

PUBLIC SAFETY and INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

3/23/2015

304 E. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI 48843

7:30 PM

AGENDA

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
 - 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Minutes of Meeting Dated: February 23, 2015
 - 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - 4. REPORTS**
Purchase New Weapons - Lt. Sanborn
 - 5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**
 - 6. RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**
-
- 07 Drain Commissioner**
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILLING OF THE ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR POSITION - Drain Commissioner / Infrastructure & Development
-
- 08 Sheriff**
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ATTENDANCE TO OUT OF STATE TRAINING FOR TWO DETECTIVES - Sheriff Department / Public Safety / Finance / Board
-
- 09 Central Dispatch**
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS' WEEK, APRIL 12 - 18, 2015 - 9-1-1 Central Dispatch / Emergency Management / Public Safety / Finance / Board
-
- 10 Building Inspections**
RESOLUTION OPPOSING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND COSTS TO BUSINESS OWNERS, CONTRACTORS, AND DEVELOPERS - Building Inspections / Infrastructure & Development / Finance / Board
-
- 11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**
 - 12. ADJOURNMENT**

MEETING MINUTES

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

FEBRUARY 23, 2015 – 9:00 PM

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING – BOARD CHAMBERS
304 E. GRAND RIVER AVENUE, HOWELL, MI 48843

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

DAVID DOMAS KATE LAWRENCE DON PARKER RON VANHOUTEN

OTHERS:	<u>JIM ROWELL</u>	<u>ROBERTA BENNETT</u>	<u>TOM CREMONTE</u>
	<u>SCOTT DOMINE</u>	<u>CHAD CHEWNING</u>	<u>CAROL GRIFFITH</u>
	<u>DENNIS DOLAN</u>	<u>GARY CHILDS</u>	<u>STEVEN WILLIAMS</u>
	<u>WILLIAM GREEN</u>	<u>BELINDA PETERS</u>	<u>DEBBIE WARDEN</u>
	_____	_____	_____

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by: **COMM. LAWRENCE** at 9:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** MINUTES OF MEETING DATED JANUARY 26, 2015:

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, AS PRESENTED.

MOVED BY: VAN HOUTEN

SECONDED BY: PARKER

ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, AS PRESENTED.

MOVED BY: PARKER

SECONDED BY: VAN HOUTEN

ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED

4. **REPORTS:** JEFF BOYD STATED THAT THE 911 SURCHARGE WILL STAY THE SAME AT \$1.82 AND CONTINUE FROM JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2016

5. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:** None.

6. **RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

7. 911 CENTRAL DISPATCH: RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ADDITION OF 6 FULL-TIME POSITIONS IN THE 911 DEPARTMENT

**RECOMMEND MOTION TO: FINANCE
MOVED BY: DOMAS
SECONDED BY: VAN HOUTEN
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

This will include four dispatchers and 2 supervisors

8. BUILDING INSPECTION: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT

**RECOMMEND MOTION TO: FINANCE
MOVED BY: VAN HOUTEN
SECONDED BY: DOMAS
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED:**

9. SHERIFF: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ATTENDANCE TO OUT-OF-STATE TRAINING FOR ONE DETECTIVE

**RECOMMEND MOTION TO: FINANCE
MOVED BY: DOMAS
SECONDED BY: VAN HOUTEN
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

10. JAIL: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL PROPERTY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**RECOMMEND MOTION TO: FINANCE
MOVED BY: PARKER
SECONDED BY: DOMAS
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 9:17 PM
MOVED BY: DOMAS / SECONDED BY: PARKER
ALL IN FAVOR - MOTION PASSED**

**DEBBIE WARDEN
RECORDING SECRETARY**

RESOLUTION

NO: 2015-03-001 PI

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE: March 23, 2015

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILLING OF THE ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR POSITION – Drain Commissioner / Infrastructure & Development

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner’s office maintains 400 established county drains, thirteen sanitary sewer collection systems, and 9 lake level control structures across the county; and

WHEREAS, the account structure for the Drain Commissioner’s office includes an equipment revolving fund, as well as revolving funds for the abovementioned Drain and Lake projects; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner’s office also maintains all accounting records (including construction accounting) for projects performed by the Livingston County Department of Public Works, including maintenance of the closed county landfill; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Drain Code, Act 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended, Parts 307 (Inland Lake Level) and Part 309 (Inland Lake Improvements) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA), each require separate accounting records be maintained for these projects; and

WHEREAS, the current Accounting Supervisor, Russell Potter, has tendered his resignation effective April 17, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the accounting needs of the abovementioned entities, combined with the general fund obligations of the office require the staffing of the Accounting Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, funding for this position is available in the Drain Commissioners Budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the filling of the Accounting Supervisor and any subsequent vacancy or vacancies within the Drain Commissioner’s office created as a result of filling this position.

Position Control - Munis [Livingston County] > Position Control				
Position #	Description	Stat	# Emps	CY FTE
27500116	ACCOUNTING SUPERVISO	A	1	1.000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners authorizes the appropriate Budget Amendment(s) to effectuate the above.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Requester: Brian Jonckheere
Dept. Phone Number/Extension: 6773

Title of Requester: Drain Commissioner
Date Requested: 3/18/15

POSITION REQUESTED INFORMATION

Position Title: Accounting Supervisor Supervisor: Ken Recker

Is the purpose of this request to fill a position as a result of a vacancy? Yes No

Is the purpose of this request to change the scheduled hours of an existing position? No From: To:

Is the purpose of this request to reclassify a current position? Yes No

If yes, name and title of Incumbent: _____

If adding an additional position, name and title of an Incumbent (or if vacant, previous incumbent) in same position title within your department: _____

Position Type: Reg. Term/Grant Temp. Unpaid Special

Position Status: Full-Time 30+ Part-Time 21-29 Part-Time 20 or Less

Number of Work Hours Per Week: 40

Justification for change of hours/addition of position (REQUIRED): _____

FUNDING INFORMATION

Proposed Base Annual Salary: _____ This position is funded in whole or in part by a grant % Funded

Position will be 100% funded by: General Fund Enterprise Fund Special Revenue Fund Internal Service Fund

Funding Source(s) (check all that apply)

Percent

- Increased Fees _____
- Contract/Charges for Service _____
- Requires General Fund Resources _____
- Reduction of Expenditures _____

Which expenses were reduced and by how much?

REQUIRED APPROVALS

Kenneth E. Recker 3/18/2015
Supervisor (if applicable) MPL Date

[Signature] 3/18/15
Department Head Date

HR OFFICE ONLY

Job Class: 7015 Job Title: Accounting Supvt., Drain Grade: Select 8

Employee Group: Select NU Exempt/Union/Non-Exempt: Select Step: Select 6

Temple 3-18-15
HR Reviewed Date Reviewed

BUDGET OFFICE ONLY

Position Control # 27500116 Org. 10127500 Object Code: 704000 706000 706001

Funds Available: Yes No

Cynthia Catanzuch 3/18/15
Budget Reviewed Date Reviewed

Board Authorized on Date: _____ Resolution #: _____

REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO THE HIRING FREEZE

Request Submitted by: Brian Jonckheere

Title of Position to be Filled: Accounting Supervisor Salary: \$75,556

Position Control#: 27500116

Annual Cost of Budgeted Position (incl. fringe benefits): \$75,556

Projected Cost for the next five years (incl. fringe benefits): Approximately \$400,000

New Position/Classification (Yes/No): No

If No: Name of Employee Last Occupying this Position: Russell Potter

When did the position become vacant?

The position will become vacant when Russ Potter retires on April 17, 2015.

Has sufficient time been given to properly compensate for vacation and/or sick pay-offs to insure personnel expenses do not exceed the authorized budget?

Yes. The Department was aware in advance that Russ would be retiring this year and has planned for this in the budget.

1. Briefly describe this position and why you believe that it is essential enough to warrant an exception to the overall Livingston County hiring freeze. Provide a copy of the job description.

The job description is attached.

The accounting needs of the office have generally increased in complexity since the establishment of the Accounting Bookkeeper II position in 2002. Changes in auditing standards, such as GASB 34, issues with delinquent sewer special assessment districts, and requirements for annual submittal of capital improvement plans are partial indicators of the increased complexity of modern project accounting.

During the county's process of soliciting bids for computer software a few years ago to replace the aging Harris system, the MUNIS product by Tyler Technologies was identified as the preferred product to replace the Harris System. Mr. Potter and Mr. Everest both deserve substantial credit for working with Tyler Technologies and the Treasurer's office to integrate our daily balance ledger with the Treasurer's official books to reduce duplicative accounting activities between our departments.

Despite this achievement, efforts on our part to maintain payables and receivables associated with the various functions of our office substantially exceed the time available with a single accounting position. Activities associated with regular journal entries, end of year audits, and assessment responsibilities currently maintained by the Accounting Supervisor could not be done without the help of additional staff. If office accounting functions were reduced to 1 FTE we would forecast:

- Lags in vendor payments due to workload.
- Lags in payoff documentation submitted to title companies, which have the potential to negatively affect transactions.
- Lags in calculating LEM rates and entering the monthly LEM which could result in a delay in the bi-annual payback to the county.

- Delays in preparing financial reports for Advisory, Lake Improvement, Drain, and Board of Public Works meetings.
- Deposits would be cut back to one or two per week.
- The process of integrating permitting, inventory, fleet management, and fixed asset systems with Munis will be delayed due to the significant effort associated with implementation.
- More frequent needs for assistance from the County Treasurer and Finance Department pertaining to assistance with basic accounting functions.

These potential drawbacks would be particularly noticeable during end of year audit periods (March) and during special assessment preparation periods (July through September).

2. Budgeted department head count for the past five years:

Jan., 2011: 20 Jan., 2012: 20 Jan., 2013: 20 Jan., 2014: 21 Jan., 2015: 21

3. Recognizing that all Elected Officials/Department Heads are expected to provide quality supervision and be creative problem solvers, how could the department reassign work and/or personnel to get all essential work of the department done without additional hiring?

Aside from the current Accounting Bookkeeper II position, the Department does not have other staff with the appropriate skillset to fulfill the requirements of the Accounting Supervisor position. The current Accounting Bookkeeper II staff member works full time and does not have the capacity to take on the tasks currently being performed by the Accounting Supervisor.

4. Specifically list three reasonable options or detriments to the department if your request to replace a position is denied.

Three detriments are listed below, and additional concerns are provided in the response to question 1:

1. There would be lags in calculating LEM rates and entering the monthly LEM, which could result in a delay in the bi-annual payback to the County.
2. There would be delays in preparing financial reports for Advisory, Lake Improvement, Drain, and Board of Public Works meetings.
3. We would require more frequent assistance from the County Treasurer and Finance Department with basic accounting functions.

5. What budget saving measures has this department implemented? Have additional measures been identified? For example, use of temporary employees or part-time (less than 30 hours) employees Please provide explanation(s).

The Department hired two temporary, part -time staff members to fill a void in the sanitary sewer program, which was necessary after one full time employee was off work due to an injury. We changed the status of one part-time employee to temporary full time to help fill an additional void in the soil erosion program, where we have another full-time employee off work due to an injury. The use of part-time/temporary employees has been a cost-effective way to manage our staffing needs while the ultimate outcome of the injured employees is determined.

7. Has current staff been working overtime and, if so, how much is currently being worked or how much is planned to be worked per week (on the average)?

Staff has worked some overtime over the past year, primarily to augment field crew response to sanitary sewer call-outs. Additionally, this position has been used in an on-call situation for field services.

8. Has cross-trained staff been fully utilized to maximize the output of existing staff? Please provide explanation(s).

None of the Drain office staff has been cross-trained to perform the duties of the Accounting Bookkeeper II or Accounting Supervisor positions. Conversely, the Department as a whole is subject to periods of intense emergency response activity, and Aaron Everest has often accompanied wastewater staff to assist in the field. There are some minor activities performed by the Accounting Bookkeeper II position that could be taken on by the three administrative secretaries (e.g. assistance with making deposits). However, the administrative staff does not have the capacity or the skillset to perform the majority of the accounting responsibilities.

9. Are your actual revenues coming in at your projected budgeted revenue amounts?

2013 Revenues came in over-budget by 1.5% (approx. \$15,000)

2014 Revenues came in over-budget by 6% (approx.. \$53,000)



Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Brian Jonckheere
Date: 3/18/2015
**Re: Resolution Authorizing the Filling of the Accounting Supervisor
Position and the Subsequent Filling of the Accounting
Bookkeeper II Position**

Honorable Commissioners,

Our senior accountant, Russell Potter, is retiring from the county on April 17, 2015, after 28 years of service. Aaron Everest, the incumbent Accountant Bookkeeper II, has been employed with our office since January 2002, performing in an exemplary manner. Mr. Everest has expressed an interest in filling the Accounting Supervisor position currently held by Mr. Potter.

The accounting needs of the office have generally increased in complexity since the establishment of the Accounting Bookkeeper II position in 2002. Changes in auditing standards, such as GASB 34, issues with delinquent sewer special assessment districts, and requirements for annual submittal of capital improvement plans are partial indicators of the increased complexity of modern project accounting.

During the county's process of soliciting bids for computer software a few years ago to replace the aging Harris system, the MUNIS product by Tyler Technologies was identified as the preferred product to replace the Harris System. Mr. Potter and Mr. Everest both deserve substantial credit for working with Tyler Technologies and the Treasurer's office to integrate our daily balance ledger with the Treasurer's official books to reduce duplicative accounting activities between our departments.

Despite this achievement, efforts on our part to maintain payables and receivables associated with the various functions of our office substantially exceed the time available with a single accounting position. Activities associated with regular journal entries, end of year audits, and assessment responsibilities currently maintained by the Accounting Supervisor could not be done without the help of additional staff. If office accounting functions were reduced to 1 FTE we would forecast:

1. Lags in vendor payments due to workload.
2. Lags in payoff documentation submitted to title companies, which have the potential to negatively affect transactions.
3. Lags in calculating LEM rates and entering the monthly LEM which could result in a delay in the bi-annual payback to the county.
4. Delays in preparing financial reports for Advisory, Lake Improvement, Drain, and Board of Public Works meetings.
5. Deposits would be cut back to one or two per week.
6. The process of integrating permitting, inventory, fleet management, and fixed asset systems with Munis will be delayed due to the significant effort associated with implementation.
7. More frequent needs for assistance from the County Treasurer and Finance Department pertaining to assistance with basic accounting functions.

These potential drawbacks would be particularly noticeable during end of year audit periods (March) and during special assessment preparation periods (July through September). Therefore, we are requesting permission to fill both the Accounting Supervisor and Accounting Bookkeeper II positions.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me.

RESOLUTION

NO:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ATTENDANCE TO OUT OF STATE TRAINING FOR TWO DETECTIVES - SHERIFF DEPARTMENT / PUBLIC SAFETY / FINANCE / BOARD

WHEREAS, Don Welch and Mark Klein are Detectives with the Sheriff's Office and have an opportunity to attend advanced cellular phone network training. The training will be conducted by MAGLOCLEN, an organization that provides free training and equipment to member agencies, including the Livingston County Sheriff's Office. The training is to be held in Columbus OH; and

WHEREAS, the course is designed to provide detectives with the knowledge and skills necessary to interpret and map cell tower information as provided by various cellular service providers; and

WHEREAS, the training requires (3) nights lodging at a cost not to exceed \$450.00 inclusive of both detectives; and

WHEREAS, meals for out-of-town travel will not exceed \$360.00 inclusive for both detectives; and

WHEREAS, the detectives will travel to and from Columbus, OH in a Department vehicle; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office has sufficient funds budgeted for the lodging and meals necessary to attend this training; and

WHEREAS, the funds to cover attendance of this training are available in the Drug Forfeiture Fund 265.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize Detectives Mark Klein, and Don Welch of the Sheriff's Office to attend cellular telephone network training, held in Columbus, OH, May 5th thru May 7th, 2015.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**



LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF SHERIFF

150 S Highlander Way, Howell MI 48843
Phone 517-546-2440 Fax 517-552-2542
Web Site: www.livingstonsheriff.com

Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Lt. Scott Domine
Date: March 13, 2015
**Re: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ATTENDANCE TO OUT OF
STATE TRAINING FOR TWO DETECTIVES - Sheriff
Department**

This is a formal request for approval of training in, Columbus, OH for (2) detectives. The training topic will be advanced cellular telephone network training, and will take place May 5th through May 7th, 2015. The 3 day course is conducted by MAGLOCLLEN which is an organization which provides law enforcement with training and equipment at no cost to member agencies which includes the Livingston County Sheriff's Office.

Detectives Klein and Welch have training in this area of expertise and require continued advanced training such as this to further their own skills. Cell Phone technology continues to evolve, and information stored within phones, and on the various carrier networks, proves invaluable in numerous criminal investigations. This advanced training opportunity will provide knowledge in interpretation of cell phone tower data, and mapping based on cell tower information. Detectives Welch and Klein will add to their knowledge and skillsets and bring back information they gain to share with other detectives. This will allow our Detective Bureau to continue to serve our community as a highly specialized criminal investigative unit.

Our request to the Board is that the Sheriff's Office takes advantage of this training for Detectives Welch and Klein. The cost to our agency will be wage expense, lodging, meals and driving a Department vehicle. Funds to cover these costs are available within the Sheriff's Office budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Domine
Detective Lieutenant

RESOLUTION

NO:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS' WEEK, APRIL 12 - 18, 2015 - 9-1-1 CENTRAL DISPATCH / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / PUBLIC SAFETY / FINANCE / BOARD

WHEREAS, emergencies may occur at any time; and

WHEREAS, when emergencies occur, the prompt intake of information and timely dispatch of first responders is critical to the protection of life and preservation of property; and

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of Livingston County citizens and first responders alike is dependent upon the accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone 9-1-1, and then disseminate to first responders; and

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 telecommunicators are the single vital link providing information and instructions to ensure their safety; and

WHEREAS, Livingston County's 9-1-1 telecommunicators contribute substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of the ill and injured with compassion, understanding and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed a proclamation in 1991 creating the second full week of April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby joins the congressional proclamation declaring April 12 – 18, 2015, as National Public Safety Communicators' Week in honor of the men and women of Livingston County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**



LIVINGSTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN
911 CENTRAL DISPATCH/
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
300 S. Highlander Way, Howell, MI 48843
Phone 517-546-4620
Web Site: co.livingston.mi.us

Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Jeffrey R. Boyd and Chad Chewning
Date: 3/18/2015
Re: National Public Safety Communicators' Week
April 12 – 18, 2015

The 911 Central Dispatch/Emergency Management Department respectfully requests the Livingston County Board of Commissioners join with the United States Congress in recognition of the second full week of April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week. The Board is invited to the awards ceremony on the afternoon of April 13, 2015. More details regarding the schedule will follow.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact me.

RESOLUTION

NO:

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

DATE:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND COSTS TO BUSINESS OWNERS, CONTRACTORS, AND DEVELOPERS – BUILDING DEPARTMENT / INFRASTRUCTURE & DEVELOPMENT / FINANCE / BOARD

WHEREAS, as result of the great recession which created hardships for local business owners and residents, resulting in job losses and foreclosures; and

WHEREAS, these losses also impacted local governments with reduced revenues, staff layoffs and reductions in services to county residents; and

WHEREAS, the direction of the State of Michigan and the Livingston County Board of Commissioners is to streamline development, save costs, eliminate redundancies, and efficiently use resources to reduce or eliminate the potential of similar losses in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Building Department is charged with ensuring the health safety and welfare of residents and first responders in buildings located within Livingston County; and

WHEREAS, the Brighton Area Fire Authority (BAFA), which is not a State mandated agency and has authority of the locally adopted Fire Codes in Genoa Township, Brighton Township and the City of Brighton, and are currently promoting additional regulations which will result in additional costs, redundant efforts for developers and property owners and such requirements will create additional hardships and costs for these developers and business owners; and

WHEREAS, these efforts do not serve the common good of Livingston County residents, developers and contractors and these types of new regulations would be contrary to the direction of the County Board of Commissioners and the Governor’s office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes any efforts by any group to increase regulations or costs and / or duplicate efforts, due to its lack of necessity and poses a negative impact to the citizens and businesses and such efforts fail to serve the common good of Livingston County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be sent directly to Governor Rick Snyder, US Senator Mike Bishop, State Senator Joe Hune, Representative Lana Theis and the local Townships, Cities and Villages within Livingston County.

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**MOVED:
SECONDED:
CARRIED:**



Memorandum

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners
From: Jim Rowell, Building Official
Date: March 19, 2015
Re: DUPLICATION OF CODE SERVICES

It was recently brought to the attention of Staff that there is an effort by the Brighton Area Fire Authority (BAFA) as well as other efforts on a national level to create an additional permitting agency based on the Fire Codes. The local effort is being put forward without consent or input from the County Building Department, the County Board of Commissioners or any stakeholders.

Background:

Local Fire Authorities are not a State mandated department. We agree they provide a great service however their authority comes only from the locally adopted ordinances. In fact, many communities have not adopted any Fire Codes as there are no requirements to do so. Conversely, enforcement of the Building Codes is a State Law governed by Public Act 230 of 1972. The scope of most fire departments is limited to fire fighting and does not include building code enforcement.

The proposal being put forth in the three (3) communities where BAFA provides services would authorize BAFA as a permitting agency. Many of the Fire Codes have always been in the Building Code. Therefore such duplication is unnecessary, redundant and does not serve the common good of developers and business owners of the County and is contrary to the direction of the County Board of Commissioners and the Governor.

The Livingston County Building Department is charged with ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and first responders in buildings located in the county.

Since the Building Codes are state law, any duplicate permitting agency will not and cannot negate the building codes or the authority of the County Building Department. Any other permitting agency will always be just a redundant permitting department. The Fire Code and the Building Code mirror each other to some extent however BAFA is always on a newest version of the Fire Code whereas the Building Codes are 3-6 years behind the newest version. Therefore the Fire Code will always be more stringent. Historically, with few exceptions, the newest addition of any code is always more stringent than the prior addition. Staff's experience is that the codes never get less regulatory with new versions. To illustrate this point, as an example, the current version of the Fire Code provides for suppression systems in residential homes which is not required in the Building Code.

Additionally, the State mandated Building Code allows potential clients or their Architects to choose the Rehabilitation Code for Existing Buildings as an option for designing building renovations. This is their choice. This "Rehab" code offers more relief than the prescriptive codes. This is especially important in Livingston County where we have 150-180 year old downtown districts. The Fire Code does not include a Rehabilitation Code option.

In the past, as a courtesy, the Building Department has always solicited comments from the BAFA. We also let the BAFA Staff perform reviews and attend inspections. When BAFA performs a review, they also charge the client for the reviews which is already a duplication of fees.

Since the staff at BAFA is already charging for their plan reviews, already commenting on building plans and already attending inspections, the need for a duplicate permitting agency has not been demonstrated.

To date, we have only seen a draft of the proposed ordinance, however we believe this ordinance will increase the burden and costs of developing business in Livingston County and will factor into the decisions of any developer that may consider Livingston County as a place to do business.

If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at 517-552-6724.