

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, June 8, 2000

Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Horton, Kuipers, Mast, McGuire, Postmus, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 14.

Absent: Hiddema, Kooiman, Kuhn, Malone, Morren - 5 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Richard Robertson, 7105 Cherry Valley Avenue, Caledonia Township – Coalition for Responsible Aviation. (A copy of Mr. Robertson’s comments is on file in the Office of County Clerk).
- b) Carl Shook, 1855 Stilegate SE, Grand Rapids – Introduced himself as a candidate for County Commission – District 19.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

GIS Tactical Action Plan Presentation – Dave Boehm & Keith Snarey

A presentation was made on the GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Tactical Action Plan. The Tactical Action Planning process was conceived to establish a vision for the GIS system in Kent County. GIS has grown in the past two years since the County became part of the Regional Geographical Information System (REGIS) effort. The County has needs for GIS beyond the REGIS effort. The data in the plan was reviewed along with recommendations and cost estimates. (A copy of the Plan is on file in the Office of the County Clerk.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of May 25, 2000 Meeting
- b) 6-8-00-64 – CREATE A FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR CLASSIFICATION & RECLASSIFY ONE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR TO FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, at the request of the County Administrator/Controller, Human Resources conducted a study to determine the appropriate classification of the Facilities Management Director position in the Facilities Management Department which currently operates with a \$4 million budget and fifteen positions; and

WHEREAS, the Director is responsible for the safe, secure, and cost-efficient

operation of 1.5 million square feet of County-owned physical plant and 200,000 square feet of leased space, and for new construction and renovation projects with budgets in excess of \$66 million for all phases of these projects, from design and development through final inspection and acceptance of completed work; and

WHEREAS, the Director is responsible for developing short and long-term capital improvement plans for the County, develops capital improvement budgets for all County facilities, and for the planning, management, and final acceptance of construction projects for the Kent County Building Authority; and

WHEREAS, based on the complexity, scope and County-wide impact of the position, as documented in its study, Human Resources has recommended that the classification "Facilities Planning and Management Director" be created and assigned to MPP Grade 31; and that this position be reclassified to Facilities Planning and Management Director; and

WHEREAS, the additional salary cost of \$4,601 for FY2000 is available in the Facilities Management 2000 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the creation of a Facilities Planning and Management Director classification and the reclassification of the Facilities Management Director position in the Facilities Management department (MPP Grade 29) to the Facilities Planning and Management Director classification (MPP Grade 31).

b) 6-8-00-65 – UPDATE AND REVISION OF FLEXIBLE SPENDING PLAN (SECTION 125 PRE-TAX DOLLARS) / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the County has adopted a Section 125 pre-tax flexible spending plan; and

WHEREAS, updates to the medical and dependent-care flexible spending plan are necessary to comply with recent tax code changes and COBRA provision; and

WHEREAS, updates to the plan will not change the level of benefits to the employees who participate in the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the updates to the Section 125, Kent County Flexible Spending Plan.

c) 6-8-00-66 – CREATION OF SR APPLICATIONS SUPPORT CLASSIFICATION AND POSITION CONVERSION / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the County is in the process of installing several major software applications to upgrade information management and processing capabilities throughout the County; and

WHEREAS, these applications will require on-going support from Information Technology to adapt purchased applications to end-user needs; and

WHEREAS, Information Technology will require staff who have the ability to provide customized reports, modify applications program panels, diagnose software operating problems, and provide other support for multiple applications packages; and

WHEREAS, the existing Graphical User Interface (GUI) Designer classification is outdated and does not accommodate the changing technology of information management nor the support of multiple software applications; and

WHEREAS, changing the GUI Designer classification to Senior Applications

Support will better serve the needs of County end-users of currently installed and future software applications, and will facilitate recruitment of qualified candidates for vacant positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the creation of a Senior Applications Support classification and the conversion of the GUI Designer classification (MPP Grade 24) to the Senior Applications Support classification (MPP Grade 24).

Motion by Commissioner Postmus, supported by Commissioner McGuire, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS

a) Urban Sprawl Committee: Chair - Commissioner Postmus

Commissioner Postmus reported that they set their goals and objectives and went through some history at their first meeting. They will be meeting again on July 13th and in the meantime any questions can be directed to either Commissioner Postmus or Al Vanderberg.

b) Prevention Subcommittee: Co-Chairs – Commissioner Buege & Smoke

Commissioner Buege reported that they have begun working on their mission. Mary Swanson has been recruited to help gather data on what county agencies and non-profit agencies are doing in terms of prevention. They have talked with some key players in the county who deal with social services to find out what their perception is on needs, gaps in services and their vision for prevention services. They want to pool that information with what is happening, what the needs are and develop their vision and then come back to the Board.

c) Accountability/Evaluation Committee: Chair – Commissioner Kuhn

Frank Klus reported, in the absence of Chair Kuhn, that the committee has met twice. He is canvassing some of the organizations around town to find out what they are doing, as far as performance appraisals, get some information and then talk to the five department directors who report to Boards and get information from them. Those discussions will take place sometime around the 25-26 of July. They hope to have everything wrapped up towards the end of August – first of September so that they can give the boards the tools they need to do a good performance appraisal on the people that report to them.

d) Insight Committee: Chair – Commissioner Turner

Commissioner Turner reported that he was pleased to see an EEO Officer for the County. He has known this individual for sometime and he is sure that he will do an adequate job.

e) Liaison Committee: Chair – Commissioner Postmus

Commissioner Boelega reported that they had a very good meeting with representatives from the City of Grand Rapids. They were in tune with each other as to where the direction should be going for the Grand Center and Grand Hall. The funding is in good order and things look efficiently taken care of and generally speaking it's on the right track.

MISCELLANEOUS

Role of Commission

Commissioner Sak asked for some insight on what role the Board of Commission has with regard to the individuals addressing the Commission regarding airport concerns, etc. Chair Heacock stated that the role with respect to the Airport is to appoint the Aeronautics Board and oversee the board's oversight of that organization.

Commissioner Kuipers, an Aeronautics Board member, stated that there continues to be ongoing communication between the chair of the Aeronautics Board and the chair of the Board of Commission. The individual who spoke to this board under public comment was granted an opportunity to make a similar presentation at an afternoon session of the community advisory group to the noise exposure and has been given other opportunities to speak including public comment at the Aeronautics Board meetings.

Commissioner Talen said his understanding was that the Aeronautics Board and Aeronautics Department was similar to the Mental Health Board and Community Mental Health Department. The difference was that they (Airport) paid their own way and the term enterprise fund was a descriptive term as opposed to a defining term. He has always felt that the Board of Commission had more responsibility than say it goes to the Board of Aeronautics.

Chair Heacock said that he believes the Board of Commission has responsibility and accountability to the voters regarding the airport issues as well as any others under the County's umbrella. He said the question is has the Board of Commission traditionally, can we, do we, exert authority that couples with that accountability and he would maintain that indeed we don't and our main influence over the actions of that board is the naming of that board.

Zoo Update

Commissioner Wahlfield asked Commissioner Sak to give a brief update/status report of the zoo. Commissioner Sak reviewed the history leading up to the current situation at the zoo regarding the expansion. The next step in the process will be a public hearing which the Zoo Advisory Board will determine. Commissioner Sak said that his consensus is that the public is not opposed to a quality regional zoo, the issue is are we going to do it at the expense of John Ball Park and remove 75% of the park for one, two or three exhibits coming down the hill. The Coalition to Save John Ball Park is looking at options, compromise and discussion and they felt before as if they did not receive an opportunity for community input.

Chair Heacock said that the Zoo Advisory Board will have a public hearing(s) and will look at the issue and will bring to the Board a recommendation and at that time it would be appropriate for the Board to discuss the matter.

Congratulations

Commissioner Sak congratulated Commissioner Horton's daughter, Janelle, who took 65th out of 248 kids in the National Spelling Bee competition in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Horton commended the *Grand Rapids Press* for being a willing participant in the spelling bee process. He stated the Press was very generous in sponsoring this and he appreciates

their effort.

Festival

Chair Heacock, on behalf of Commissioner Kuhn, expressed gratitude to those Board members who participated with this year's Festival.

ADIJOURNMENT

At 8:08 p.m., Commissioner McGuire moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 22, 2000 at 8:30 a.m. for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sak. Motion carried.

Chair

County Clerk