

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Roger Morgan.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Voorhees, Wahlfield – 16.

Absent: Vaughn, Vonk, Chair Morren – 3 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Bulkowski gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Bianchi, Department Commander for the Catholic War Veterans, is concerned about getting American flags for veteran's graves in Kent County. On May 25th, Governor Granholm signed House Bill 4273 allowing Counties to participate in seeing that every city, township or village shall put a flag and flag holder on a veteran's grave within the county. He strongly feels that every veteran should have a flag on his/her grave. He encouraged the Board of Commission to assist the municipalities that cannot afford to do so.

Walt McVeigh, Chairman of the Flag Committee for the United Veterans Council, would like to see funding for this issue.

Ken Chester, Plainfield Township – He asked the Board to have a committee review putting a proposal on the ballot for recreation. He believes that it is important to support recreation and volunteered to serve on such a committee.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

GFOA – Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Bob White, Fiscal Services Director, presented to the Chair the Distinguished Budget Award by the Government Finance Officers Association. Kent County has received this award for the last three years.

Vice Chair Morgan accepted the award, and said that it was another example of the fine work that the staff in Fiscal Services does for the County.

Kent/MSU Cooperative Extension Service – Grand Ideas Garden Update

Betty Blase, Director of Cooperative Extension, stated that three years ago she asked the Board for the use of the lot on the north side of their building for an educational garden. Betty introduced Rebecca Finneran for the progress update.

Ms. Finneran, master gardener, explained that the Grand Ideas Garden developed a mission that the garden become an educational showplace for the green industry and gardeners. Fundraising included purchases of bricks, benches or trees. Trees have been donated, 50 flats of perennials have been purchased and volunteers are maintaining the garden.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of June 9, 2005 Meeting
- b) June 7 & 21 and July 7, 2005 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

7-14-05-50 – FAMILIES IN TOUCH GRANT APPROVAL, CONTRACT AND BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVAL / KENT/MSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1998, the Board of Commissioners approved Cooperative Extension's request to apply to Spectrum Health for a Families in Touch Grant. Since then, continuation funding has been awarded and approved annually; and

WHEREAS, the Families in Touch Program, in partnership with Spectrum Health provides education for underserved Kent County families with school-age children. Educational programming opportunities include parenting, money management and nutrition education to improve overall family health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the Program is eligible for an additional year of funding from Spectrum Health. MSU will continue to be the employer of record for the positions. No County staff positions or funds are involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners accepts funding from Spectrum Health for the Families in Touch Program, amends the Memorandum of Agreement with Cooperative Extension for the performance of the grant, and appropriates an additional \$55,697 in grant funding to the Kent MSU Cooperative Extension Budget for the program.

7-14-05-51 – AMEND GRANT FROM AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (ACSET) AND BUDGET AMENDMENT / FRIEND OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, for at least the last nine years, the County has operated or been affiliated with the Work First (WF) program formerly known as Parents' Fair Share; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the WF program is to provide employment services for unemployed parents with child support obligations in Kent County; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2004, the Board passed a resolution authorizing the Friend of the Court to accept a grant from ACSET to fund the WF program from October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, due to cost increase associated with personnel, the original budget of \$156,876 will not cover a full year of salaries and fringe benefit for the three existing grant-

funded positions; and

WHEREAS, the \$11,088 grant amendment, if approved, will allow the grant to continue to pay 100% of the salaries and fringe benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts a grant amendment from the Area Community Service Employment & Training agency, contingent upon award and execution of a contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the position(s) will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby appropriate \$11,088 in estimated revenues to the Friend of the Court Work First budget contingent upon award and execution of a contract; and to authorize the Board Chair to sign the documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the contract documents.

7-14-05-52 – AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND CONTRACT

APPROVAL – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

WHEREAS, Public Act 511 of 1988 provides funding for Community Corrections Advisory Boards to administer and operate programs to provide alternatives to incarceration for offenders; and

WHEREAS, if approved, funding will be provided to the following local programs: Kent County Court Services Department (Pretrial Programs, Work Crew and Community Service Programs, Case Management and Risk Assessment), Pine Rest Mental Health Services, Project Rehab, Alternative Directions, Arbor Circle AOS, Grand Rapids Public Schools Business and Industry Center, Prodigal Human Services, Goodwill Industries, Family Service Outreach Center, and the Kent County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, the grant request also includes funding for Probation Residential Services for Alternative Directions, Pine Rest, and Project Rehab.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Community Corrections' Comprehensive Plan and application for funding under PA 511 of 1988, and authorizes contracts with the proposed vendors not-to-exceed the recommended funding amount.

7-14-05-53 – NORTH KENT SEWAGE DISPOSAL BUDGET AMENDMENT / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Act 185 Bond Fund accounts for activity related to the water and sewer systems constructed by the Department of Public Works for local governments. The construction and debt service are accounted for here; and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the North Kent Sewage Disposal project was bonded on behalf of Alpine Township and the project was completed in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Alpine Township currently has \$25,000 remaining in the Act 185 Bond Fund associated with this project. According to the bond agreement these funds must be

used to pay for debt or improvements to the system; and

WHEREAS, Alpine Township is currently in the process of a \$580,000 project to replace sewer pipe in the North Kent Sewage Disposal System and would like to use the \$25,000 to help fund these improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works is requesting an appropriation of \$25,000 to the Act 185 Bond Fund from its fund balance to spend the remaining funds associated with this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$25,000 to the Act 185 Bond Fund from its fund balance.

7-14-05-54 – APPLICATION TO URBAN COOPERATION BOARD FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS / ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE / COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) ordinance, adopted by the Board of Commissioners in November of 2002, established procedures for the administration of the PDR program. By ordinance, the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board is responsible for much of the program administration, with certain items presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board intends to apply to the Urban Cooperation Board (UCB) for \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, any funds awarded by the UCB are eligible to be matched by a Steelcase Foundation grant, previously approved; and

WHEREAS, all grant funds awarded will be used to provide the local share required by the Michigan Agricultural Preservation grant 2005 application cycle or the federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program 2006 grant cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Agricultural Preservation Board’s request to apply to the Urban Cooperation Board for grant funding support in the amount of \$20,000 for local share of agricultural land Purchase of Development Rights, and if awarded, to appropriate \$20,000 to the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Fund.

7-14-05-55 – NASH CREEK EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PROJECT GRANT APPLICATION AND BUDGET AMENDMENT / DRAIN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has received notice that funds for the Nash Creek Erosion & Sedimentation Control Project are available in the year 2005; and

WHEREAS, this grant will provide funds for the development of a model program to show the benefits of regional wetland detention areas based on the process to be used in the Nash Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, this grant will also assemble a reference packet for property owners, providing detailed information about funding sources for regional wetland detention areas; and

WHEREAS, the grant will require a 25% County match; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that these matching funds will be met by person-hours contributed by existing staff; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the Drain Commission's request to accept a grant from the Great Lakes Commission for the Nash Creek Erosion and Sedimentation Control Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to sign all grant related documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby appropriate \$43,245 in revenues from Great Lakes Commission to the Special Projects -Nash Creek Program contingent upon award and execution of a contract.

7-14-05-56 – CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS – LEAD HAZARD CONTROL GRANT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Kent County Health Department has received notice that additional grant funds are available from the City of Grand Rapids to increase staff support from .80 FTE Social Worker I to 1.0 FTE Social Worker I for the Hazard Control Grant for the remaining twenty-two months of the grant through March 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department, through the existing Hazard Control Grant, provides professional case-work services to individuals and/or families eligible for the program. These services include working with referrals, conducting dust sampling to determine at-risk households, assisting clients in completing the Lead Hazard Reduction Applications, and locating off-site housing for families during remediation. In addition, the Health Department is responsible for generating awareness of the Lead Hazard Control Program with the public and healthcare community by conducting educational classes in lead-safe work and cleaning practices; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are available to expand the target area for lead testing in Grand Rapids to include the northwest and northeast portions of the city. Currently, only neighborhoods in the southeast portion of Grand Rapids are targeted for testing; and

WHEREAS, the cost of additional salary and benefits for the full-time position is \$37,579 for the remaining twenty-two months of the grant. The increased funding of \$26,585 will cover a portion of the cost of the additional salary and benefits needed. The remaining \$10,994 will be covered by the transfer of original grant funds from supplies to salary and benefits. Supplies that were originally proposed to be purchased by the Health Department will now be purchased by the City of Grand Rapids and provided to the Health Department; and

WHEREAS, in the event grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the position will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners accept additional funding of \$26,585 from the City of Grand Rapids to expand the existing Lead Hazard Control Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners appropriate an additional \$26,585 to the Health Department budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves increasing staff support from .80 FTE Social Worker I to 1.0 FTE Social Worker I for the Hazard Control Grant for the remaining twenty-two months of the grant through March 31, 2007.

7-14-05-57 – EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT APPROVAL AND BUDGET AMENDMENT

APPROVAL FOR MILLENNIUM PARK / PARKS

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment program provides federal funding assistance for assessment and cleanup of environmentally impacted properties; and

WHEREAS, during acquisition of properties for Millennium Park, environmental site assessments were conducted which indicated that certain properties are in need of further environmental assessment and cleanup; and

WHEREAS, in November 2004, four grant applications were submitted to the EPA Brownfield program to fund environmental assessment and cleanup activities for properties acquired for the park. In May 2005, the EPA awarded the County four grants totaling \$800,000; and

WHEREAS, the Millennium Park Environmental Advisory Team (MPEAT) - consisting of representatives from Parks, Public Works, Health, and Administration Departments, an environmental consultant, and MDEQ is providing guidance in developing environmental action strategies with project management support provided through the Kent County DPW. Assessment and cleanup activities are prioritized in accordance with future development needs of the park and EPA approved activities - including the re-plugging of leaking and/or orphaned oil wells; and

WHEREAS, Brownfield grant funding requires a 20% cost share local match of direct contribution and/or in-kind labor, material, or services. Funds for the local match will be allocated from the Millennium Park CIP; and

WHEREAS, a work plan will be submitted to the EPA in August 2005; funds will be available in FY2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners accepts U.S. EPA Brownfield Cleanup and Redevelopment grant funds and appropriates \$800,000 to the Millennium Park CIP.

(Commissioner Voorhees requested that resolution 7-14-05-54 be removed from the consent agenda.)

Motion by Commissioner Bulkowski, seconded by Commissioner Postmus, to approve the remaining consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Voorhees, Wahlfield - 16.

Nays: 0.

7-14-05-54 – APPLICATION TO URBAN COOPERATION BOARD FOR GRANT FUNDING

FOR PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE / COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WHEREAS, the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) ordinance, adopted by the Board of Commissioners in November of 2002, established procedures for the administration of the PDR program. By ordinance, the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board is

responsible for much of the program administration, with certain items presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board intends to apply to the Urban Cooperation Board (UCB) for \$20,000; and

WHEREAS, any funds awarded by the UCB are eligible to be matched by a Steelcase Foundation grant, previously approved; and

WHEREAS, all grant funds awarded will be used to provide the local share required by the Michigan Agricultural Preservation grant 2005 application cycle or the federal Farm and Ranch Protection Program 2006 grant cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Agricultural Preservation Board's request to apply to the Urban Cooperation Board for grant funding support in the amount of \$20,000 for local share of agricultural land Purchase of Development Rights, and if awarded, to appropriate \$20,000 to the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Fund.

Motion by Commissioner Bulkowski, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Wahlfield - 14.

Nays: Hiddema, Voorhees - 2.

RESOLUTIONS

7-14-05-58 – PARK LAND ACQUISITION – GRAND RAPIDS TOWNSHIP / PARKS

WHEREAS, Kent County currently owns 80 acres of undeveloped, passive recreation land in Grand Rapids Township known as the Knapp Valley Forest. A parcel of adjacent property, similarly wooded and with a rolling topography, has become available for purchase; and

WHEREAS, this 24-acre parcel will provide a connection to Three Mile Road that the Knapp Valley Forest currently does not have; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition is consistent with the Parks Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price is supported by an appraisal; and

WHEREAS, Grand Rapids Township is very supportive of this acquisition, and has committed \$100,000 to the purchase, which will be paid at closing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the purchase of 24 acres of land (parcel numbers 41-14-01-352-001 and 41-14-12-100-005) at a cost of \$495,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appropriates \$100,000 from Grand Rapids Township to the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund as a contribution toward the purchase.

Motion by Commissioner Agee, supported by Commissioner Vander Molen, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Voorhees, Wahlfield - 15.

Nays: Hiddema – 1.

REPORTS

Constituent Inquiries, Complaints, and Investigations Involving County Departments

Motion by Commissioner Postmus, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, to receive and file the Constituent Inquiries, Complaints, and Investigations Involving County Departments memorandum. (see Attachment A)

Motion by Commissioner Klein, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, to amend the report by defining County personnel as Kent County elected or appointed officials and including that language in the document.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to receive and file report with amendment passed by voice vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

Learning to Live Booklet

Commissioner Boelema commented that all Commissioners have received a *Learning to Live* booklet. He appreciates the efforts on the part of the Community Re-Entry Center, the Forgotten Man Ministries and the Sheriff in dealing with people being discharged from the jails and getting them properly adjusted to the community. The program will improve their lives.

Strategic Planning

Vice Chair Morgan introduced Kevin Woods, who addressed the Board on strategic planning. They are ready to take the planning process to department heads on Thursday, July 27th. He asked if Commissioners had any comments or questions before they move onto the next step. There were no comments or questions from Commissioners.

Veterans

Commissioner Wahlfield said he would like staff follow up on the public comments concerning flags for veterans' graves.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Bulkowski moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, July 28, 2005, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk. Motion carried.

Roger C. Morgan, Vice Chair

Sonya R. Dean, Chief Deputy County Clerk