

**MECOSTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
FEBRUARY 27, 2008**

The Mecosta County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on February 27, 2008 in the Circuit Courtroom of the Mecosta County Courthouse. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners present on roll call: Chair, Ray Steinke, Vice-Chair, Jerry Williams, Bill Routley, Linda Howard, Eric O'Neil, Ruth Hess and Kevin Courtney.

Others present: Paul Bullock, County Controller/Administrator and Marcee Purcell, County Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Chair R. Steinke. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Tax Increment Financing ("TIF") and Development Plan established by the Downtown Development Authority of the City of Big Rapids.

Paul Bullock relayed to the Board he had spoken to the County's legal counsel about the TIF plan and from a legal perspective the County has no right to opt-out of the plan because the Development Authority was pre-existing to 1994 legislation that would allow for same. This is not a legal issue, but a negotiating issue between the County and City of Big Rapids. By Statute, the County is to be given full information regarding the fiscal and economic complications with the TIF plan, and then the right to state their opinion as a Board to the City Commission.

The Board posed many questions, concerns and points of clarification regarding the TIF plan to Mark Gifford, Neighborhood Services Director, Steve Sobers, City Manager, and other members of the Downtown Business Authority that were present.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Administrator work with City staff to draft an agreement regarding future TIF plans or amendments to the proposed TIF that would allow the County to participate on a voluntary basis.

With nothing further, the Board decided to bring the matter to the next County Commission meeting, scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Carlene Rose thanked the Board of Commissioners for their time. Ray Steinke thanked all for attending.

K. Courtney moved to adjourn to the next regular scheduled meeting or call of the Chair. R. Hess supported; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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Marcee M. Purcell, Mecosta County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners

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Raymond Steinke, Chair  
Mecosta County Board of Commissioners