



Brad Kivisto: Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Inspector



In November, Mr. Kivisto joined Antrim County to facilitate shifting Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control responsibilities from the Antrim Conservation District to the County's Building Dept. This shift became effective in January when Mr. Kivisto was certified.

When asked what he likes about his new position, Mr. Kivisto noted that soil erosion control has "a far-reaching impact on the environment, economy, and infrastructure." He added that responsible development practices help "foster growth while preserving our water resources, reducing flood risk, and preventing structural damage to roads and buildings."

Mr. Kivisto graduated from Bay City Central High School and has a Bachelor of Business Administration from Northwood University. Prior to his employment with Antrim County, Mr. Kivisto worked for the US Postal Service.

He plays in a recreational hockey league, and he and his wife are in the process of adopting their two foster children. Mr. Kivisto is an outdoor enthusiast, and notes that as "a father, I strive to ensure that the work I do has a positive effect on future generations."

TCE Plume Update: Online

On January 21, the Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy updated the County's Economic Development Corporation about the status of the TCE Plume. The presentation was recorded and is available on the Antrim County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC's) Facebook page and on the EDC's webpage at antrimcountymi.gov. *[Please note that due to technical difficulties, the audio's quality is not ideal.]*

County Building Elevator is OPEN

Replacement went as scheduled. After a successful inspection, it reopened to the public in early February. The elevator runs smoothly and the interior is brightly lit.

Materials Management: First Meeting Has Been Scheduled

The first meeting of the Materials Management Planning Committee (MMPC) is scheduled for 2/27 at 1 pm in the Board of Commissioner's Room. The MMPC is a state requirement; it is tasked with developing the County's Materials Management Plan, also a state requirement.

Public Safety Center: Update

What's happening? The County is moving forward with a Public Safety Center with no new taxes.

The voters said no. How can the County go ahead? The November 2024 proposal, which was for a construction millage, failed by 223 votes. This left the Board of Commissioners with a difficult decision as the 1955 jail is unsafe, deficient, and non-compliant.

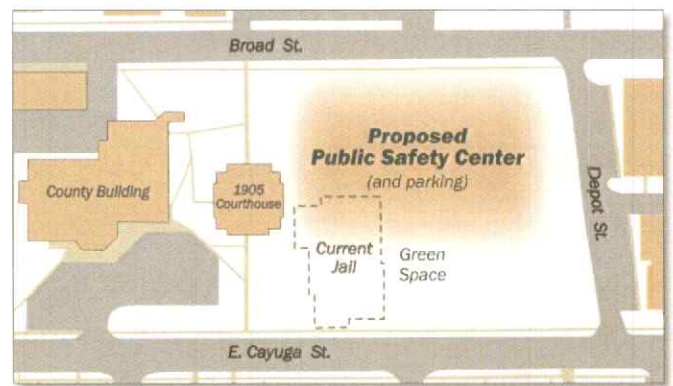
To help ensure the safety and security of residents and to reduce the County's liability, the Board voted to build the Public Safety Center without the financial "safety net" of a construction millage.

How much will the Center cost? The budget is capped at \$33.5 million, with the County aiming to keep costs lower, if possible.

Where is the money going to come from? The County has \$8.5 million saved; the rest will come from selling bonds, which is the government equivalent of getting a loan.

Bonds will be paid back over 25 years at most, and payments will be made from the County's general fund. The payments are affordable due in part to the County's diligence in pursuing efficiencies and making cuts.

The County is committed to responsible budgeting. The need to eliminate any positions that would lead to reduced services is not currently anticipated.



Concept location of the Public Safety Center

County Opioid Funds: 1st Round of Awards expected in March

Antrim County has begun to receive its opioid funding. To allocate these monies effectively, the County released a Request for Proposals in late 2024; awards are scheduled for the Board's review in March. Future allocations are expected to be distributed in a similar way.