

**APPROVED
PROCEEDINGS OF THE OTTAWA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY SESSION – SECOND DAY**

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting with called to order by the Chair.

Mr. Rycenga pronounced the invocation.

The Clerk led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present at roll call: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Swartout, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Rinck, Rycenga, Schrotenboer, Disselkoen, Berghorst, Vander Kam. (10)

Absent: Mr. Holtrop. (1)

Presentations of Petitions and Communications

- A. Government Finance Officers Association Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting – June Hagan, Fiscal Services Director, presented Connie VanderSchaaf with the certificate.

Public Comments and Communications from County Staff

- A. 2006 State of the County Address by County Administrator, Alan G. Vanderberg –



STATE OF OTTAWA COUNTY 2006

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PRESENTED BY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN G. VANDERBERG TO THE OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Introduction – Chair Rycenga, Vice-Chair Disselkoen, and Board of Commissioners, I am pleased to give the 2006 State of the County Address. I will provide a brief review of our accomplishments in 2005 and an outline of where we are headed in 2006.

2005 was a year of change. We instituted many new policies and processes, hired three new department directors, and dealt with a continually changing funding situation due to

State and Federal budget reductions. From this year of change, we look ahead into 2006 ready to achieve new goals and face new challenges.

I will group our 2005 accomplishments and 2006 goals into several broad areas: Finance; Technology; Land Use and Population Growth; Business Improvement; Justice and Human Services; Communication and Regional Cooperation; and Employee Relations.

Finance – As you are aware, 2006 will be the second year of the plan the Board of Commissioners adopted in 2004 to eliminate the \$3 million General Fund structural deficit, which would have continued to exist even without spending increases. The plan has nearly closed the budget gap, requiring no millage increase in 2005 and allowing for full funding of the budget stabilization fund and other critical reserves. No new positions funded by the General Fund were approved for 2005, and beginning in 2006, employees are paying an increased share of health insurance costs, gradually increasing to ten percent of premium cost by 2010.

As a testament to the County's sound financial management, each of the bond rating agencies reaffirmed our bond ratings in the summer of 2005. Each agency specifically commented on the County's measured approach to balancing the budget, using a mixture of expenditure cuts and revenue increases, and continuing to make long-term decisions instead of taking a reactionary approach.

We continue to be concerned about State funding cuts. While county revenue sharing was preserved for the near-term by the Governor's 2004 proposal to shift tax collection to the summer, it is far from certain that revenue sharing will be restored as obligated by statute, when Tuscola County uses the last of its revenue sharing reserve fund in fiscal year 2008. One of our legislative priorities for 2006 will continue to be to remind the legislature that revenue sharing is not "local government welfare," but a partnership formed decades ago to provide local governments with funding in return for forgoing certain revenue collection options and for providing services on behalf of the State. In addition to revenue sharing, other funding critical to providing services to our residents is threatened. Hearing and vision funds have been cut, and these, like many other funds received from the State, are used to provide essential, mandated services to the citizens of Ottawa County. Most times, these cuts in funding are not accompanied by a reduction in the mandate to provide service, so the County is forced to eliminate or subsidize services. In a continuation of the work we submitted to the Governor's Local Government Financing Task Force, throughout 2006 we will continue to ask the State to also reduce mandates when funding is reduced.

The Fiscal Services Department was created in 2005 to make our internal financial systems more efficient. The Finance and Accounting departments were combined and functions consolidated and the combined cost and efficiency savings will be reported later this year.

Technology – New technologies have several benefits, most notably to offer service in new ways and to increase internal efficiency.

One of our major initiatives for 2005 has done both. MiOttawa.org, the county's new interactive website, was introduced in October 2005. Citizens can now look up property information, search for delinquent taxes, purchase accident reports, search dog licenses, and find interactive maps to all County facilities on the website. In 2006 we will continue to add new applications, including prescription drug plan enrollment, dog license renewal, park reservations, restaurant inspection reports, and inmate lookup.

The Information Technology department is now midway through the restructuring proposed by last year's evaluation conducted by Plante and Moran. Under the leadership of Dave Hulst, the department will complete implementation of the report's recommendations.

In addition to replacing the county's entire data network in 2005, the IT department assisted with the Justice Imaging project. The new imaging system, which will be fully implemented by the end of 2006, will connect 7 departments in the justice system. With these departments no longer having to maintain separate paper files and the accompanying inefficiency, we expect to realize significant cost and efficiency savings once the software is completely deployed. Interdepartmental cooperation of this magnitude is unprecedented in a Michigan County government imaging system, and County Clerk Dan Krueger and Circuit Court Administrator Kevin Bowling did a tremendous job of leading the dedicated inter-departmental team that designed the project. The Planning and Grants department will provide short and long-term evaluation and report to the Board regarding actual dollars saved and efficiencies achieved.

Land Use & Population Growth – Rapid population growth continues in Ottawa County, and we remain the second fastest-growing county in Michigan and the fastest growing county with over 200,000 residents. We are the only Michigan county to grow by 10% or more in each of the past four decades. With this growth comes increasing pressure on land resources, and it is important to plan for the long-term because of the quality of life provided by our beautiful beaches, farms, parks and open spaces.

In 2005 three construction projects were completed or begun in order to meet the needs of our growing population throughout the county. The renovated and expanded Grand Haven and Hudsonville Human Services Buildings opened in mid-2005, and the new Holland District Court building will open in mid-2006. Each of these facilities will meet the needs of our staff and citizens for decades. In the coming weeks, we will present a recommendation for future space needs in Grand Haven.

Land use in both urban and rural communities is an increasingly important topic. While the County itself does no official land use planning, we have served as an important facilitator on land use issues. The Purchase of Development Rights subcommittee will complete its work in 2006, and the Planning and Grants Department's support of the Urban Smart Growth project in Hudsonville will continue in 2006, serving as a demonstration of new ways to think about urban land use. In 2006, Planning and Grants will complete a countywide corridor study, which will for the first time take a comprehensive look at transportation needs throughout the entire county.

The Parks Commission continues to pursue acquisition of unique properties. The public-private partnership that resulted in the purchase of the North Ottawa Dunes project is a shining example of the County and community working together to preserve a beautiful, critical piece of dune land for future generations. A mediation process initiated by County administration and the West Michigan Parks Association ended in 2005 and resulted in an end to more than a century of legal battles over ownership of the Park 12 Properties near Holland State Park. The Park 12 Master Plan was approved by the Circuit Court and major implementation will begin this spring.

The lawsuit filed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality against the County over the Southwest Ottawa Landfill several years ago was resolved in 2005, and we will soon begin recapping the landfill and reconstructing the groundwater purge system. The Parks Department completed preliminary plans for improvement and reuse of this area as part of the parks system.

Dr. Joan Rose and the scientific team from Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife are expected to complete research and issue a report regarding *E. coli* levels and beach closings on the Grand River in 2006.

Business Improvement and Strategic Planning - While each of the initiatives and accomplishments I have already mentioned is important, something that has been missing is a codified vision and mission at the Board level, which will identify to our residents and employees the Board's overall approach to delivering services. A strategic planning session is scheduled for mid-March, and throughout the remainder of 2006, we will communicate and implement the resulting plan.

Included in the planning session will be a review of mandated, non-mandated, and discretionary functions performed by the County. In 2005, we collected for the first time information on all functions the County performs, and in 2006 we will be adding detail and attaching budget information to that information to better understand the relationship of the services we provide to the mandates we are given.

The 2007 budget process is set to begin in the coming months, and it will include a restructuring of our performance measurement process. All of our departments currently have measurements that indicate the activity of each office, but as a County, we will move toward measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of the services we provide and focus on providing the best possible service to our constituents. This will allow us to move toward a culture of not being afraid to seek inefficiencies and actively change and improve them.

Additional organizational improvements planned for 2006 include completing the organizational studies recommended by the Rye Study Appeals Committee and evaluating the administrative structure that reports to me to ensure that it continues to meet departmental needs.

Justice and Human Services - County services are unique when compared to those provided by other local governments in that as economic conditions worsen, the need for service increases. This is most apparent in the justice and human service areas.

Even through increasing demands, the Sheriff's Office continues to provide top-notch service, completing several traffic initiatives and meeting its goals for placing defibrillators in patrol cars in 2005. The department has also managed over \$2.4 million in federal Homeland Security grants over the last two years.

The recent appointment of Lisa Stefanovsky as Health Officer represents the beginning of new leadership in Public Health. Lisa will continue to lead the department through implementation of its strategic plan and the challenges brought on by frequent changes in State funding and policy.

In 2006, another department will see a new leader. With the retirement of Cathy Simons, Michigan Works! and Community Action Agency will have a new director within the next six weeks.

The Ottawa County Human Services Coordinating Council completed its restructuring and strategic plan in 2005 under the leadership of Pat VerDuin from Juvenile Court and Lisa Stefanovsky. In coming years, this group will become an increasingly important resource for human service providers by assisting in establishing community priorities and helping to prevent duplication of services as funding opportunities decline.

Regional Cooperation and Communication – We strive to be leaders in identifying opportunities for collaboration and cooperation, and our Planning Department's work in the area of countywide wireless is a perfect example of that leadership. Based upon the work of the Planning Department and many local municipalities, Ottawa County may have wireless broadband service in all areas of the County by the end of 2006.

I have agreed to serve on the board of directors and executive committee of the West Michigan Strategic Alliance. Under the leadership of Acting-President Greg Northrup, the group has redefined its purpose and role and been awarded oversight of a \$15 million workforce development grant and foundation funding for its Green Infrastructure initiative. The new management values the views and contributions of all local governments, (township, village, city, and county) and regards local officials as critical resources for future regional successes. Economic development is occurring on the greater regional basis in the global economy and there areas in which we must use creativity to develop higher levels of regional cooperation and effectiveness in order to compete for new business opportunities, while respecting the many governmental organizations that provide leadership and service to their constituencies.

Our emphasis on communication in the last year will extend into 2006. The first annual countywide annual report was distributed to over 70,000 households last year, and the citizen survey will be completed in coming weeks. Throughout 2006 we will attempt to increase opportunities for citizen communication and involvement.

Employee Relations – In 2005, we completed a comprehensive evaluation of employee wages and classifications with the assistance of consultant Bill Rye. For the first time, all information related to the study was provided to employees, and a study oversight committee fielded questions and concerns related to the study process. Employees who

disagreed with the results were offered an opportunity to appeal the results to the new Rye Study Appeals Committee.

Much like the Rye Study Oversight and Appeals Committees, three additional employee work teams were established as part of the employee survey recommendations. The employee newsletter editorial board now produces and distributes the employee newsletter; the employee recognition team has submitted its policy recommendations; and the employee survey work team is working on recommendations based upon data contained in the survey. I appreciate the time employees from all levels of the organization and many departments have been willing to commit to serving on these teams, and I hope to continue to use work teams in the future.

One of the issues raised in the employee survey was the tenor of labor negotiations, and in order to ensure that negotiations were conducted in an appropriate manner, I participated in each bargaining session with all bargaining units. I am pleased to report that the negotiations progressed smoothly and that we have already reached tentative agreement or ratification with five of the six represented units with contracts that expire on December 31, 2005. Negotiations have concluded with the final unit and representatives are taking the final County offer back to their association for a vote.

The 360 employees formerly represented by the Teamsters, known as Group T, were the target of an organization effort by the Service Employees International Union for much of the last year. At the late-January election both the professional and clerical, technical, support units voted not to organize with SEIU and to maintain a non-union environment. In 2006 we will put major effort into identifying better ways to communicate with Group T employees to ensure that they have adequate representation of their concerns without union representation. In another recent development, the Ottawa County Employee Association, representing District Court employees, decided to terminate its representation agreement with the Police Officers Labor Council of Michigan and represent itself in upcoming contract negotiations later this year.

One of the ways in which we will improve communication is through the Labor-Management Cooperation Committee, which will include representatives from all bargaining units and management. The first issue the Committee will address will be the potential benefits of adding a health coach or wellness program as a measure to better manage disease and to reduce health insurance cost.

Conclusion – We are blessed to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Ottawa County at this critical point in time. Through all of the challenges we face: rapid growth, funding uncertainty, and changing State and Federal expectations, we are fortunate to have a dedicated workforce, beautiful natural resources, and a committed business sector and citizenry.

I look forward to working through these challenges with you and improving our already high level of efficiency, service, and quality of life in 2006.

B/C 06-047 Mr. Berghorst moved to approve the agenda of today as presented.

B/C 06-048 Mr. Swartout moved to amend Motion B/C 06-047 removing Action Item #5 and Discussion Item Closed Session - Labor Negotiations and add Discussion Item – Closed Session – Discuss Property Matters. The motion passed.

A roll call vote was than taken on the motion as amended and the amended motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Rinck, Rycenga, Schrotenboer, Kuyers, Vander Kam, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Swartout, Berghorst, Mrs. Ruiter, Mr. Rycenga. (10)

B/C 06-049 Mr. Disselkoen moved to approve the following Consent Resolutions:

1. To approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2006, Board of Commissioners Meeting and Board of Commissioners Work Session.
2. To authorize the payroll of February 28, 2006, in the amount of \$507.69.
3. To receive the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the County of Ottawa's December 31, 2004, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.
4. To approve the general claims in the amount of \$2,595,665.37 as presented by the summary report for February 1, 2006, through February 10, 2006.

The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Swartout, Vander Kam, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Berghorst, Kuyers, Schrotenboer, Disselkoen, Rinck, Mrs. Ruiter, Mr. Rycenga. (10)

B/C 06-050 Mr. Kuyers moved to consider the application from Blendon Township for a revolving loan in the amount of \$500,000 from the Ottawa County Infrastructure Fund and approve or disapprove the application.

B/C 06-051 Mr. Swartout moved to amend Motion B/C 06-050 changing the amount to \$350,000. The amendment failed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Swartout, Rycenga. (3)

Nays: Messrs. Vander Kam, Disselkoen, Kuyers, Schrotenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Berghorst, Rinck. (7)

A vote was than taken on the motion and the motion failed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Swartout, Rycenga. (3)

Nays: Messrs. Disselkoen, Rinck, Berghorst, Schrotenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Vander Kam, Kuyers. (7)

B/C 06-052 Mr. Swartout moved to approve the application from Jamestown Township for a revolving loan in the amount of \$371,000 from the Ottawa County Infrastructure Fund. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Vander Kam, Swartout, Schrotenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Berghorst, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Disselkoen, Rinck, Rycenga. (10)

B/C 06-053 Mr. Swartout moved to approve and authorize the Board Chairperson and Clerk to sign the Resolution setting the following fees for Sheriff's Reserve Officer services to private entities: Sheriff Reserve \$12.00; Sheriff Mounted Deputies \$16.00. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Berghorst, Kuyers, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Vander Kam, Schrotenboer, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Swartout, Disselkoen, Rinck, Rycenga. (10)

B/C 06-054 Mr. Swartout moved to approve and authorize the Board Chairperson and Clerk to sign the Resolution setting the following fee schedule to reimburse the cost of providing services to the public and business customers in the Office of the Ottawa County Treasurer:

Fees:

\$ 3.00	FAX Service for up to 10 pages each submission
\$ 1.00	Copy Cost Per Page
\$25.00	One-time Set-up Fee for Monthly Accounts
\$10.00	Monthly Service Fee for Invoicing Services
\$ 2.00	CD

The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Kuyers, Berghorst, Rinck, Mrs. Kortman, Mr. Swartout, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Disselkoen, Vander Kam, Schrotenboer, Rycenga. (10)

- B/C 06-055 Mr. Kuyers moved to approve and authorize the Board Chairperson and Clerk to sign the Resolution declaring July 10-15, 2006, "Road Rage Awareness Week" within Ottawa County. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Mr. Schrotenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Swartout, Vander Kam, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Kuyers, Rinck, Berghorst, Disselkoen, Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-056 Mr. Kuyers moved to approve and authorize the Board Chairperson and Clerk to sign the Marina Lease Agreement between Ottawa County and Parkside Marina, Inc. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Vander Kam, Kuyers, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Berghorst, Rinck, Disselkoen, Swartout, Schrotenboer, Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-057 Mr. Kuyers moved to approve the Resolution adopting the 2006 Ottawa County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan as a reference document for future decision-making and transmit the plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Mrs. Ruiter, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Rinck, Berghorst, Swartout, Vander Kam, Disselkoen, Kuyers, Schrotenboer, Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-058 Mr. Kuyers moved to receive for comment the proposed revised Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Administrative Policy on County Logo Use (First Reading). The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Rinck, Disselkoen, Schrotenboer, Kuyers, Vander Kam, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Swartout, Berghorst, Mrs. Ruiter, Mr. Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-059 Mr. Kuyers moved to receive for comment the proposed revised Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Administrative Policy on the De-Authorization of Positions (First Reading). The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Swartout, Vander Kam, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Berghorst, Kuyers, Schrotenboer, Disselkoen, Rinck, Mrs. Ruiter, Mr. Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-060 Mr. Disselkoen moved to appoint Gordon Schrotenboer as Ottawa County Representative and Alan G. Vanderberg as Alternate Representative to the Macatawa Area Airport Exploratory Committee, with the term of the appointments to expire on December 31, 2006. The motion passed.

B/C 06-061 Mrs. Ruiter moved to nominate Tom Baldwin, Jacqueline Elowsky, Keri McCarty, Jennifer McCaul, * Darl Meeuwsen, Diane J. Ross, Ronald Zoet, * Daniel M. Shanahan, Warren L. Harding and Kristine L. Nale and appoint two (2) to fill two (2) positions on the Community Action Agency Advisory Board for an unexpired term from October 1, 2005, until September 30, 2007. (* Recommended by Committee.)

Results of the roll call vote:

Mr. Vander Kam – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mrs. Ruiter – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Disselkoen – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Kuyers – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Schrotenboer – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mrs. Kortman – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Berghorst – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Rinck – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Swartout – Meeuwsen, Shanahan
Mr. Rycenga – Meeuwsen, Shanahan

Total votes were as follows: Mr. Meeuwsen – 10, Mr. Shanahan – 10.

The Chair declared Mr. Meeuwsen and Mr. Shanahan appointed to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board representing the Private Sector.

B/C 06-062 Mrs. Ruiter moved to nominate Tom Baldwin, Jacqueline Elowsky, Keri McCarthy, Jennifer McCaul, Diane J. Ross, Ronald Zoet, * Allen Ora Morningstar, Warren L. Harding and Kristine L. Nale and appoint one (1) to fill one (1) position on the Community Action Agency Advisory Board Public Sector Members to serve from October 1, 2006, until September 30, 2008. (* Recommended by Committee.)

Results of the roll call vote:

Mr. Vander Kam – Morningstar	Mrs. Kortman - Morningstar
Mrs. Ruiter – Morningstar	Mr. Berghorst - Morningstar
Mr. Disselkoen – Morningstar	Mr. Rinck - Morningstar
Mr. Kuyers – Morningstar	Mr. Swartout - Morningstar
Mr. Schrotenboer – Morningstar	Mr. Rycenga – Morningstar

Total votes were as follows: Mr. Morningstar – 10.

The Chair declared Mr. Morningstar appointed to the Community Action Agency Advisory Board representing the Public Sector.

- B/C 06-063 Mrs. Ruiter moved to nominate and appoint * Don Williams and * Mark Lind to fill two (2) positions on the Lakeshore Coordinating Council Advisory Committee for Substance Abuse Services for a two (2) year term beginning January 1, 2006, until December 31, 2007. (* Recommended by Committee.) The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Disselkoen, Rinck, Berghorst, Mrs. Ruiter, Mr. Schrottenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Swartout, Vander Kam, Kuyers, Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-064 Mr. Disselkoen moved to go into Closed Session at 2:17 p.m. to discuss property matters. (2/3 roll call vote required.) The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Vander Kam, Swartout, Schrottenboer, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Kuyers, Berghorst, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Disselkoen, Rinck, Rycenga. (10)
- B/C 06-065 Mrs. Ruiter moved to rise from Closed Session at 2:20 p.m. The motion passed.
- B/C 06-066 Mr. Disselkoen moved to approve the Agreement for Sale and Purchase of Real Estate for the 22 acre Nyhof Property to expand the Upper Macatawa Conservation Area with funding in the amount of \$285,000 plus closing costs to come from the county parks millage and to authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to sign the documents required for this transaction. The motion passed as shown by the following votes: Yeas: Messrs. Berghorst, Kuyers, Mrs. Kortman, Messrs. Vander Kam, Schrottenboer, Mrs. Ruiter, Messrs. Swartout, Disselkoen, Rinck, Rycenga. (10)

The Administrator's report was presented.

Several Commissioners commented on meetings attended and future meetings to be held.

- B/C 06-067 Mr. Disselkoen moved to adjourn at 2:30 p.m. subject to the call of the Chair. The motion passed.

DANIEL C. KRUEGER, Clerk
Of the Board of Commissioners

ROGER RYCENGA, Chairman
Of the Board of Commissioners