

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, June 14, 2007
Administration Building - Room 310*

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

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Dillon, Hennessy, Klein, Mayhue, Parrish, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morgan - 16.

Absent: Hiddema, Mast, Morren - 3 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carol Paine McGovern, Chair, Kent County Family Children's Coordinating Council - Since 1991, the Coordinating Council has worked to insure that local issues are identified and addressed to coordinate and improve services for children, youth and families in Kent County. The Council oversees the administration and distribution of Strong Family Safe Children (SFSC) dollars that are funneled through Kent County. Strong Family Safe Children funds have strengthened our community efforts regarding child safety and well being. Over the past several years, and specifically this fiscal year, recent policy changes from Lansing concern the allocation of funds, the reduction in funds and limit local input and decision making. The KCFCCC has told state elected officials that spending cuts, policy and rule changes are seriously damaging the ability of local collaboratives to provide services to families. With these new top down directives, the loss of flexibility of using SFSC funds to address issues of importance in Kent County will make it impossible to respond to the increasing needs of children and families in our community.

Candace Cowling, Executive Director – Child and Family Resource Council – The Council coordinates the Healthy Start Program with a broad array of community partners. The prevention efforts are in danger due to the state's budget issues. She believes that the changes proposed by the state are a step backward, a step that we cannot afford to take. She urged Commissioners to proactively address this threat eroding our community's ability to make decisions about what we know will best achieve our goal of a community of strong families and safe children.

Sue Toman, Department of Human Services - She discussed the losses being experienced in the child welfare community and how those losses may affect service to over 600 families in Kent County. The families affected are those at risk for child abuse and neglect specifically. 1) Loss of funding – to Strong Families Safe Children in fiscal year 2007 is \$40,000; fiscal year 2008, \$80,000 cut. 2) Loss of local control – because of the budget crisis, DHS will require the money to be used only to serve the highest risk families (risk for removal from their homes).

3) Loss of service. Because of these changes they don't have the flexibility to maintain services. She asked Commissioners to help any way they can in order to do the best job for the citizens of Kent County.

Cheryl LeSane, Family Outreach Center – As Supervisor of the Kinship Program, she is here to speak on behalf of the funding and services provided by the program. This program works with families facing suspension of parental rights. Now, the DHS Children's Protective Service Unit diverts families from the foster care system by offering placement with extended relatives. The funding cut in the Strong Families Safe Children would greatly effect this service. She asks the Commissioners to support these efforts to provide services to the families.

Jan Fonger, Executive Director of Adoptive Family Support Network, and an adoptive parent. In 1991, Adoptive Family Support Network was founded at the insistence of our community leaders to promote lifelong well being of adoptive families. AFSN provides services to all adoptive families throughout the state. Annually, Adoptive Family Support Network serves over 1,500 families. As of June 1, 2007, their contract was reduced again due to changes in programs and program eligibility. AFSN no longer provides recreational activities, or information dissemination, and can only provide services to those families who had adopted out of the child welfare system. Kent County has long been a leader in the state and nation with regard to permanency issues and support for families. She urged Commissioners to advocate on behalf of Kent County's commitment to its children and families.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Right Place Program Update

Birgit Klohs, Right Place President, reviewed 2006 accomplishments pertaining to business retention, expansion and attraction. In Kentwood alone, more than \$100 million in new investments and over 1,000 new jobs were created. The Right Place captured \$134,628,000 in capital investment, \$41,936,024 in new payroll, assisted 441 companies, retained 1,613 jobs, and placed 212 retention calls. Ms. Klohs indicated that the State of Michigan's inability to solidify tax issues is harming the ability to attract business.

Department of Public Works Update

Doug Wood, Director, discussed DPW's Strategic Plan for 2007-2011 (copy on file in the Office of the County Clerk). Two future projects that he discussed were: 1) Landfill Gas-to-Energy Program - landfills produce methane gas which must be managed and can then be used as a fuel for electricity or steam and, 2) a new Recycling Facility – due to new technology, they are evaluating whether a new recycling facility is needed. If needed, bonds would be issued to fund.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of May 24, 2007 Meeting
- b) June 5, 2007 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)

c) Community Health Advisory Committee Appointments

d) Resolutions:

6-14-07-59 - BUDGET AMENDMENT – 2007 JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE
BLOCK GRANT – SPECIAL PROJECTS / CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY
DIVISION

WHEREAS, the federal government has made funds available through the State for local governments to increase the accountability of juvenile offenders and the juvenile justice system; the program was started in 1999, and is now in its seventh year of operation; the JAIBG provides funding to the Family Division of the Circuit Court to support the Court-Community Policing Partnership; JAIBG funds will support a portion of the existing Juvenile Probation Officers to provide an accountability-based sanction program; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of 2007 JAIBG funding is from Federal grants; the remainder comes from the County's General Fund and the City of Grand Rapids; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Budget was prepared using an estimated federal grant amount of \$50,950; the Circuit Court has since received the annual allocation from the State in the amount of \$59,944, an increase of \$8,994. Requiring an additional \$999 in local match, \$622 from the County and \$377 from the City of Grand Rapids; increasing the County's match to \$4,245. Circuit Court has indicated the funds for the County's additional match are available in its 2007 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court is requesting that the \$9,993 in additional funds be appropriated to its FY 2007 budget for future utilization, bringing the amended budget appropriation to \$66,604; and

WHEREAS, if grant funding ceases, the positions will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants and Contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the appropriate an additional \$9,993 to the 2007 Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) FY 2007 budget in the Special Projects Fund.

6-14-07-60 – 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, the administrative amount requested represents the full amount of funds available to Kent County. Since administration costs exceed the cap imposed by the grantor, an allocation of general fund dollars will be included in the County's 2008 budget to support the full cost of the program; 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), Kent County Sheriff's Department, Pine Rest Mental Health Services, Alternative Directions, Arbor Circle AOS, Grand Rapids Public School's Business and Industry Center, Prodigal Human Services, Network 180,

Goodwill Industries, Family Outreach Center, 61st District Court and the Kent County Correctional Facility; and

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

WHEREAS, the anticipated grant period is October 1, 2007, to September 30, 2008. It is expected that the grant will be renewable.

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

6-14-07-61 – SUBMIT GRANT APPLICATION TO MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES – COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM / PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Human Services provides funding to counties to operate a Cooperative Reimbursement Program designed to establish paternity as well as to secure and enforce support orders; and

WHEREAS, the Prosecutor's Cooperative Reimbursement Program will continue with 19 full-time positions; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is October 1, 2007, to September 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the Prosecutor's request to submit an application to the Michigan Department of Human Services for a FY 2008 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant; and

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

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

6-14-07-62 – REVISION TO 82 IONIA PARKING RAMP FEE SCHEDULE / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2005, Kent County purchased the 82 Ionia building which included a two (2) level parking structure that has a total of 122 parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, approximately 65 parking spaces are leased on a monthly basis by local area businesses and residents. The leases and rates for these parking spaces were assumed by Kent County from the previous building owner, SIBSCO, LLC. Annual revenue received by the County for the 82 Ionia parking structure is approximately \$90,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rapids Parking Services, which owns and manages local parking ramps, evaluates their parking rates annually and adjusts them on July 1st every year. The following table indicates adjacent City of Grand Rapids Parking Services Parking Ramp rates:

Pearl—Ionia Ramp \$135.75 current rate, per month July 1, 2007 rate: \$139.00
Monroe-Ionia Ramp \$123.75 current rate, per month July 1, 2007 rate: \$126.75
Kent County current monthly rate for the 82 Ionia parking ramp is \$117.00; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management recommends an 82 Ionia monthly parking rate of \$120 per space effective July 1, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves an amendment to the 82 Ionia Parking Ramp fee schedule effective July 1, 2007.

Motion by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Wahlfield, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Vander Molen, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Mayhue, Klein, Hennessy, Dillon, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morgan – 16.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

6-14-07-63 – ESTABLISHMENT OF VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION (VEBA) TRUST / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, pursuant to various agreements with its employees, Kent County allows retirees to participate in its medical insurance coverage at specified rates and it assumes the liability for any premium in excess of the employee payment; and

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), which sets financial reporting standards for government, has issued GASB Statements 43 and 45 to provide guidance in accounting for and funding of other post employment benefits (OPEB) other than pensions; and

WHEREAS, Fiscal Services recommends that Kent County actuarially compute and pre-fund its OPEB liability that will allow for a higher rate of return on investments; and

WHEREAS, the IRS allows governmental bodies to establish a Voluntary Employees' Benefit Association (VEBA) trust to manage money set aside for employee benefits; and

WHEREAS, a VEBA trust will facilitate compliance with the pre-funding standards of GASB Statement 45; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the VEBA trust agreement in conjunction with Public Act 149 will allow the Kent County to invest trust funds in the same manner as pension funds thereby helping to mitigate its cost of providing postretirement health care; and

WHEREAS, under IRS rules, the VEBA Trust is governed by a written trust agreement and an independent board of directors that shall include the County Administrator/Controller, the Fiscal Services Director and the County Treasurer, along with two other County employees appointed by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the trust agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of

Commissioners approve the establishment of a VEBA Trust for pre-funding retiree medical insurance coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorize transfer of existing funds to the VEBA Trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorize the Board Chair to sign all trust documents; and

Motion by Commissioner Rolls, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Vander Molen, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Mayhue,

Klein, Hennessy, Dillon, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morgan – 16.

Nays: 0.

6-14-07-64 – FEE CHANGE FOR SEASONAL FOOD LICENSES / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Public Act 368 of 1978 (the Public Health Code), as amended, allows a local government to “...fix and require the payment of fees for services authorized or required to be performed by the local health department.” Said fees should not be more than the reasonable cost of providing the service; and

WHEREAS, as required by County Fiscal Policy – Fees and Charges, departments are required to review their fees and charges annually and to forward recommended changes to the Board of Commissioners as part of the budget process; and

WHEREAS, resolution 9-28-06-104 established the Health Department Food Services fees for 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department is recommending a change to an existing fee through the establishment of a new fee for seasonal food vendors, with the recommendations detailed in the attached schedule; and

WHEREAS, the fee change proposed for the Health Department would reduce the fees revenue by \$23,200.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the revised Health Department fee schedule for seasonal food vendors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that seasonal food vendors affected by this action be refunded the difference between the fees within 30 days.

Motion by Commissioner Tanis, seconded by Commissioner Klein, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Dillon, seconded by Commissioner Mayhue, to amend the resolution: In the 4th WHEREAS amend line 2 after “vendors” and before “with” by inserting *and non-profit agencies that receive funding through the Senior Millage to deliver meals to homebound seniors.*

Motion to amend failed:

Yeas: Vaughn, Mayhue, Hennessy, Dillon, Bulkowski – 5.

Nays: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vander Molen, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Klein, Boelema,

Agee,
Chair Morgan – 11.

Motion to adopt resolution carried by voice vote.

6-14-07-65 – WAHLFIELD PARK LAND ACQUISITION – VOGEL PROPERTY / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, this action is part of an ongoing process which began in 1999 to purchase land contiguous to Wahlfield Park and

WHEREAS, this parcel is bordered by Wahlfield Park on three sides. The Parks Department has been pursuing the purchase since 2001. The property has recently become available and is being sold by the estate; and

WHEREAS, the land meets the criteria of the Kent County Parks Department Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price, which includes two acres and a residence, is supported by an appraisal; and

WHEREAS, funds for the purchase are available in the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the purchase of property at 1229 Eight Mile Road, NW, Comstock Park (PPN 41-09-11-300-004) for \$130,000 plus closing costs.

Motion by Commissioner Wahlfield, seconded by Commissioner Vaughn, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Vander Molen, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Klein, Hennessy, Dillon, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: Mayhue - 1.

Absent from room: Bulkowski – 1.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

MAC

Commissioner Dillon reminded Commissioners of the Michigan Association of Counties event at the Capitol next week.

Regional Jail Exploratory Committee

Chair Morgan announced that he, Sheriff Stelma, and Administrator Daryl Delabbio will serve as the Kent County representatives on the Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Kent Regional Jail Exploratory Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:59 a.m., Commissioner Klein moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 28, 2007, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Tanis. Motion carried.

Roger C. Morgan, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk