

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 15, 2016

The Eaton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at the County Facilities, in the City of Charlotte, Wednesday June 15, 2016.

Chairman Mulder called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given by all.

Commissioner Eakin gave the invocation.

Roll call. Commissioners present: Michael Hosey, Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Howard T. Spence, James Osieczonek, Jane M. Whitacre, Glenn Freeman, Joseph Brehler, Walter Miars, Roger Eakin, Wayne Ridge, Brian Lautzenheiser, Kent C. Austin, Jeremy Whittum, Barbara Rogers.
Commissioners absent: none

Commissioner Eakin requested agenda amendments, under Ways and Means the removal of item #4 Budget Amendments, and the addition of item #6 Resolution Supporting Legislation to Address the Assessment Methodology Utilized by the Michigan Tax Tribunal – “Dark Stores”. Commissioner Freeman requested the addition under New Business, Resolution to Support the Protect MI Child Registry and Recognize Internet Safety Awareness Month.

Commissioner Eakin moved the agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Carried.

Commissioner Hosey moved the minutes of May 18, 2016 be approved as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Ridge. Carried.

Communications: none

Chairman Mulder moved the approval of #16-6-47 Resolution In Memory of Retired Sheriff Arthur T. Kelsey.

WHEREAS, Arthur T. Kelsey was elected the Sheriff of Eaton County in the year nineteen seventy seven and served four terms ending in nineteen ninety three; and

WHEREAS, During his term Sheriff Kelsey advocated and oversaw, the funding and construction of the state-of-the-art Eaton County Jail and Sheriff's Departmental complex located on Independence Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey was instrumental in the creation of Eaton County 9-1-1 as a county-wide and separate Eaton County department; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey established the Delta Township substation for the Eaton County Sheriff's Office and supported the Delta Township contract to allow more efficient coverage of law enforcement in Eaton County's largest growing community; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey demonstrated his broad concept of criminal justice beyond the location, apprehension and detention of criminal offenders through the establishment of innovative educational and public relations programs and the development of one of the first Victim Advocate groups in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey structured, maintained and administered a modern and smooth functioning police agency through the introduction of well-crafted and considered innovative practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey established the Sheriff's Commendation Award which is an award presented solely at the discretion of the Sheriff that recognizes exemplary service for deputies and civilians for bravery, life saving and conduct above and beyond their normal duties; and

WHEREAS, Arthur T. Kelsey sustained a proper and honorable image with the public he served, was trustworthy, friendly and true to his word in his dealings with other county officials and members of this body, worked in cooperation with the county board in all pertinent matters and was a credit to Eaton County Government and law enforcement as a profession;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, express our sincere condolences to his family and many friends and keep Sheriff Kelsey and those close to him in our thoughts; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board and Clerk of the County; and bear the Seal of the County as well. A copy shall be attached to the permanent records of the County. Seconded by Commissioner Whittum. Carried.

Public Comment: Sharon Kubica, 1908 W. Five Point Hwy., Walton Township, spoke regarding flooding, drainage and road safety issues on Five Point Highway.

Commissioner Whittum moved the Approval of Inter-local Agreement for Local Police Services – Maple Valley School District. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Carried. (on file)

Commissioner Whittum moved the approval of #16-6-48 Resolution to Approve U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services/COPS Hiring Program Grant Application.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Oriented Policing Services has Grant Funds available under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP); and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is desirous of submitting a grant to fund a community policing officer position; and

WHEREAS, the grant will provide up to \$125,000 for an officer with a 25% match to restore community policing efforts, aimed at addressing the increased instances of methamphetamine production/use and growing rise in heroin/opioid prescription drug use and overdoses, and provide enhanced presence within the school districts and engagement at community events. The positions will be funded at entry-level salary and include fringe benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the grant acceptance is contingent on the identification of the 25% grant match required under the grant; and

WHEREAS, such grant has been reviewed and recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Sheriff Department be authorized to submit a grant under the COPS Hiring Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the United States Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign the necessary documents.

Seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Carried.

Commissioner Brehler moved the Approval of Michigan Economic Development Corporation Notice of Intent. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Nays: Whittum, Austin. Carried. (on file)

Commissioner Eakin moved the approval of Statements of Computations. Seconded by Commissioner Lautzenheiser. Carried. (on file)

Commissioner Eakin moved the approval of #16-6-49 Resolution Adopt 2016 Summer Property Tax Levy and Notice of Certification of County Allocated Tax Levy.

WHEREAS, Eaton County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004 being 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy in 2007 and each year thereafter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Eaton County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2016, at the full amount allocated after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction, or 5.2149 mills for General County Operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city and township in Eaton County is directed to account for and deliver the full County allocated tax collections for 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution constitutes certification of the levy of the County allocated tax and authorized collection of the County allocated tax July 1, 2016, at the full amount allocated after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction, or 5.2149 mills. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Carried.

Commissioner Eakin moved the approval of #16-6-50 Resolution to Submit a Vote of the Electorate an EATRAN Renewal Authorization Question.

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has reviewed a request from EATRAN to place a Ballot Proposal on the November 8, 2016 Ballot; and WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee is recommending approval of the request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following question be submitted to a vote of the electorate of Eaton County in the election to be held November 8, 2016.

**EATON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (EATRAN)
MILLAGE RENEWAL AUTHORIZATION QUESTION**

For the purpose of providing funds for the exclusive use of public transportation purposes, to include accommodation for the elderly and handicapped by the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN), at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2012, shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Eaton, Michigan, be continued and renewed at up to 0.2500 of a mill (\$0.25 on each \$1,000 dollars of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2017 to 2021, inclusive, and shall the County of Eaton be authorized to levy such millage for said purposes?

The estimate of the revenue for the County of Eaton in the 2017 calendar year is approximately \$851,100. A small portion of the revenue collected (approximately \$11,709 in 2017) may be required to be distributed to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authorities established in cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Potterville & Village of Bellevue.

YES []
NO []

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this question is hereby certified to the County Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to cause this proposed question to be stated on the November 8, 2016 ballot and to be prepared and distributed in the manner required by law.

Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Discussion held.

Commissioner Brehler stated that he will support the resolution; however he does not feel that the current millage provides adequate funding to meet the needs of the community.

Commissioner Spence stated that he will oppose the resolution because he does not feel that EATRAN meets the needs of his constituents in Delta Township.

Commissioner Austin stated he agrees with the previous comments, however will support the resolution because EATRAN is the sole service option for the rural areas of the county.

Commissioner Miars stated he will support the resolution and expressed his concern over the restrictions and requirements placed on EATRAN for the use of its federal funds related to vehicle acquisitions.

Commissioner Hosey stated that his experience utilizing EATRAN has given him direct knowledge of the value EATRAN provides and that based on this experience he will support the resolution.

Commissioner Osieczonek stated that in order to be comparable to other transit systems in the region the millage rate would need to be increased significantly.

Commissioner Augustine stated that he does not feel EATRAN adequately meets the needs of the community; however he will support the resolution which he views as a short-term stop gap solution.

Commissioner Ridge stated that he will support the resolution because he believes it is the level that the public will support, citing previous proposals to increase the millage which were defeated.

Roll call vote. AYES: Hosey, Augustine, Osieczonek, Whitacre, Freeman, Brehler, Miars, Eakin, Ridge, Lautzenheiser, Austin, Whittum, Rogers, Mulder. NAYS: Spence. Carried.

Commissioner Eakin moved the approval of claims as audited by the Ways and Means Committee in the amount of \$233,147.77 and to accept the report of previously authorized payments. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Carried.

Commissioner Eakin moved the approval of #16-6-51 Resolution Supporting Legislation to Address the Assessment Methodology Utilized by the Michigan Tax Tribunal - "Dark Stores".

WHEREAS, the Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) has interpreted the law for tax assessments in a way that dramatically reduces the property tax liabilities of major "big box" retailers by assessing currently used buildings as though they are empty and dark; and

WHEREAS, under the "dark store" theory, big box stores are appealing their property tax assessments to the MTT, arguing that the fair market value of their operating store should be based on comparisons to sales of similar properties that are vacant and abandoned, or are now used for a different, less valuable purpose; and

WHEREAS, the MTT has upheld this theory and cut property tax assessments by as much as 50% and, as a result, townships and local units are losing millions of dollars, impacting services to their residents; and

WHEREAS, additionally, big box stores are putting deed restrictions on their properties that severely limit how the building can be used once it's vacant

resulting in buildings being kept empty and adding to the blight problem in Michigan townships; and

WHEREAS, the issue is already spreading to restaurants, apartment complexes, auto part stores, and many other businesses, and without action, the problem will only get worse; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of property tax liabilities creates huge cuts in the funding to State and local units of government like cities, counties, townships, and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of the MTT are a catastrophic departure from the tax assessment process required by law and all precedents in the matter, once again reducing the rightful tax to businesses and the wealthy, thus, once again, placing the tax burden on the poor and middle class;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners strongly supports a legislative fix that addresses three (3) issues:

- 1) All properties, including big box stores, must be assessed at their highest and best use;
- 2) Deed restrictions should NOT be a factor in determining a property's true cash value; and
- 3) The Michigan Tax Tribunal should be required to consider all three (3) methods of assessing – 'cost minus depreciation,' 'sales comparison,' and 'income' – when determining a property's true cash value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan Counties, Representatives Tom Barrett and Brett Roberts, Senator Rick Jones, Governor Snyder, and the Michigan Association of Counties. Seconded by Commissioner Freeman. Carried.

Public Comment: Brian Guilford, 248 Charlotte Street, Mulliken, spoke regarding the February 28, 2015 incident which resulted in his son's death.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Augustine stated that the Grand Ledge Yankee Doodle Days festival will be held June 16-19.

Commissioner Osieczonek stated that he was encouraged by collaboration discussions regarding public transportation and congratulated Commissioner Ridge on his 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Commissioner Spence stated that he was encouraged by the regional co-operative initiative of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and his hope that this initiative includes discussions regarding public transportation.

Commissioner Whittum commended Brandy Hatt and Claudine Williams for their efforts resolving variance issues related to his constituents with the Zoning Board of Appeals. He also commended Sgt. Brooks of the Eaton County Sheriff Department.

Commissioner Whitacre stated that the Eaton Food and AG Fest will be held at the Eaton County Fairgrounds, in Kardell Hall on July 11, 2016 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. She also thanked The Health & Human Services Committee for their funding to defray the cost of the event.

There was no Unfinished Business, Old Business.

New Business:

Commissioner Freeman moved the approval of #16-6-52 Resolution to Support the Protect MI Child Registry and Recognize Internet Safety Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, June is Internet Safety Awareness Month and today we are faced cyber bullying, cyber stalking, sexting, exposure to inappropriate material and identity theft are the most common pitfalls of unsafe Internet use. Michigan families, especially minors, are becoming inundated with advertisements meant for adults from alcohol, tobacco, pornography and gambling marketers through different internet and cell phone inboxes, and;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching emails, mobile phones (text messaging) and instant messenger IDs. The Michigan Child Protection Registry, like the federal "Do Not Call List, it is a free Do-Not-Contact service for Michigan's families and schools, and;

WHEREAS, your entire family can sign up for the registry and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect children and any individual from unwanted adult advertising, and;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Child Protection Registry was created by the Michigan State Legislature in 2004 as a Do-Not-Contact service for Michigan families. The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free, state administered program that allows Michigan's families to protect their households from adult-oriented messages, and;

WHEREAS, registering your addresses is quick and easy. Go to www.ProtectMIChild.com and click "Protect Your Household Addresses", and you can register email addresses, mobile phone numbers, instant messenger IDs, and fax numbers, and;

WHEREAS, registrations last for three years with the option to renew at any time. You will receive a notification email reminding you that the three-year time period has expired.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as part of Internet Safety Awareness Month we strongly support this registry, we would like to encourage all residents to sign your entire family up for the registry and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect children and families from unwanted adult advertising. To sign up only takes seconds. Just go to www.ProtectMIChild.com and keep your family safe and yourself. Seconded by Commissioner Brehler. Carried.

Commissioner Augustine moved to enter to closed session for review of the Closed Session Minutes of May 18, 2016, at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the closed session held at the May 18, 2016 board meeting.

Commissioner Freeman moved to end the closed session at 8:13 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Whittum. Carried.

Commissioner Whittum moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016 closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers. Carried.

Chairman Mulder adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Blake Mulder
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Diana Bosworth
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

**EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 15, 2016**

RESOLUTION IN MEMORY OF R/SHERIFF ARTHUR T. KELSEY

Introduced by Commissioner Blake Mulder

Commissioner Mulder moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Whittum.

WHEREAS, Arthur T. Kelsey was elected the Sheriff of Eaton County in the year nineteen seventy seven and served four terms ending in nineteen ninety three; and

WHEREAS, During his term Sheriff Kelsey advocated and oversaw, the funding and construction of the state-of-the-art Eaton County Jail and Sheriff's Departmental complex located on Independence Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey was instrumental in the creation of Eaton County 9-1-1 as a county-wide and separate Eaton County department; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey established the Delta Township substation for the Eaton County Sheriff's Office and supported the Delta Township contract to allow more efficient coverage of law enforcement in Eaton County's largest growing community; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey demonstrated his broad concept of criminal justice beyond the location, apprehension and detention of criminal offenders through the establishment of innovative educational and public relations programs and the development of one of the first Victim Advocate groups in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey structured, maintained and administered a modern and smooth functioning police agency through the introduction of well-crafted and considered innovative practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Kelsey established the Sheriff's Commendation Award which is an award presented solely at the discretion of the Sheriff that recognizes exemplary service for deputies and civilians for bravery, life saving and conduct above and beyond their normal duties; and

WHEREAS, Arthur T. Kelsey sustained a proper and honorable image with the public he served, was trustworthy, friendly and true to his word in his dealings with other county officials and members of this body, worked in cooperation with the county board in all pertinent matters and was a credit to Eaton County Government and law enforcement as a profession;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, express our sincere condolences to his family and many friends and keep Sheriff Kelsey and those close to him in our thoughts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be signed by the Chairperson of the Board and Clerk of the County; and bear the Seal of the County as well. A copy shall be attached to the permanent records of the County. Carried.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**June 15, 2016****RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING/COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP)
GRANT APPLICATION****Introduced by the Public Safety Committee**

Commissioner Whittum moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Rogers.

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Community Oriented Policing Services has Grant Funds available under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP); and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff is desirous of submitting a grant to fund a community policing officer position; and

WHEREAS, the grant will provide up to \$125,000 for an officer with a 25% match to restore community policing efforts, aimed at addressing the increased instances of methamphetamine production/use and growing rise in heroin/opioid prescription drug use and overdoses, and provide enhanced presence within the school districts and engagement at community events. The positions will be funded at entry-level salary and include fringe benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the grant acceptance is contingent on the identification of the 25% grant match required under the grant; and

WHEREAS, such grant has been reviewed and recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Sheriff Department be authorized to submit a grant under the COPS Hiring Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the County's participation in the grant is discontinued or requires a County General Fund contribution, the continuation of the grant funded positions will be reviewed by the appropriate committees to determine the necessity of General Fund commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Controller be authorized to approve any necessary budget amendments to increase expenditures and increase grant revenue if the grant is approved by the United States Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners be authorized to sign the necessary documents. Carried.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 15, 2016

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2016 SUMMER PROPERTY TAX LEVY AND
NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY ALLOCATED TAX LEVY**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Eakin moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Augustine.

WHEREAS, Eaton County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004 being 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy in 2007 and each year thereafter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Eaton County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2016, at the full amount allocated after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction, or 5.2149 mills for General County Operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city and township in Eaton County is directed to account for and deliver the full County allocated tax collections for 2016 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution constitutes certification of the levy of the County allocated tax and authorized collection of the County allocated tax July 1, 2016, at the full amount allocated after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction, or 5.2149 mills. Carried.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 15, 2016

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO A VOTE OF THE ELECTORATE
AN EATRAN MILLAGE AUTHORIZATION QUESTION**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Eakin moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Austin.

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee has reviewed a request from EATRAN to place a Ballot Proposal on the November 8, 2016 Ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Ways and Means Committee is recommending approval of the request.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following question be submitted to a vote of the electorate of Eaton County in the election to be held November 8, 2016.

**EATON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (EATRAN)
MILLAGE RENEWAL AUTHORIZATION QUESTION**

For the purpose of providing funds for the exclusive use of public transportation purposes, to include accommodation for the elderly and handicapped by the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN), at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2012, shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Eaton, Michigan, be continued and renewed at up to 0.2500 of a mill (\$0.25 on each \$1,000 dollars of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2017 to 2021, inclusive, and shall the County of Eaton be authorized to levy such millage for said purposes?

The estimate of the revenue for the County of Eaton in the 2017 calendar year is approximately \$851,100. A small portion of the revenue collected (approximately \$11,709 in 2017) may be required to be distributed to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authorities established in cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Potterville & Village of Bellevue.

YES []

NO []

; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this question is hereby certified to the County Clerk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to cause this proposed question to be stated on the November 8, 2016 ballot and to be prepared and distributed in the manner required by law. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Hosey, Mulder, Augustine, Osieczonek, Whitacre, Freeman, Brehler, Miars, Eakin, Ridge, Lautzenheiser, Austin, Whittum, Rogers. Nays: Spence. Motion carried.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 15, 2016

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS THE ASSESSMENT
METHODOLOGY UTILIZED BY THE MICHIGAN TAX TRIBUNAL – “DARK
STORES”**

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee

Commissioner Eakin moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by
Commissioner Freeman.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) has interpreted the law for tax assessments in a way that dramatically reduces the property tax liabilities of major “big box” retailers by assessing currently used buildings as though they are empty and dark; and

WHEREAS, under the “dark store” theory, big box stores are appealing their property tax assessments to the MTT, arguing that the fair market value of their operating store should be based on comparisons to sales of similar properties that are vacant and abandoned, or are now used for a different, less valuable purpose; and

WHEREAS, the MTT has upheld this theory and cut property tax assessments by as much as 50% and, as a result, townships and local units are losing millions of dollars, impacting services to their residents; and

WHEREAS, additionally, big box stores are putting deed restrictions on their properties that severely limit how the building can be used once it’s vacant resulting in buildings being kept empty and adding to the blight problem in Michigan townships; and

WHEREAS, the issue is already spreading to restaurants, apartment complexes, auto part stores, and many other businesses, and without action, the problem will only get worse; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of property tax liabilities creates huge cuts in the funding to State and local units of government like cities, counties, townships, and school districts; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of the MTT are a catastrophic departure from the tax assessment process required by law and all precedents in the matter, once again reducing the rightful tax to businesses and the wealthy, thus, once again, placing the tax burden on the poor and middle class; now

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eaton County Board of Commissioners strongly supports a legislative fix that addresses three (3) issues:

1). All properties, including big box stores, must be assessed at their highest and best use;

2). Deed restrictions should NOT be a factor in determining a property's true cash value; and

3). The Michigan Tax Tribunal should be required to consider all three (3) methods of assessing – 'cost minus depreciation,' 'sales comparison,' and 'income' – when determining a property's true cash value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Michigan Counties, Representatives Tom Barrett and Brett Roberts, Senator Rick Jones, Governor Snyder, and the Michigan Association of Counties. Carried.

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 15, 2016

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROTECT MI CHILD REGISTRY
AND RECOGNIZE INTERNET SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH**

Introduced by Commissioner Glenn Freeman

Commissioner Freeman moved for the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Brehler.

WHEREAS, June is Internet Safety Awareness Month and today we are faced cyber bullying, cyber stalking, sexting, exposure to inappropriate material and identity theft are the most common pitfalls of unsafe Internet use. Michigan families, especially minors, are becoming inundated with advertisements meant for adults from alcohol, tobacco, pornography and gambling marketers through different internet and cell phone inboxes, and;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan offers a free program to stop adult advertisements from reaching emails, mobile phones (text messaging) and instant messenger IDs. The Michigan Child Protection Registry, like the federal "Do Not Call List", it is a free Do-Not-Contact service for Michigan's families and schools, and;

WHEREAS, your entire family can sign up for the registry and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect children and any individual from unwanted adult advertising, and;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Child Protection Registry was created by the Michigan State Legislature in 2004 as a Do-Not-Contact service for Michigan families. The Michigan Child Protection Registry is a free, state administered program that allows Michigan's families to protect their households from adult-oriented messages, and;

WHEREAS, registering your addresses is quick and easy. Go to www.ProtectMIChild.com and click "Protect Your Household Addresses", and you can register email addresses, mobile phone numbers, instant messenger IDs, and fax numbers, and;

WHEREAS, registrations last for three years with the option to renew at any time. You will receive a notification email reminding you that the three-year time period has expired.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as part of Internet Safety Awareness Month we strongly support this registry, we would like to encourage all residents to sign your entire family up for the registry and inform your friends and colleagues about how they can protect children and families from unwanted adult advertising. To sign up only takes seconds. Just go to www.ProtectMIChild.com and keep your family safe and yourself. Carried.