County Commissioners’ Meeting

By Joe Tilton

Dog owners are on notice. If your pet has not been registered and licensed by Montcalm County you have until the end of August to get it done. A grace period of August 1 through 31 was approved at the monthly commission meeting at the old courthouse in Stanton, Monday evening, along with discussion about animal control shifting from the county to the Humane Society. The question raised by Treasurer JoAnn Cummin was, “where will sick and quarantined animals be kept during the contract year with the Society?” Other questions raised and unanswered were: how much will the Humane Society pay for using county buildings and computers and how does the county plan to enforce the dog license ordinance? The fine for not complying with the licensing ordinance was not mentioned. A subsequent meeting has been requested by Administrator Bob Clingenpeel, that the sheriff, treasurer, health officer and commissioner find a way to solve the issues and answer questions presented.

Other business included the hiring of Mike Felton as the new Village Manager for Howard City.

(continued on page 13)
(continued from page 8)

A one-year contract was approved with Maximus Consulting.

The West Michigan Pathology Services Authority assists several other counties in the region, and now will be serving Montcalm County. Also, Dr. Paul Wagoner was approved as the County’s Medical Examiner.

Commissioner Johansen reported on the five-year capital improvement program citing building update information, and he reported that 58 building permits have been issued for the month that total $2.06-million in new construction.

Commissioner Ron Baker, chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, motioned to approve Mike Kalka as the new Building Official for the county, and his motion passed. One commissioner, however, voted “no” on a motion to approve two warrants, one for $383,095.88 and another for $196,843.10. Additionally, a new and advanced life-support system was approved, and bids will be requested for the purchase.

The county’s fee-for-services schedule will be reviewed after County Administrator Bob Clingenpeel, surveys surrounding county fees for comparison. Recommendations for changes will likely be presented in the August meeting.

An amendment to the 2018 budget for childcare was brought up as discussed in the July 21st meeting. A follow-up story will be published on this topic.

The meeting length was less than 30-minutes.

The county website is Montcalm.org. Visit the site for information on other county activities and information.

All nine commissioners were seated, including Jeremy Miller, Tom Lindeman, Betty Kellenberger, Tom Porter, Ron Braman, Patrick Carr (chairman), Ron Retzloff, Ron Baker and John Johansen.