1A. Chairman Dowson convened the regular meeting of the Cass County Board of Commissioners at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2011, with the flag pledge, in the Board Room of the Courthouse, Walker, MN. Commissioners present: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, and Peterson. Commissioners absent: None.

Others present during portions of the meeting included:

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<td>HHVS Director</td>
<td>Jamie Richter</td>
<td>Director of Public Health</td>
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<td>Kathy Ramos</td>
<td>VSO Officer-HHVS</td>
<td>Tom Burch</td>
<td>Sheriff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kerry Swenson</td>
<td>Emergency Mgmt. Coord.</td>
<td>John Ringle</td>
<td>ESD Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Fairbanks</td>
<td>Solid Waste OTR./County Planner</td>
<td>Mark Peterson</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Anderson</td>
<td>Auditor-Treasurer</td>
<td>Dave Enblom</td>
<td>Highway Engineer</td>
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<td>Gene Williams</td>
<td>Crooked Lake Twp.</td>
<td>David Schaumburg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Olson</td>
<td>Cass Lake Times</td>
<td>Monica Lundquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gail DeBoer</td>
<td>Pilot Independent</td>
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1B. M/S/P Peterson, Downham – To approve the agenda items for discussion as presented and the addition of Item 3C. (Crooked Lake Township - request to be heard), and Item 4B. (Commissioner Gaalswyk report back on Central MN EMS Meeting). Unanimous.

2A. County Administrator Robert Yochum presented to the Board the following matters:

M/S/P Kangas, Gaalswyk – To waive reading and approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimous.

Approve - Board Minutes of November 15, 2011, and November 29, 2011.
Approve - Auditor warrants dated November 17, 2011 in the amount of $1,845,558.67.
Approve - HHVS Auditor warrants dated November 18, 2011 in the amount of $62,798.25.
Approve - HHVS Commissioner warrants dated November 18, 2011 in the amount of $185,018.29.
Approve - Auditor warrants dated December 1, 2011 in the amount of $276,945.14.
Approve Personnel Actions - A. Budgeted positions scheduled for replacement: 1. Receive & file - notice of resignation of Gregory J. Bloomstrom, Assistant County Attorney, effective February 29, 2012. 2. Receive and file - notice of intent to fill the budgeted Assistant County Attorney position vacated by Mr. Bloomstrom, grade 40. 3. Receive and file - notice of intent to fill budgeted position of Resource Manager – Cass County Land Department due to a disability leave of up to one year. B. Positions scheduled for no replacement at this time. None. C. Other: 1. Authorize - grade rating evaluation submission to Public Employment HR Consulting (PEHRC) for an existing position of Cass County Health. Human and Veterans Services – Home Health Aide. 2. Authorize - grade rating evaluation submission to Public Employment HR Consulting (PEHRC) for an existing position of Cass County Health. Human and Veterans Services – Licensed Practical Nurse. 3. Authorize - grade rating evaluation submission to Public Employment HR Consulting (PEHRC) for an existing position Cass County Health. Human and Veterans Services – CTC Outreach Support Worker. 4. Receive & file - notice of probation completion for Christian Dirkes, Accounting Technician, grade 19, step 1, on December 1, 2011. 5. Amend - initial appointment step placement of Land Commissioner, Joshua Stevenson from grade 40 step 4 to Grade 40 step 7, effective December 12, 2011.
Approve - Release of unclaimed assets in the amount of $7,099.94 (Margaret S. Poore) from general fund reserve account 01.2752 to the general fund.
Approve - Final pay request (Inv. #10-037.01-2) for Cass County Energy Upgrade Project to EDI in the amount of $3,946.83.

M/S/P Kangas, Gaalswyk – To award a contract to repair an impoundment in Sec. 23, Bull Moose Township to North Fork Boulders not to exceed $2,350.00. Unanimous.

Bidder                  | Bid Amount    |
-------------------------|---------------|
North Fork Boulders      | $2,350.00     |
Sawyer Timber LLC        | No bid        |
Schrupp Excavating       | No Bid        |

Approve – FY12 Cross-Country Ski GIA Maintenance & Grooming Grant Agreement (C#%38057) MN DNR - $9,300.00.
Receive & file - 2011 MCT dividend payment in the amount of $449,441.00.
Approve - Bid specifications for annual printing & publishing for year 2012.
Approve - MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSSR) 2012 Block Grant - $84,908, from September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.
Report back - Department Head performance evaluations of Tuesday, November 29, 2011 concluded that County Administrator Robert Yochum, Auditor-Treasurer Sharon Anderson, Central Services Director Tim Richardson, Land Commissioner Josh Stevenson, ESD Director John Ringle, County Assessor Mark Peterson, Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe, County Engineer Dave Enblom, and HHVS Director Reno Wells achieve the requirements of their positions.
Approve - Final pay request (Inv. #10-037.01-2) for Cass County Energy Upgrade Project to EDI in the amount of $3,946.83.
Approve - State of MN contract for network services (increasing connection from 4.5Mbps to 100Mbps) and authorize Central Services Director to execute.

Approve - Timber auction results of Nov. 23, 2011 totaling 6,652.00 cords plus 32.00 mbl saw timber totaling $172,693.00.


Approve - Home and Community Based Services Contracts for 2012-2014 between Cass County HHVS - Cass County Public Health; Home Health Partnership; CK Home Health; Kensack Inn; Lutheran Social Services; Minnesota Home Care, Inc.; Northern Cass DAC; Pine River DAC; Pine River Group Home; Pur Foods, LLC dba Mom’s Meals; Three Oaks Adult Foster Home; Access North Center for Independent Living; Adult Day Services, Inc.; Bamabas Health Care; Cherished Home Management Services; Gentle Care, Inc.; Good Samaritan Home Care; Gramma Jo’s; Caring Hands Home Care.

Approve - Payment for 2011 second half contributions to the Cass County/Leech Lake Reservation Children’s Initiative Collaborative Inc. not to exceed $16,500 for the Children's Mental Health Coordinator and payment not to exceed $12,500 for Mental Health Services.

Receive & file - Cass County HHVS Cash account balance comparison and child service costs through October 2011.

Accord - Donation in the amount of $1,500.00 from Angels of St. Agnes in business gift cards for Cass County HHS.

Approve - 2012 Interagency Agreement by and between the Cass County/Leech Lake Reservation Children's Initiative Collaborative Board.

Approve - Request from Bob R. Hall for a 33’ easement on existing trails to access PID #12-018-3200 in 18-139-26 Crooked Lake Twp.

Refer - Conservation easement language to a Committee of the Board (Commissioners Kangas, and Peterson)


Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 59-11 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Gaalswyk seconded:

WHEREAS: Contract No. 11109 (CP 2011-1(109)) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises, NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Cass and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Resolution No. 59-11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

Approve - Resolution No 60-11 authorizing final payment for Highway Contract #160117, (SP 011-601-017).

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 60-11 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Gaalswyk seconded:

WHEREAS: Contract No. 60117 (SP 011-601-017) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises, NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Cass and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Resolution No. 60-11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

Approve - Resolution No 61-11 authorizing final payment for Highway Contract #60118, (SP 011-601-018).

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 61-11 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Gaalswyk seconded:

WHEREAS: Contract No. 60118 (SP 011-601-018) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises, NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Cass and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Resolution No. 61-11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.


Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 62-11 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Gaalswyk seconded:

WHEREAS: Contract No. 60121 (SAP 011-601-021) has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises, NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Cass and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Resolution No.62-11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, Peterson. Nays: None.

Approve - Application from the Over the Hills Gang ATV to the MNDNR OHV Trail Assistance Program.

Receive & file - Citizen Committee applications for 2012.

2B. County Administrator Yochum summarized the Kitchigami Regional Library System (KRLS) “Options for Service Reductions” from Director Marian Ridge dated November 2, 2011. Mr. Yochum explained that the 2011 Minnesota Legislature allowed the option to establish the minimum level of maintenance of effort for library service funding by cities and counties at 90% of the 2011 level. The minimum level of library support for Cass County was reduced to $286,080 – 87.2% of its 2011 funding of $326,023. Kitchigami Regional Library System has requested a 2012 county levy amount equal to the 2011 funding level. Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk (Cass County’s representative on the KRLS Board) reported on recent discussions at the KRLS Board Meetings including funding approaches by other counties. By consensus, the Board tabled the 2012 KRLS levy request to the regular meeting of the Cass County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 as a part of the 2012 budget adoption process.

2C. Administrator Yochum summarized the 2012 Cass County bargaining units and non-union employee compensation plans (0% cost of living adjustment plus steps) and reported that the three elected department heads also request their compensation be established the same as others. Mr. Yochum then presented Resolution No. 64-11 establishing elected Department Head salaries for 2012.

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No.64-11 and moved its adoption, Commissioner Gaalswyk seconded:

WHEREAS: Minnesota Statute 386.015 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Recorder, and

WHEREAS: Minnesota Statute 387.20 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Sheriff, and

WHEREAS: Minnesota Statute 388.18 provides in part for the establishment of the annual compensation of the County Attorney, and

WHEREAS: That the adoption of the foregoing annual salaries is consistent with labor settlements and budgetary guidelines for 2012.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:
1. That the year 2012 salaries for the individuals indicated are hereby established as follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Monthly Rate</th>
<th>Annual Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Attorney – Christopher Strandlie</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8,655</td>
<td>103,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8,915</td>
<td>106,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Sheriff – Tom Burch</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7,248</td>
<td>86,986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7,465</td>
<td>89,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Recorder – Katie Norby</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5,555</td>
<td>66,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. That all positions are additionally eligible for an annual longevity payment in accordance with the current Cass County Personnel Policy Rules.

Resolution No. 64-11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, and Peterson. Nays: None.

2D. Administrator Yochum presented for discussion Resolution No. 63-11 establishing the Cass County Board members compensation for 2012. Board member annual salary has not changed for years 2010 and 2011 ($23,596.50). Mr. Yochum also presented a salary history for years 2008 and 2009 where the board members compensation was $24,326.00 per year.

Commissioner Kangas offered Resolution No. 63-11 moved its adoption, Commissioner Peterson seconded:

WHEREAS, County Commissioners may receive per diem payment and reimbursement for necessary expenses in performing the duties of the office as set forth by this resolution of the County Board pursuant to legal authority of Minnesota Statutes 375.055-375.065, 471.665 and 475.06, and WHEREAS, Cass County Board Resolution No. 29-94 (Amended), dated June 7, 1994 recognizes the Attorney General opinion regarding the interpretation and intent of laws governing county commissioner compensation per diem allowance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cass County Board of Commissioners hereby reaffirms the following per diem payment policy and schedule for 2012 in compliance with applicable state statutes: The rate of per diem payment shall be $75.00 per day for attendance at one or more of the following: county board meetings, (except the first regular monthly board meeting, board of auditors, board of equalization, or canvassing board); for service by individual county commissioners on any board, committee or commission of county government including committees of the board pursuant to the official list of committee and board assignments adopted in January of each year; while acting on any committee or attending a meeting under the direction of the board, or for the performance of services by individual county commissioners when required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Cass County Commissioner annual salary compensation for 2012 is hereby established at $23,596.50. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the receipt of per diem payments by commissioners that might serve on other bodies of government for which additional compensation is separately authorized by statute in the performance of duties for a statutory separate body with independent authority to compensate its members. The foregoing resolution is effective for the calendar year 2012 effective January 01, 2012.

Resolution No. 63 -11 was adopted by majority vote: Ayes: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, and Peterson. Nays: None.

3A. ESD Director John Ringle and Solid Waste Officer/County Planner Paul Fairbanks discussed the land use ordinance revision timetable (last revised in 2006). In July 2011 the Planning Commission (PC) held its first hearing on proposed ordinance language changes and after testimony the PC voted to continue the hearing at a later date to be determined. Since then the Planning Commission has convened a working group consisting of 3 PC members, 4 members of the resort industry, and ESD staff to work on revisions of the resort section of the ordinance. In addition, a work group plans to meet before the end of the year to discuss the extractive use section of the ordinance. The Planning Commission has set January 18 (Wednesday in the later afternoon) to hold an overall work session for ordinance revision. The continued first hearing by the PC will be scheduled sometime in February with the idea of bringing it to the County Board at a March Meeting for the second and final hearing. If approved the revisions would go into effect 30 days after final publication. By consensus, the Board appointed Commissioners Downham and Dowson to the Planning Commission extractive use study group.

3B. Paul Fairbanks discussed the contract with Waste Management Company for landfill disposal that expires on October 31, 2012. Mr. Fairbanks also reported that the Stockman Transfer Station Management agreement also expires on October 31, 2012. ESD Director Ringle requested two board members to assist staff in identifying options and soliciting proposals.

M/S/P Peterson, Downham – To appoint Commissioners Gaalswyk and Kangas to assist staff in identifying options and soliciting proposals for solid waste contracts. Unanimous.

3C. Crooked Lake Township Supervisors Gene Williams and David Schaumburg requested to be heard regarding wetland rules that hinder improving roads in platted right-of-ways. It is the Townships position that no permits should be required for work on the existing platted road right-of-way unless the work involves bridging or culverts conveying copious amounts of water. ESD Director John Ringle explained that wetland rules are established by the State of Minnesota and Cass County is required to administer the same. No permits are required by the County and the County simply provides a service to Townships in applying for wetland credits required by the state. County Engineer David Enblom also discussed the wetland mitigation credit process. No action necessary.
4A. Sheriff Tom Burch and Emergency Management Coordinator Kerry Swenson presented an ARMER project budget update: tower improvements will be completed by mid January 2012, the AVL (automatic vehicle location) equipment is being installed, and the Cass County Dispatch Center will be in operation by the end of December. Mr. Swenson commented that final grant funding amounts will be determined by the end of the first quarter of 2012. Sheriff Burch reported the need to repair or replace the existing county security cameras as a part of the Dispatch Center improvements. The Board thanked Sheriff Burch and Mr. Swenson and requested a facility tour when work is completed.

4B. Commissioner Gaalswyk reported discussions at the Central MN Emergency Medical Services Board meeting regarding possible changes in governance and staffing alternatives. Emergency Management Coordinator Kerry Swenson offered to submit suggestions. No action necessary.

5A. VSO Officer Kathy Ramos reported telephone and personal contacts with veterans totaling 793 during the third quarter in 2011. Ms. Ramos also discussed satellite activity in the Cities of Cass Lake (9), Pillager (10), Pine River (128), and Remer (12) as well as in-home visits (13) and out reach services (6). Ms. Ramos reported veteran’s transportation program activity through third quarter of 158 riders traveling 38,008 miles. Other community contacts and related training were also discussed. No action necessary.

5B. Director of Public Health Nursing Jamie Richter presented an updated Cass County Public Health Strategic Plan focused on prevention, promotion and protection of the public’s health. Ms. Richter added the vision of the plan is to empower and equip the community to be healthy. Values promoted by the Public Health team include service, integrity, teamwork, and stewardship to complete the plan. Specific strategies with targeted outcomes include high risk pregnancy, immunizations, obesity, and public health accreditation. Mr. Richter also informed the Board that the SHIP grant has been approved by the State of Minnesota. No action necessary.

6A. Highway Engineer Dave Enblom requested Board approval to sell approximately 30 radios as surplus property due to the recent installation of ARMER radios. Sheriff Tom Burch explained the Sheriffs Office schedule for similar surplus property radio sales as a result of the ARMER project.

M/S/P Downham, Peterson – To authorize the sale of used radios declared surplus property as a result of installation of ARMER radios (Highway Department and Sheriffs Office). Unanimous.

6B. Mr. Enblom presented bid results for an unleaded fuel system control replacement at the Walker Cass County Highway Department facility.

M/S/P Gaalswyk, Kangas - To award the bid to the apparent low bidder Independent Petroleum Service not to exceed $11,185.50. for an unleaded fuel system control replacement at the Walker Cass County Highway Department facility. Unanimous.

7A. Auditor-Treasurer Sharon Anderson requested Board approval to purchase additional E-Time software from RTVision. RTVision is introducing a new specialized product providing more complex time reporting for law enforcement agencies. Ms. Anderson recommended purchase of additional E-Time software from RTVision not to exceed a base price of $2,500.00 and a per employee fee of $85 (plus annual support). Ms. Anderson added that the source of funds would also be the 2011 surplus property auction proceeds.

M/S/P Gaalswyk Kangas – To approve the purchase of additional E-Time software from RTVision not to exceed a base price of $2,500.00 and a per employee fee of $85 (plus annual support) utilizing the 2011 surplus property auction proceeds as the source of funding. Unanimous.

7B. Ms. Anderson presented a quarterly status report dated December 2011 summarizing litigated claims and legal actions. In addition the Board received notice of new claims of Phelps v. State of MN, Trustee and Cass County and Tri-City Paving, Inc. v. Cass County. An open claim of KSTP, et al v. all Minnesota Counties was reported as conclude subject to appeal. No action necessary.

8. M/S/P Downham, Kangas – To recess the meeting at 4:50 p.m. and reconvene at 6:00 p.m. for the scheduled public hearing on the 2012 Cass County budget. Unanimous.

9A. Chairman Dowson convened the Truth-N-Taxation public hearing on the proposed 2012 Cass County budget and property tax levy at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2011 in the Commissioners Board Room of the Courthouse, Walker, MN. Commissioners present: Downham, Dowson, Gaalswyk, Kangas, and Peterson. Commissioners absent: None.

Others present during portions of the meeting included:

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<td>Mark Peterson</td>
<td>Assessor</td>
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<td>Sandy Pence</td>
<td>Assessor's Office</td>
<td>Penny Vikre</td>
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<td>Judy Dean</td>
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<td>Jamie Richter</td>
<td>HHVS</td>
<td>Michele Piprude</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merilee Payne</td>
<td>HHVS</td>
<td>Una Jane Keeley</td>
<td>Self</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Weiss</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Beth Ramsdell</td>
<td>Self</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clyde Eells</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Wayne Striebel</td>
<td>Self</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeri Striebel</td>
<td>Self</td>
<td>Doug Payne</td>
<td>Self</td>
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- **Vendor**
  - Independent Petroleum Service: $11,185.50
  - O’Day Equipment, LLC: $13,478.00
County Administrator Yochum acknowledged that notice of this Truth-In-Taxation hearing was provided in the 38,541 parcel notices as provided by State law. Mr. Yochum briefly explained the exhibits provided to those in attendance including: 1.) a sample hearing notice, 2.) a supplemental notice of proposed property tax notice that was sent to residents of the Brainerd School District (ISD#181) as a result of two referendum voter approved levies, 3.) a summary of the proposed property tax changes provided in the hearing notices, 4.) a schedule of all taxing districts (90) comparing 2011 with 2012 proposed levy, tax base, and tax rates, 5.) an analysis of the new homestead exclusion law by tax jurisdiction, and 6.) a parcel specific sample of the impact of State law changes, tax base changes, and changes in spending.

Chief Financial Officer Larry Wolfe gave an overview of the County budget process and summarized the 2012 budget as recommended by the Citizen Budget Committee to date. Mr. Wolfe also presented a survey of area County 2011 tax rates compared to proposed 2012 area County budgets, tax levies, and tax rates. CFO Wolfe added that no written comments have been received related to the hearing notices and that County staff are available at the Assessors Office adjacent to the Board Room to assist citizens with any questions regarding values or tax classifications.

9B. Chairman Dowson asked the audience for comments related to the Cass County Budget. Wayne Striebel, Doug Weiss, and Clyde Eells discussed valuation trends, simplifying property tax rate changes, and pursuit of revenues other than property taxes.

9C. M/S/P Kangas, Downham - To close the hearing and table adoption of the 2012 Cass County Levy & Budget until Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at the regular Cass County Board of Commissioners Meeting, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Board Room, 1st Floor Annex, Courthouse, MN. Unanimous.

10. Chairman Dowson adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

SIGNED: Jim Dowson, Chairman
Cass County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: Robert H. Yochum
Cass County Administrator