



For Immediate Release  
CONTACT: Jim Storey  
616-848-9767

## **Consolidated Government Committee files annual report**

**DOUGLAS, MI (Feb. 3, 2012)** – The Consolidated Government Committee (CGC), the citizens grass roots group that circulated petitions to allow area voters to decide whether to consolidate the Saugatuck, Douglas and Saugatuck township governments into one government, filed its annual campaign finance report with the Allegan County Clerk Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>.

The report shows contributions of \$60,270 during 2011 from 34 contributors and expenditures totaling 61,448.

Major contributors included Haworth, Inc., major employer and operator of a manufacturing plant here, \$10,000; Fleming Brothers Oil Company, supplier of fuels for several area employers and operator of a filling station-convenience store in Saugatuck Township, \$7,500; Singapore Dunes LLC, which has proposed a \$400 million resort complex in the township, \$10,000; and The King Company, a marine contractor regularly engaged in Kalamazoo Lake harbor improvement projects, \$4,000.

Sizeable individual contributors came from CGC members who investigated consolidation over an 18 month period as well as an additional 21 individual contributors, including the president of a Douglas-based boat manufacturing firm, another significant local employer.

**Consolidated Government Committee**  
P.O. Box 967 ★ Douglas, MI 49406  
(269) 857-6000 • [www.congov.com](http://www.congov.com)

The CGC's inquiry included extensive reviews of two financial reports, one by Plante & Moran, an internationally respected financial advisory firm, and MSU's Extension Service. Each study identified efficiencies and up to \$1.2 million in annual taxpayer savings that could be achieved if the three governments became one. The CGC also evaluated state legal requirements and voter attitudes toward consolidation.

Major expenditures included payments for legal and engineering services to prepare voter petitions to meet rigorous requirements of the State Boundary Commission. The commission controls the consolidation process.

Other payments went to the Douglas Postmaster for mailings to all voters in each of the three jurisdictions, retention of a consultant to advise the committee, and newspaper advertising.

"This year and last, the CGC attracted the investment of community business leaders and other residents concerned about the future of the Douglas Saugatuck area. It is especially noteworthy that those who provide good wage jobs, pay significant local taxes, and want to ensure the community's future understand the need to allow voters to decide their governmental future at the ballot box" commented Travis Randolph, CGC Chairman.

"CGC activities are entirely financed by voluntary contributions and do not benefit from taxpayer-paid support for such matters as legal advice or financial inquiries," added Randolph.

None of the CGC members hold local government positions and all have been active in previous community improvement efforts.

Most recently the CGC invited the State Boundary Commission staff to conduct a town hall presentation January 24 at Saugatuck High School's media center for residents to learn about the consolidation process. The presentation drew 60 to 70 attendees.

"For more than 22 years, the Tri Community Plan's two iterations and two academic studies have recommended bringing the consolidation matter to a vote. The CGC is committed to seeing that process to the end," Randolph added.

#####