

April 6, 2020

To: Township Supervisors, Village/City Managers, Elected or Appointed Officials
From: Dick Godfrey, Chair, Van Buren County Board of Commissioners. Email: GodfreyR@vbco.org; cell: 269-251-8342

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY COMMISSION:

Emergency Operations Center: The Van Buren County Emergency Operations Center has been operating for several weeks. Bob Kirk and Todd Skinner have been disseminating information and gathering equipment and supplies needed by our first responders, hospitals, and emergency personnel in our locales. Bob and Todd are planning a virtual meeting for Commissioners and Supervisors on Wednesday, April 8th at 2 PM. Bob will send you the appropriate methods and information for joining the discussion.

Delinquent Tax Fund: Commissioners approved permitting the County Treasurer to borrow up to \$7,000,000.00 for keeping the Revolving Tax Fund solvent while covering the monies owed to each taxing unit by delinquent property owners.

911 surcharge: Commissioners approved retaining the same 911 surcharge as in prior years, \$1.92. This charge previously approved by voters but must be re-authorized each year by the Board of Commissioners.

Veterans and Public Transit: All veterans and senior citizens may use the Van Buren County Public Transit system free of charge. Each must obtain a "Ride Free" card after completing a form from the Transit System..

Second Amendment: Commissioners approved a resolution which fully affirms the support of the rights insured and protected by the Constitutions of the United States and State of Michigan including the right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

Van Buren County Revolving Loan Fund: The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approve a resolution requesting the Department of Housing and Urban Development to waive restrictions on the Van Buren County Revolving Loan Fund in order to mitigate economic losses as a result of Covid-19. This waiver would allow businesses to have quick access to funds which could help them through this very difficult time.

Appointments: Tom Erdmann and Carol Sjoquist were re-appointed to the Mental Health Authority. Janice Peterson, Barbara Rose, and Jeff Radtke were re-appointed to the Planning Commission.