

February 2008

Shiawassee County

Local Update - Dan Stewart

Daniel V. Stewart / County Commissioner District #1 / 989-725-9455

WHAT IS THIS?

As County Commissioner time is not a resource I have a surplus of. This being the case I have decided to write an update to interested residents. The information to follow is my way of trying to improve awareness, trust, and communication within our community. My intent if all goes well is to send similar communications as issues arise and time progresses. If you have a topic, which you feel is important and deserves similar attention, please contact me regarding that matter. If you would like additional copies of this document or have specific questions please contact me. That being said, enjoy the update and HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

911 Resolutions Passed

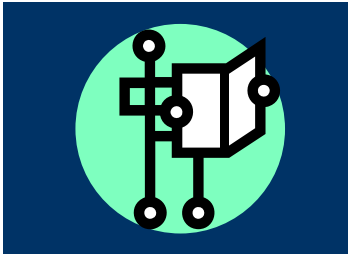
As public Courts and Safety Chair for Shiawassee County I would like to notify community members of recent legislative changes have altered the way 911 is funded. These changes previously known as HB 410 & 411 now PA 164 & PA165 will alter how entities subsidize Central Dispatch. Rather than paying \$2.50 on land lines alone, Shiawassee County residents and businesses will pay \$1.22 per line on all communication devices. This includes cell phones VOIP services and even pre-paid disposable phones.

The funding formulas utilized were provided through state requirements. The new highly anticipated funding method will take effect July 1, 2008. Businesses that have over 10 phone lines will only receive one surcharge for every ten phone lines after the first ten lines. While many residents may recognize a minor decrease and others a slight rise the 2.7% added revenue should insure a more amicable balance of fees between phone companies. It should also allow for improved services in the future.

The new legislation also allows for growth by giving the Board of Commissioners the ability to temporarily alter fees to meet strategic planning goals set by the Central Dispatch Board. It should be noted that the Board of Commissioners have no plans to alter the fee structure and believe the current funding is more than adequate. In addition, it should be mentioned that a new 800 MHZ system is likely to be implemented. This improved system is in no way connected with the recent funding alterations but is rather the result of a 1.3 million dollar grant recently awarded to Shiawassee County. As always if you have any questions regarding this or any other local issue please contact me at 989-725-9455 or owosso2@aol.com

SCCMH

I currently serve on the Shiawassee County Community Mental Health (SCCMH) board and it is an exciting time for our organization. The new facility will hold it's open house on Tuesday February 19th at 3pm. The building is outstanding and praise is definitely due to the entire Board of Directors, Scott Gilman and the entire SCCMH family.



Shiawassee County

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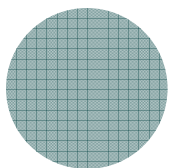
The best way to be successful is to help others succeed.

Online

Meeting Schedule:

Shiawassee.net

- BOC – Chaplin
- COW - Vice Chair
- Public Safety & Courts – Chair
- Community Corrections – Chair
- Health & Human Srvcs. – Vice Chair
- SCCMH – Member
- Rails to Trails – Member
- 911 Board – Member
- Bownsfeld Development – Member
- CMH Finance/Policy/HR
- CCAB – Planning Committee



Recent Matters of the BOC

In January, the highlights of the Board of Commissioners agenda involved resolutions regarding 911 services. Documents were also moved forward regarding Michigan Works! Career Alliance, Inc. matters. These included, Program Navigator and Food Assistance Employment, & Training situations. Deb Brewer was appointed to the Health Board. A contract renewal with Dennis K. Chernin, M.D., M.P.H. was passed. The Homebuyer Purchase Rehab Program moved forward. Positions were filed for reclassification. Whew, OK now that was a mouthful. Remember contact me with any questions regarding these matters.

Public Safety & Courts

A new telephone system for the Sheriff was approved. The previous system was antiquated and in desperate need of repair to maintain reliability for this critical department. The approval for 911 shift supervisors was also granted. This was needed to improve the organizational structure and chain of command. Heather Kirk was appointed to the Community Corrections Advisory Board (CCAB). The CCAB formed a planning committee whom discussed improvement strategies.

Sheriff

Many Shiawassee residents have heard about numerous issues regarding Sheriff Wilson. While some may be truthful and others not I feel the general public should make their own decision as I have regarding Mr. Wilson. If you would like additional resources you can visit; Argus-press.com, The Chicago Tribune, ChristineBarry.com, or have an off the record conversation with a local deputy.

It is my belief that we need to move forward in a positive manner to benefit our community. The Sheriff Department is filled with outstanding individuals and we should be proud to have such qualified staff. As always if you have any questions regarding this or any other situation please contact me.

PLANNING & ZONING

A brainstorming session was held in January to help determine how the county could improve the planning and zoning department. Many elected officials and community members attended. The group came up with some great ideas and a summary of this information will be mailed out soon. A brief questionnaire will also be enclosed. Thank you to all who participated.

Irons in the fire

A purchasing policy is being worked on. Technology issues and improvements are being evaluated. Economic development strategies and job training resources are progressing. Improvements are being made reading Homeland security and buildings. Trail development is moving forward. Organizational changes are underway. This is just a small list and of recent situations I will keep you informed as these matter progress. Thank you for taking the time to read this please contact me with any input. May God Bless You & Yours!