that location two years earlier.

The photos, taken in August and September 2014, show numerous cars parked between AirRide buses and the curb, with some showing two buses in the same frame.

Critics have asked why the airport authority did not simply ticket passenger vehicles that were posing problems. Conway said that although the authority does "patrol the curb," it's not efficient in these situations. Better, he said, to move the buses to the Ground Transportation Center, which is designed to handle them. When asked why an employee shuttle, which continues to use the former SMART and AirRide stop, would not also pose a safety issue, the authority said the employees do not carry luggage, which means they do not take as long to load or unload.

Conway said the airport authority notified SMART and AirRide — operated by Michigan Flyer (a partnership whose majority owner is bus company Indian Trails) and provided through partnership with the Ann Arbor transit authority — months ahead of the switch. But AirRide, he said, has "continuously" raised objections.

Chad Cushman, vice president of Indian Trails, said the airport authority never mentioned concerns about safety before announcing the move.

Michigan Flyer filed a lawsuit against the airport authority this spring, claiming that the authority was retaliating against the service because of its support for disabled riders in a separate legal case involving conditions at the Ground Transportation Center. AirRide claims that the authority since has reduced the amount of time buses could remain at the curb, causing passengers to miss flights and forcing buses to leave before scheduled departure times.

But Conway appeared to push back against AirRide's claims.

"They were isolated from competitive ground transportation services, and it was right next to the building. Everybody wants to park right next to the door," Conway said, noting that SMART has never complained about the switch.

Brian Sadek, the airport authority's in-house counsel, said the old location might be more convenient for some people but it's far less safe.

Sadek and Conway said the Ground Transportation Center is specifically designed to handle buses and motor coaches and includes a tactile strip between the driving/parking area and the walkway. Sadek said the bus stop for SMART and AirRide was placed farther from the terminal entrance than other services because SMART and AirRide make fewer stops there. He said it is good practice to keep the most frequent users closer to the terminal and that the combined number of trips for SMART, AirRide and various charter services is approximately 51 per day, compared to hundreds of stops just for the rental car shuttles.

Regarding the level of service for disabled travelers in the center, Sadek said the authority goes "above and beyond the standard we have to meet."

Turkish, the Southfield-based attorney, however, would disagree, and even criticized the name of the Ground Transportation Center as misleading.

"It's a big name for a not-very-nice area," said Turkish, noting the distance and noise that Wurtzel mentioned as well as the frigid winter-time temperatures that travelers experience in what is effectively the outer edge of a covered open-air garage. He said the heaters in the bus stop shelters offer inadequate heat for conditions.

According to Turkish, the real issue is the airport authority's resistance to public transportation — a charge the authority strongly denies — because of the airport's funding model, which is reliant in part on revenue from parking and others sources, including its approximately \$1.5 million annual contract with Metro Cab. Conway calls any suggestion that the contract affects the authority's decisions on this front a red herring because it's a flat rate.

But those critical of the decision to move the SMART and AirRide bus stop note that Metro Cab and the affiliated Metro Cars services, which charge rates several times that of AirRide, occupy a location immediately outside an access door to get to the terminal.

Some say revenue is key

Those critics contend that revenue is the real issue. They note that any changes in revenue from parking and concession agreements — the airport waives fees for public transportation — affect how much the airlines pay. Turkish said that because of Delta's position at the airport, it has substantial say-so, and that when more people use public transportation, it is seen as cutting revenue.

Airport officials are quick to point out that the airport is user-supported — including through tickets, concessions and landing fees — rather than being funded directly by taxpayers. In fact, Delta pays for about 76% of the net debt service on the bonds that paid for the Ground Transportation Center, according to Conway, who noted that the airline pays for 100% of the net debt service on the McNamara Terminal.

That debt stems from the more than \$1 billion in bonds issued in 1998 "to construct the first phase of the McNamara Terminal, the attached parking garage, Ground Transportation Center and other airport capital improvement projects. The associated debt on those bonds will be retired in 2028."

Delta's influence was referenced during an airport board meeting in June on the topic of a moving walkway that has been idled for years — although passing travelers must continue to walk on it — because of a previous Americans with Disabilities Act lawsuit. Unlike walkways in some other parts of the airport, it is located in a more narrow area and forces everyone trying to pass to travel on the moving belts when it's operational, which can be dangerous for some disabled riders. A recording of the June meeting, where Wurtzel and his wife, Mary Wurtzel, who is also blind, spoke to the airport board, included a reference by board members to the airline and its apparent concerns about the loss of parking spaces if the walkway were to be retrofitted.

Instead, the airport authority plans to remove the walkway, which is on one of the floors above the Ground Transportation Center, although nothing has been finalized, according to Conway.

Airport officials were asked for, but did not provide, the number of parking spaces that would be lost if the walkway were to be retrofitted.

They did, however, reject the notion that Delta calls the shots, saying, "We make decisions based on what we, at the airport authority, believe is in the best interest of all our customers."

But this is not the first time questions have been raised about what affects decision-making at the airport, particularly regarding revenue.

A February 2013 study created for the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau by Wayne State University that weighed the viability of a shuttle service from downtown Detroit to the airport made several references to the effect Metro Airport's funding model has on airport authority decisions.

"Because of this model, both the airport and its constituent carriers are cautious about actions that could negatively affect airport revenues," the report said.

That report, incidentally, paved the way for Skoot, a shuttle service that connects certain locations — hotels, casinos and Cobo Center — in downtown Detroit to the airport. The service launched about two years ago, and owner Greg Bessoni said business has been good in the warm months but not so good in the winter, aside from the North American International Auto Show. At \$20-\$23 each way, a ride on Skoot is considered a bargain compared to some other options, although it is not as inexpensive as the \$12 ticket from Ann Arbor to the airport on AirRide.

Michael O'Callaghan, executive vice president and chief operating officer of the convention and visitors bureau, said the bureau had set out to expand transportation options for visitors to the Detroit area with the 2013 study.

O'Callaghan said the Detroit area can be a tough sell for visitors, in part because of transportation challenges. When the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America held its annual youth gathering in Detroit this summer, it cost an estimated \$2 million to provide busing for the 30,000 young Lutherans, he said, noting that it behooves the region to try to improve its lackluster public transportation system.

One way to do that would be to provide a service like AirRide to other parts of Metro Detroit, he said.

That effort, which appeared dead a few months ago, may have gotten new life. The RTA had issued a request for proposal for an express shuttle service to and from the airport, which would have been modeled on AirRide, from Detroit as well as Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

But there were no bidders, and the operators of AirRide, who would have been expected to bid on the service, even issued a letter of protest, citing an extra permit agreement for bus operators inserted at the behest of the airport authority as problematic.

Officials with Indian Trails/Michigan Flyer said they felt the agreement was unreasonable, could leave them open to being charged airport access fees and was targeted specifically at their service, while the airport authority said it was only codifying what already takes place in the Ground Transportation Center. Sadek, the airport attorney, has said the fees would not apply to the new service.

Critics, including Turkish, claim the airport authority purposely tried to torpedo the RFP process by insisting on the extra agreement. Sadek called that claim "very inaccurate."

But the RTA is now planning to rebid the service, although it would likely be limited initially to Detroit, some time in December. The extra airport authority agreement will remain despite a request from Indian Trails/Michigan Flyer that it be dropped.

The new RFP would be clearer about funding sources for what the RTA is calling a demonstration service, and open the process up to a wider array of vehicles, which would give a company like Skoot an opening, according to RTA spokesman Travis Gonyou. The RTA hopes to launch the service in 2016.

About the McNamara garage

"The McNamara Terminal Parking Structure is an 89-acre, 10-level facility that opened in February 2002. It is one of the largest parking structures in the world. It includes a ground transportation center, pedestrian bridge, two luggage check-in locations, conveyors and bridges to transport luggage, six restrooms, three offices for parking officials and two electrical substations. The structure can park 11,489 cars in seven user groups."

Source: 2009 Detroit Metropolitan Airport Accessibility Assessment

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Dec. 2, 2015, 7:35 a.m.

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

Local cable TV veteran hired as county public works liaison

By Norb Franz, *The Macomb Daily*

Wednesday, December 2, 2015



A veteran of cable television in Shelby Township and Warren has been hired by Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony Marrocco as the new community liaison for his office's wastewater division.

As community services manager, Megan O'Brien will work with the 12 member communities of the Macomb County Wastewater Disposal District and implement a public communications program aimed at county residents, local officials, other public agencies and the media. She replaces Mark Steenbergh, the former mayor of Warren, who was promoted to operations manager of the wastewater division.

O'Brien will represent the Public Works Office at meetings of the wastewater district and assist in forming strategic plans and capital improvement programs. Her salary is \$45,179.

The wastewater district, formed in 1967, is the largest in the county and one of the largest in the region with a population of 650,000. It includes the cities of Fraser, Sterling Heights and Utica; and Chesterfield, Clinton, Harrison, Lenox, Macomb, Shelby and Washington townships; and the village of New Haven. Within those communities, sewage is collected at 27 locations in Macomb County and flows to the Oakland-Macomb Interceptor sewer in the ITC Corridor in Sterling Heights. From there, the sewage goes to the Detroit Wastewater Plant for treatment and disposal.

Marrocco said O'Brien has special skills in government relations and communications.

"I expect her to be an important contributor to the operations of our office," he said Wednesday in a news release.

Most recently, O'Brien spent five years as a news anchor-reporter with the Shelby Township cable TV department. She also was a part-time production specialist at TV Warren, where she also served as a news anchor, reporter and program producer. O'Brien previously worked at an ABC news affiliate in St. Louis, Mo.

She said she looks forward to the challenge of her new duties.

"I know that my job is important to the operations of the wastewater district, and I will do my best to justify Commissioner Marrocco's confidence in me," O'Brien said. "I am very blessed for my time at Shelby Township. I worked with a great group of people, including legendary news person Phil Nye."

She holds a degree in media production from Southern Illinois University. She and her husband reside in

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

Hackel: Macomb County 'trending in the right direction'

County exec's address touts county government, growing economic base

By Mitch Hotts, *The Macomb Daily*

Wednesday, December 2, 2015



In his fifth annual State of the County address, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel recounted the high points of the past 12 months and also outlined goals for the next year that include a new program for the county jail aimed at helping incoming individuals with substance abuse and mental health issues.

Hackel detailed economic developments that included multi-billion dollar investments by Detroit's Big Three automakers into local facilities, a diverse "rush of new residents," and touted gains

made in job growth in Macomb communities.

"Simply put, Macomb County is trending in the right direction," said the Macomb Township Democrat.

Speaking to a capacity crowd of more than 1,200 people at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township, Hackel, with his usual energetic flair, played a video on a large screen that highlighted the county's attributes, with scenes from high school football games, Lake St. Clair, outdoor festivals and manufacturing plants. The message basically was there's something for everyone in Macomb County.

As a show of support for the region, those sitting in the front row for the speech included Detroit Deputy Mayor Ike McKinnon, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans, St. Clair County Board Chairman Jeffrey Bohm, and Huron-Clinton Metroparks Authority Director George Phifer. Oakland County Executive Brooks Patterson had a previous engagement, but sent three deputy execs in his place.

Among the highlights of the 46-minute address, Hackel spoke about the diversity of new residents coming into the county, the strength of the area's defense and aerospace industries, quality of life enhancements ranging from a \$5 million expansion with a roller coaster and zip line at C.J. Barrymore's complex to the new minor league baseball stadium under construction in Utica to a new Cabela's outdoor gear store coming to Chesterfield Township to a \$1 million playscape and sandy beach at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

He said more people than ever are enjoying what Macomb has to offer with a "rush of new residents" moving into the county. He said housing market is up 20 percent over the past three years, and the number of new African-American, Asian and Hispanic residents are at "all-time highs."

"We remain one of the fastest-growing counties in the state," Hackel said, adding since 2010, the county receives 19 new residents a day.

Hackel also outlined the confidence the automarket has in the county as General Motors has a \$1⁴² billion expansion underway at the Tech Center in Warren, while Fiat Chrysler Automobiles will put \$1 billion into the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant and Ford Motor Company plans to invest \$1 billion into its Sterling Heights facilities.

Pacing the stage while wearing a wireless microphone, he told the crowd that more than 1,600 manufacturing plants have set up shop in Macomb, employing more than 75,000 workers. With an annual \$13 billion economic impact, the county is ranked third in the United States in manufacturing growth.

While talking about the aerospace and defense industries -- which have \$1 billion in contracts in Macomb -- he pointed out Congress once again has put off retiring the A10 fighter jet plane at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, which he referred to as a "prized asset."

The biggest round of applause of the night came when Hackel introduced base commander Brig. Gen. John Slocum and told the crowd that a number of local troops recently returned from a mission in the Middle East where they were engaged in combat against the ISIS forces.

In terms of county government, the executive touted five straight years of having a balanced budget, which includes fully funding retiree healthcare obligations and gained an AA + bond rating.

A new initiative for the Macomb County Jail will address the intake process. Titled "Intake 48," the program will include having a number of mental health and substance abuse experts available to assess incoming inmates to determine what resources may best suit the individual. A consulting company is conducting a study on the process and there is no time frame for its implementation.

Afterward, David Flynn, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, called the speech "substantive and well thought out." Flynn said he was particularly interested in providing better educational, health care and human services opportunities to the public.

"The county's challenge is to figure out how to provide these federal and state services in an effective manner," he told reporters.

As in the past, the State of the County was followed by the Taste of Macomb, an afterglow-style party featuring cuisine from 31 local restaurants, ranging from Andiamo to White Castle.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20151202/hackel-macomb-county-trending-in-the-right-direction>

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Michigan cops fume over loss of U.S. military vehicles

Christina Hall and L.L. Brasier, Detroit Free Press 10:57 p.m. EST December 2, 2015

Local sheriffs say donated military equipment plays important safety role for officers, public



(Photo: Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press)

Michigan law enforcement agencies are returning donated surplus military equipment to the federal government this month — including tracked armored vehicles that metro Detroit sheriff's offices have had for more than a decade— under orders of the White House, and they are not happy about it.

"It really upsets me. We have a great asset. We have not abused it, and in just a blanket order we can no longer have it," Macomb County Sheriff Anthony Wickersham said of the tracked armored vehicle his office has had for its SWAT team since 2004. "Look what's happening around the country — mass shootings, barricaded gunman. An armored vehicle gives law enforcement the upper hand."

But Friday, that piece of now-stripped equipment will get picked up and hauled away, supposedly to a Department of Defense military training range to use as a more realistic target for aviators and ground forces. Next week, Wickersham plans to ask Macomb County commissioners whether he can roll over about \$350,000 in savings from his office from this fiscal year to next fiscal year to buy a wheeled vehicle as a replacement.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office was to lose its vehicle Wednesday and Wayne County Sheriff's Office is to return its vehicle Dec. 7. The three offices are among 15 law enforcement agencies in Michigan affected by the recall after an executive order signed by President Barack Obama earlier this year.

Other agencies that must return items are: Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Muskegon and Washtenaw county sheriff's offices and East Lansing, Gaines Township, Highland Park, Holland, Lansing, Niles and Saginaw police departments, according to Susan Lowe, public affairs specialist with Defense Logistics Agency, which oversees the federal surplus program.



DETROIT FREE PRESS

[Hackel touts billions in investments, initiatives for '16](#)

[\(http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/macomb/2015/12/02/hackel-state-county-address/76667208/\)](http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/macomb/2015/12/02/hackel-state-county-address/76667208/)

During his annual State of the County address (</story/news/local/michigan/macomb/2015/12/02/hackel-state-county-address/76667208/>) on Wednesday, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel said that after a [mass shooting in California killed at least 14 people](/story/news/nation/2015/12/02/officials-shooting-reported-calif-golf-course/76675776/) (</story/news/nation/2015/12/02/officials-shooting-reported-calif-golf-course/76675776/>) Wednesday, he heard Obama say on the radio that there are ways to make America safer. Hackel urged Obama that if he wanted to make first responders safer "first thing tomorrow morning rescind that order."

Since 2006, Michigan authorities have received more than \$40 million worth of surplus military equipment, including 17 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles or MRAPs, under the program, which is designed to beef up law enforcement agencies with equipment no longer needed for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment ranges from rifles to helicopters to flashlights and first aid kits.

But in an abrupt change in policy, Obama ordered that certain types of vehicles, in particular those armored personnel carriers that move on tracks, be returned, an apparent effort to tamp down criticism in the days following last year's fatal shooting of Michael Brown, an African American, by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo., that police have become too militarized.

"This administration has done an about-face on supporting law enforcement," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said. "As a result," he said, "America is less prepared for a variety of situations," like the attacks in Paris.

"We're actually taking away a proven asset from law enforcement all over the country, destroying on many levels our ability to handle a very big situation, any situation like Paris," Bouchard said. "Those are going to be handled by the local police and this is the type of equipment needed."

The images in Ferguson — a police force dressed in full combat gear and riding around in armored vehicles —prompted a nationwide call to end the militarization of police and all or part of the federal surplus program known as the 1033 program.

A report released last summer by the American Civil Liberties Union found that police departments nationwide were increasingly using military tactics and weapons for such routine matters as serving search warrants, sometimes with deadly and tragic results.

Among incidents cited in the report was the 2012 death of Aiyana Stanley-Jones, 7, of Detroit, who was struck by a bullet from an officer's gun as she slept on a couch during a Detroit police raid. Police in SWAT gear used a flash-bang grenade in that raid, too. They were looking for a murder suspect, who was found in the upper level of the duplex and surrendered without incident.

The ACLU urged the federal government to rein in incentives for police to militarize and wanted the government to track the use of military equipment in police hands, among other recommendations.

But Bouchard said that the equipment is too often portrayed by the media and White House as military assault weapons, when in truth, the tracked vehicles are not equipped with weapons, and are used to enter dangerous conditions as a large "safe box."

"All of this is being driven by perception, not reality," Bouchard said.

Oakland County, which tends to be affluent, purchased its own armored tracked vehicle in recent years, using federal grant money. The same kind of vehicle was used in Colorado Springs last week to break down the front doors of a Planned Parenthood clinic, rescue citizens, and force the gunman there to surrender.

Oakland County also is being asked to return 16 bayonets, used by the county for ceremonial purposes, like funerals and honor guards. "Apparently, they thought they were too threatening," Undersheriff Michael McCabe said.

Congresswoman Candice Miller, a Harrison Township Republican representing the 10th District, called the give-back plan "beyond ridiculous."

"I have been a longtime supporter of efforts that ensure our first responders have the resources they need to keep our communities safe. For the president and many of his liberal supporters to make a concerted effort to disarm them is beyond ridiculous," she said in an e-mail to the Free Press. "It hinders our first responders' ability to do their jobs as effectively as we need them to. I have hosted a seminar for all the first responders in my district to be aware of and to avail themselves of DoD equipment through their surplus equipment program, which is where Macomb County's MRAP tank came from. This surplus equipment has already been paid for by taxpayers, and they should continue to benefit from it."

Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties each got a tracked armored vehicle in 2004, Wickersham said, with the Macomb County Sheriff's Office using its vehicle for its SWAT team and hostage or barricaded gunmen situations. He said the vehicle — now stripped of its decals and added battering ram and hydraulic arm that could reach a second story — was used more than "a dozen or so times."

Wayne County Undersheriff Daniel Pfannes said the sheriff's office never had to use its vehicle during his tenure, which started in 2007. He said the vehicles were only to be used in a defensive posture — not an offensive one — to protect officers and evacuate citizens.

Obama's executive order includes the recall of bayonets, grenade launchers and tracked armored vehicles that were distributed to law enforcement agencies through the federal surplus program.

Lowe said the order also applies to all federal agencies that support law enforcement agencies through grants or excess property transfer. Those agencies include the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, Treasury and Interior and the General Services Administration.

The order took effect Oct. 1 and agencies have until April 1 to return the items, Lowe said.

She said that there also is a prohibited list of items that agencies cannot use government funds to buy. Equipment on that list includes tracked armored vehicles; weaponized aircraft, vessels and vehicles; .50-caliber firearms and ammunition; bayonets; camouflage uniforms, and grenade launchers.

She said that agencies returning tracked armored vehicles can ask to be put at the top of the list to obtain an MRAP, but it is unknown how long it will take to get such a vehicle.

Wickersham said he can't wait for an MRAP to become available. He said he tried to get another wheeled vehicle through Homeland Security to replace the tracked one the office is losing but that fell through.

He said there will be no way he can try to pay for a replacement vehicle before the end of this fiscal calendar year, so on Dec. 9 he plans to ask county commissioners if he can use savings from the sheriff's office 2015 budget to next year buy a wheeled armored vehicle, which is estimated to cost about \$330,000.

Pfannes questioned why there was a rush in getting the equipment returned and why authorities couldn't keep what they have until another vehicle through the surplus becomes available. He said Wayne County hasn't decided whether it is going to ask for an MRAP, but it can't afford to buy a replacement vehicle.

"It is a sad state of affairs. The taxpayers already paid for the equipment we had. I think it's rather sad if we had a new vehicle. Taxpayers pay twice," he said. "These things are not cheap."

Contact Christina Hall: chall99@freepress.com. Follow her on Twitter: [@challreporter](https://twitter.com/challreporter).

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Dec. 2, 2015, 10:50 p.m.

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

Friend of Court citizens advisory panel revived in Macomb County

Committee will review director's response to complaints, offer suggestions

By Jameson Cook, *The Macomb Daily*

Thursday, December 10, 2015



Perry Simmons Jr. of Warren said he feels an ingrained bias against him at the Macomb County Friend of the Court because he is the “non-custodial” parent of two young children.

“They treat me like I don’t want my kids,” said Simmons, the father of two. “There is a lot of pre-judgment going on just based on my custodial status.

“I am treated like I am a bad parent and they have limited resources to address situations that affect the children’s best interests,” he added on his application. “I have even been called a bad parent by a referee because I started dating after my divorce that I did not want or file for. My ex-wife wanted (the divorce).”

His treatment offends him because earlier this year he chose to let his ex-wife have custody of his children, 5 and 7, for their benefit, although he has frequent visitation and often takes the children for weeks at a time.

“I did not find it in their best interests to be living between two houses after such a big change in their life with me moving out of the home,” he said.

He added most noncustodial parents -- the majority being fathers -- love and care for their children.

So when he learned from a colleague that the FOC was reviving its dormant Citizen Friend of the Court Advisory Committee, he immediately applied. His appointment and those of eight other members of the committee were approved Thursday by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners.

The committee, which has been dormant the past 10 years, is allowed under a 1982 state law. Its job is to review FOC Director Tom Blohm’s responses to grievances filed by FOC patrons. The committee cannot mandate anything but can make suggestions that Blohm indicated he is open to receiving.

Blohm was supported by the County Executive Office’s suggestion to revive the panel.

“I think it will bring new ideas to operate better and provide better service to families of Macomb County,” Blohm said. “This is something we wanted to do to provide an additional level of support to the Friend of Court and make sure I am doing my job.”

His department receives up to 30 complaints per year about operations or personnel as part of a mandated grievance process. Those who file and are dissatisfied with his response can appeal to Chief Judge James Biernat Jr.

Blohm, who has worked at the FOC for 32 years, was elevated to the director post last April after former director Lynn Davidson retired in January. ⁴⁷

He said the committee functioned for many years but dissipated about 10 years ago.

Assistant Macomb County Executive Al Lorenzo inquired about it after Blohm was named to the post.

Lorenzo said nothing in particular led to him asking about the panel and that he is “amazed” by the quality of work done by the FOC. But he added, “It seems having an external review body makes sense for some cases.”

Committee members were recruited by “sending word” to several local organizations, such as Leadership Macomb, Lorenzo said.

The function of the FOC is to enforce child support, alimony, parenting time and custody orders of judges and referees. The 106-employee, \$13-million department also conducts investigations and makes recommendations to referees and judges on those matters. Referee decisions can be appealed to a circuit court family judge.

Blohm could not comment on Simmons’ allegations but said he supports an unbiased approach to all cases.

“We strive to be equitable to both parties,” he said. “We work very hard to make sure we are not gender biased.”

Blohm stated he has talked to Simmons about his concerns and will be glad to listen to his and other members’ recommendations.

“I welcome people like Perry who think there are things we can improve upon,” he said.

Simmons, the manager of the Sterling Heights branch of Extra Credit Union, didn’t join the panel for preferred treatment in his case.

“I am not looking for this position to change my outcomes of (my) situation but more so to help identify ways to look at the non-custodial parent as not just a support payment,” he said on the application.

He also wants to look at ways to lessen the time for a child-support order to be implemented for garnishment. He said the delay forces the parent to “start out in arrearages.”

He added he would like a better system for making direct payments to the spouse without relying on the word of the recipient parent.

“You can pay directly, but you have to trust your ex-spouse will tell them,” he said.

Blohm said noncustodial parents “are obligated to pay on their own” and “are not supposed to make direct payments” to the custodial parents.

The committee will meet every other month. The panel will choose a chairperson.

Each member of the panel fits a defined category. Following are the other members:

- Suzan Fischer, mental health professional, is a psychotherapist who lives and works in Mount Clemens.

- Wendi Johnson, general public, is a Clinton Township resident and an Oakland University assistant⁴⁸ professor in the department of sociology, anthropology, social work and criminal justice.
 - Robert Leonetti, family law attorney, is a Harrison Township resident who practices from a Mount Clemens office.
 - Kelly Mitchell, general public, is a Clinton Township resident and family advocate for the Head Start program in the Macomb County Community Services Agency.
 - Jill Thomas-Little is a Clinton Township resident and vice president of student services at Macomb Community College in Warren.
 - Sheila Graves-Snyder works in the Macomb County office of the state Department of Human Resources.
 - Detective Sgt. Jason Abro works in the Macomb County Sheriff's Office.
 - Beth Kirshner is an assistant prosecuting attorney, Macomb County Prosecutor's Office.
-

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/government-and-politics/20151210/friend-of-court-citizens-advisory-panel-revived-in-macomb-county>

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'Millennial' committee to give Oakland County leaders insight into younger generation

By Paul Kampe, paul.kampe@oakpress.com, [@paulkampe](#) on Twitter

Friday, December 11, 2015



At 76 years old, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is wise enough to acknowledge his shortcomings with technology.

The longtime Republican leader also realizes that the technology natives of the “millennial” population — defined as those born between 1981 and 1991 — who are flooding the county’s workforce, need to have a say in county programs and policy.

The county has created a committee dedicated to understanding the needs of that specific age group.

“They grew up with technology,” Patterson said. “They probably had computers at four and five years old. People my age are still learning to use them.”

The generation comprises just over one-third of the county’s workforce of 631,125, slightly below the state’s 38-percent mark, according to numbers provided by Oakland County manager of Workforce Development John Almstadt.

“This is one of our goals to move Oakland County to a knowledge-based economy,” Patterson said. “They’re already there in that movement.”

Patterson announced the group, which was six months in the making, at a business roundtable event in Troy Dec. 1.

The committee joins the four pre-existing committees on the county roundtable which address areas such as economic development, quality of life, workforce and education and transportation.

The groups offer their annual suggestions to Patterson and other leaders.

Six of the group’s seven core members were introduced at the business roundtable event, all of them previously recognized as part of Patterson’s Elite 40 Under 40 — which honors professionals under the age of 40 for excellence in their respective fields — within the past three years.

“Having a Millennial voice will allow (Patterson) to know what millennials are thinking,” spokesman Bill Mullan said. “(He) wants millennials to think it’s a cool place to live and work.

“They’re the future. His vision is always 20 years down the road.”

The group’s founding members could also one day lead the county of more than a million residents.

“In a short time, they could move into government jobs,” Patterson said. “It’s just a talented group⁵⁰ of overachievers.”

Mullan noted information technology is the second-fastest growing of several “emerging sectors” identified by county leaders, with more than 2,000 companies in Oakland County.

“We’re addressing the reality ... more and more, the workplace is going to be made up of millennials and we want to make sure they have a voice,” he said. “Their perspective is very important.”

County officials expect to introduce other initiatives aimed at the age group within the next year, Patterson hinted, but declined to specify their nature.

What do millennials offer?

Oakland University manager for student success Krista Malley describes employees of millennial generation as “tech-savvy, social media gurus” with a desire to learn from the best through training and constructive feedback.

Members of the group are typically creative problem solvers unafraid to ask questions and can rethink a process to arrive at a solution, Malley added.

“The solution is better because it’s different,” she said. “It’s a complete paradigm shift.”

Malley said that while employees in that age range typically specialize in technology, they also show strength in areas such as advising and hiring roles as well as examining various processes.

Millennials, who tend to be a culturally aware and engaged generation adept to giving back to the community, are eager to progress quickly, Malley said, and sometimes that can be a drawback.

“They want their first job and then they want to be the boss,” she said. “It just takes time to get to that next level.”

Catering to millennials

One such company catering to the Millennial workforce is Troy-based Element5 Digital, which specializes in digital marketing and website development.

The company offers perks such as the occasional on-site massage or office place “Olympic” competitions as well as remote working and flexible scheduling.

Owner Paul Chambers said he always tries to embrace new ideas and directions.

“We work in a world driven by millennials,” he said. “They’re the driving force behind the world we live and work in every day.

“(Millennials) are the ones helping all that take shape,” so it makes sense to employ them.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20151211/millennial-committee-to-give-oakland-county-leaders-insight-into-younger-generation>

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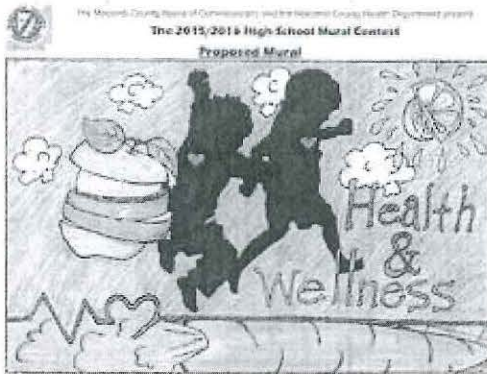
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County board announces winners of mural-painting contest

County board announces winners of mural-painting contest

By Frank DeFrank, *The Macomb Daily*

Monday, December 14, 2015



Eight students representing three high schools will leave their mark on Macomb County after they were named winners Monday in the county-sponsored High School Mural Contest.

Among the winners are four exchange students from Beijing, China, who reside at the Taylor International School and Dorm in St. Clair Shores and attend Lake Shore High School.

The winning students will paint murals that depict healthy lifestyles at three facilities operated by the Macomb County Health Department.

Winning students, schools, adult sponsor, title of their murals and location where they'll be painted are:

- Angelo Evans, Mount Clemens High School, sponsor Maureen Cusenza; "Healthy Imaginations, WIC office at the Verkuilen Building, Clinton Township;
- Rachel Coy, Ann Krause and Bethany Williams, Sterling Heights High School, sponsor Jennifer Kay-Rivera; "Leading Healthy Lives in the Community," Southwest Health Center, Warren;
- Clair Chuning Wang, Petra Zipei Zhang, Grace Geshi Wang and Annie Yaxin Tu, Lake Shore High School Art Club, sponsor Holly LoGrasso; "LSHSAC," Southeast Health Center, St. Clair Shores.

"The dedication these students have put in already truly shows in the artwork submitted," said Dave Flynn, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, which sponsored the contest. "Their commitment to their artwork and their interest in the overall health of Macomb County citizens will surely shine even brighter once these submissions are brought to life."

The Board of Commissioners sponsored the contest for all Macomb County students in grades nine through 12. Students were asked to submit designs that reflected what it means to be healthy in Macomb County.

Three winning entries were selected through a public voting contest and a panel. Online voting took place Nov. 30 through Dec. 4. Ten finalists were selected before a panel of county representatives chose the top three.

The Board of Commissioners and county Health Department held the contest to encourage students to explore their creativity and encourage them to think about healthy lifestyles.

Moreover, organizers hope those who visit the health centers receive the same message when they⁵² see the murals.

Students must complete the murals by April 29, 2016.

URL: <http://www.macombdaily.com/general-news/20151214/county-board-announces-winners-of-mural-painting-contest>

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Macomb officials conducting survey on Mt. Clemens space

By [Christina Hall](#), Detroit Free Press 3:08 p.m. EST December 16, 2015

The old garage will be razed as part of \$65-million renovation project at county's downtown Mt. Clemens campus



(Photo: Macomb County)

Macomb County and Mt. Clemens officials are looking for input on what to do with the spot of land currently occupied by a county parking garage that is to be razed next year after a new parking deck is built at the county administration building in downtown Mt. Clemens.

The site will be vacant once the garage at Gratiot, Market and North Main streets, next to Macomb County Circuit Court, is demolished as part of a \$65-million renovation of the county's downtown campus.

The visioning committee looking for ideas includes representatives from the county executive and board of commissioners, Mt. Clemens City Commission, Mt. Clemens Downtown Development Authority and Macomb

County Chamber.

The committee designed a short survey to seek input from all county residents, with the input guiding recommendations to county and city leaders for future projects related to the downtown area. Mt. Clemens households also will get the survey delivered in their newsletter.

Hard copies of the survey are available at three locations in Mt. Clemens: the chamber of commerce, 28 First St., Suite B; the jury room at circuit court, 40 North Main, and the county commission office, 1 South Main, ninth floor.

To fill out the survey online, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CountySeatVisioningProject> (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CountySeatVisioningProject>).

Surveys are due by Dec. 24. They can be dropped off at the locations where they can be picked up or mailed to the Macomb County Chamber of Commerce.

Contact Christina Hall: chall99@freepress.com (<mailto:chall99@freepress.com>). Follow her on Twitter: [@challreporter](#).

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Column: Syrian man says he's 'ashamed for America'

Macomb commission committee OKs radio upgrades

By Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press 3:40 p.m. EST December 16, 2015

The project would improve police, fire communications throughout the county from Warren to the northernmost communities.



(Photo: Christina Hall, Detroit Free Press)

Emergency responders throughout Macomb County are expected to have better radio communications after a county commissioner committee approved spending about \$6 million of surplus funds toward upgrades to the system.

The board's finance committee approved the project in a 9-4 vote today, with a final vote expected at Thursday's full board meeting.

Commissioners have been critical of the overall \$10-million project because of its timing at the end of the fiscal calendar year. While other county officials have been talking about it since October, the board first learned of it after a news conference last month by Executive Mark Hackel.

The countywide project calls for more towers in the county's growing northern end and needed communications upgrades for Warren, where police and fire communications have dead spots. Warren would become a backup dispatch center for the county, and the county would become a backup dispatch center for Warren, which dispatches its own police and fire services.

A dispatch center serving Roseville, Eastpointe and St. Clair Shores also would receive some upgraded consoles. The entire project could be finished in a year and is to get about \$1 million in grants to help pay for it.

The commissioners have to make a final decision by Friday. That's the latest that Motorola extended its deadline for a \$2.1-million discount for the county and Warren, which approved spending \$2.4 million for its portion of the project Tuesday, county officials said. County officials said Motorola, which has been with the county since the 1930s, would not extend the discount beyond Friday.

Commissioner Joe Sabatini, who voted against the project but said he might change his vote Thursday, said Motorola wanted to wrap things up for year-end bonuses and other corporate reasons.

Board Chairman David Flynn and Commissioners Kathy Tocco and Kathy Vosburg also voted no.

Commissioner Don Brown said he wasn't thrilled with how the project came to the board, but on balance county residents are going to receive enhanced services and he didn't want to "let our pride" get in the way of making the right decision.

Commissioner Veronica Klinefelt agreed.

"What if the agreements fall apart because we delayed? I'm not willing to take that chance," she said. "I don't see the benefit of delay. I don't see the benefit of no."

Commissioner Bob Smith, a retired fire marshal in Clinton Township, voted yes because of his background and the matter being a public safety issue.

He, too, was upset about the board not knowing anything about the project before the last few weeks and said if another issue comes to the board at the last minute that it wasn't aware of: "I don't care what the issue, I'm not gonna vote yes."

Deputy Executive Mark Deldin said, "It's obvious many of you are more concerned about the process than the merits of the project."

He said it was only October when talks started between the county and Warren — the state's third-largest city — a key piece to making the project work.

"Whoever would have thought of that" happening? Deldin said.

Contact Christina Hall: chall99@freepress.com (mailto:chall99@freepress.com). Follow her on Twitter: @challreporter.

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Official Proclamation of the Board of Commissioners
Macomb County, Michigan

**A Proclamation Honoring the 2015 Romeo High School
Football Team on Achieving
2015 MHSAA Division 1 State Championship Title**

Commissioner Don Brown
On Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offers the Following Proclamation:

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners congratulates the **2015 Romeo High School Football Team** for their achievement of the Division 1 State Championship title for the first time in the program's history; and

Whereas, the **2015 Bulldogs Football Team** earned their way to the State Playoffs for the 12th consecutive year with a 13-1 regular season record; and

Whereas in their conference, the **2015 Romeo High School Football Team** went undefeated (5-0) to become the MAC White Division Champions, and Bulldogs coaching team Curt Rienas and Jason Couch were named the MAC White Division Coaches of the Year and Detroit Lions Co-Coaches of the Week, an honor that includes a \$2000 donation from the Lions organization to the Romeo team; and

Whereas the **2015 Romeo High School Football Team** was also named the Macomb County Team of the Year and earned a ranking of 11th in team GPA within the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Division 1 Ranks; and

Whereas, the **2015 Romeo High School Football Team** also received the following individual honors: MAC White Division Most Valuable Player – Brad Tanner; Metro East Most Valuable Player – Brad Tanner; Macomb County Player of the Year – Brad Tanner; MHSFCA Division 1 Coaches of the Year – Curt Rienas and Jason Couch.

Now, Therefore Be it Proclaimed By the Board of Commissioners, Speaking For And On Behalf of All County Citizens As Follows:

I

That By These Presents, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners hereby publicly honors and congratulates all members of the **2015 Romeo High School Bulldogs Football Team** on their spectacular season, including team and individuals accolades.

II

Be it Further Resolved that a suitable copy of this Proclamation be presented to the **2015 Romeo High School Bulldogs Football Team** in testimony of the pride held by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners for this team.



COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH
OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
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Clinton Township, MI 48036
PHONE: 586-469-5278 FAX: 586-469-5568
www.mcosa.net

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County Executive

John L. Kinch
Executive Director

Randy J. O'Brien
Program Director

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MEMBER

December 16, 2015

TO: James Carabelli, Macomb County Commissioner – District 6
FROM: Randy O'Brien, Director, Office of Substance Abuse (MCOSA)
RE: Macomb County Community Mental Health
Public Act 2/Liquor Tax Funds Consideration

ROB

I am writing on behalf of the Macomb County Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Oversight Policy Board (OPB) in response to your October 15, 2015 request for the OPB to evaluate certain services currently paid for through County General Funds, to determine if "Public Act 2 Dollars can fund these substance abuse treatment and prevention services".

The OPB took up your request at its November 4, 2015 meeting and discussed it at length. In the end, it was decided that funding any of the proposed projects at this time would not be appropriate. Their rationale follows.

The OPB has an established objective review process for funding SUD services. This process begins with a formal written proposal that must meet strict criteria in order to assure that the best possible programming is being offered for our County consumers. Among other considerations, the proposals must include an organizational description outlining agency history, SUD experience, staffing qualifications, licensure and accreditation for the services proposed, a detailed description of the services to be provided, how they will meet the identified needs as determined by MCOSA, and how they will measure effectiveness and costs. This process is followed for all service proposals.

The vast majority of service providers are selected through an open and competitive bid process that occurs every 3 years. MCOSA solicits written proposals from SUD providers throughout the Tri-County area, following federal and state requirements. An emphasis is placed on Macomb County SUD needs and priorities. After review by teams of MCOSA staff and OPB members, utilizing an objective scoring system with clearly defined criteria, the OBP as a whole approves the selections and recommends contracting with the selected providers to the MCCMH Board. Following their consent, funding allocations are determined for each provider. MCOSA completed the RFP process this past summer, thereby establishing its provider panel and service continuum through September 30, 2018.

Unfortunately, your request falls outside of the bid process and does not provide sufficient information for evaluating the efficacy of any of the services suggested. In addition, it came after the allocations had been determined for the current fiscal year that began October 1, 2015. Any future requests should be in the form of a written proposal containing the required information for each service, in accordance with MCOSA guidelines and submitted prior to the County's budget cycle.

As you are aware, MCOSA and the County each received an unanticipated increase of over \$1 million in its PA 2 distribution this past year. Since this increase factored into your request, we thought you would appreciate receiving a funding update. In September, MCOSA's allocation from the Michigan Department of Community Health was reduced by \$518,000 for FY2016. Further, MCOSA's Healthy Michigan Plan capitation rates were reduced for FY2016, resulting in a projected net loss of Healthy Michigan Plan and Medicaid to be \$825,000. Additional cuts are also anticipated for the second half of the fiscal year. Consequently, the increase in PA 2 funds received will likely be needed to offset the revenue losses and ensure services for Macomb County residents are not disrupted.

MCOSA has enjoyed a long history of collaboration with the County and County agencies through numerous initiatives, and looks forward to continuing these partnerships. While we are willing to hear of new opportunities to partner with County programs that are working on the same goals to serve the substance use treatment and prevention needs of our residents, with services that align with our priorities, we must be mindful of the overall funding needs to support currently contracted services before committing to new initiatives.

Please note that the Macomb County Community Mental Health Board reviewed your request on December 16, 2015, and concurs with the response of the SUD Oversight Policy Board.

Thank you for your inquiry and your consideration.

cc: MCOSA SUD Oversight Policy Board
Macomb County Community Mental Health Board
John Kinch, MCCMH Executive Director
Mark Deldin, Deputy County Executive
Stephen Smigiel, County Finance Director
John Schapka, County Corporation Counsel
Anthony Wickersham, Sheriff
Barb Caskey, Director of Community Corrections
Rhonda Westphal, Juvenile Justice Center Director
Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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October 15, 2015

TO: Macomb County Community Mental Health Board;
 Macomb County Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board

FROM: James Carabelli, Macomb County Commissioner – District 6

RE: Public Act 2 Funds Consideration

As you are aware, the convention facility/liquor tax, (“Public Act 2 Dollars”), distribution to Macomb County for 2014-15 was \$6,092,255 - a 149 percent increase from 2013-14. This has resulted in a \$1,046,127 increase to Macomb County’s Substance Abuse Fund.

As members of the coordinating bodies that receive and disburse these funds, I would like to bring to your attention some existing substance abuse treatment and prevention services provided by the county that may be eligible to be funded by Public Act 2 Dollars.

On September 8, 2015, I met with various department leaders to understand the substance abuse treatment and prevention programs offered by their respective departments. In addition to the services that are offered in conjunction with MCOSA, I learned that the following services were also offered using the County’s General Fund (totaling approximately \$220,770 each year):

- **Community Corrections**
 - Harbor Light - \$72,000
 - Co-pays for substance abuse treatments - \$28,270
- **Sheriff’s Office**
 - DARE Program (1 Deputy) - \$114,000
- **Juvenile Justice Center**
 - Sound Counseling - \$6,000
 - Drug Tests - \$2,500

MACOMB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Through various public discussions, I also learned that substance abuse treatment services are being provided by Correct Care Solutions LLC, the medical service provider contracted by the Sheriff's Office and the Juvenile Justice Center. The cost for these services are included in the \$1.1 million annual total contract cost, wherein 75 percent is paid by the County's General Fund.

As you continue to make decisions on behalf of the county regarding disbursement of Public Act 2 Dollars, I am requesting that you evaluate the above items and determine if Public Act 2 Dollars can fund these substance abuse treatment and prevention services.

I am also asking for a formal response to this memo at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to contact my office should you have any questions.

Thank you for the important work you do on behalf of Macomb County.

CC: John Kinch, MCCMH Director; Randy O'Brien, MCOSA Director;
Mark Deldin, Deputy County Executive; Stephen Smigel, County Finance Director;
John Schapka, County Corporation Counsel; Anthony Wickersham, Sheriff,
Barb Caskey, Director of Community Corrections; Rhonda Westphal, Director of Juvenile Justice Center;
Macomb County Board of Commissioners

Attachment: Consolidated document containing legal opinions, memos, and supporting documents pertaining to Public Act 2 Funds for Macomb County