

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, August 10, 2000
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Kuhn, Kuipers, Malone, Mast, McGuire, Morren, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Absent: Kooiman, Postmus – 2 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Harold Dekker, 2105 Raybrook SE, Grand Rapids – Submitted a letter (copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk) addressed to the Grand Rapids City Commission, the Grand Rapids Board of Education and the Kent County Commission requesting that the addressees petition the State Legislature to change the law governing DDA's and other tax development authorities. They would specifically like to see the law changed to provide that these authorities cannot collect ad valorem tax revenues voted as a dedicated millage.

Carl Shook, 1855 Stilegate SE, Grand Rapids - As a former County Commission candidate in District 19, he congratulated Commissioner Kuipers on his primary election victory and offered any help he could give to his campaign.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Delta Strategy Update

Director Penny Pestle explained that The Delta Strategy is a network of individuals, initiatives and organizations driven by a common vision of a community that works for everyone. The process is directed toward changing the way community members learn together, solve problems and use resources. Ms. Pestle gave an update on The Delta Strategy by providing a brief background, reviewing their results to date and announcing what their major emphasis will be for 2000.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of July 27, 2000 Meeting
- b) August 1, 2000 Finance Committee Meetings Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

8-10-00-103 – AREA AGENCY ON AGING MULTI-YEAR PLAN FOR 2001 - 2003
SUPPORT / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, (AAAWM) Inc. serves the nine counties (Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Osceola) of Region 8; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1974, the agency has operated under three-year plans with annual funding and service components. Plans must be prepared according to a format prescribed by the State Commission on Aging; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1997, the State required that plans be submitted to each Board of Commissioners in the service area for support. In 2000, the State Office of Services to the Aging changed the instructions and now requires AAA to request approval of the three-year plan and subsequent annual implementation plans; and

WHEREAS, the annual budget reflects only Older Americans Act, Older Michiganian Act dollars, and local funding required to meet the minimum match funding requirement. No millage funds from Kent County (or other counties within the region) are included in the budget, nor are local match dollars in excess of the minimum required. Kent County annually contributes \$14,077 toward the match and operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, AAWM estimates that 42 percent of its Older American Act and Older Michiganian Act funds are paid to Kent County service providers, and that 53 percent of its funds overall are expended for Kent County residents. Based on the 1990 census, 56 percent of the region's population aged 60 and older resides in Kent County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan's Multi-Year Action Plan for the Years 2001-2003.

8-10-00-104 – CREATION OF PROGRAM COODINATOR CLASSIFICATION AND
POSITION CONVERSION / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Foundation has provided staffing for the Kent County Family and Children's Coordinating Council (KCFCCC) since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the activity was initially funded through the individual department budgets of Health, Mental Health, FIA, and the Circuit Court Family Division; and

WHEREAS, the relationship was formalized in 1999 through a contractual agreement funded through the Board of Commissioners' budget; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Foundation has indicated that the relationship was never intended to be a long-term arrangement, and that it would like to cease the staffing function no later than December 31, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the KCFCCC falls within the responsibility of the Human/Community Services coordination function within the Administrator's Office; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Program Coordinator for KCFCCC reporting to the Human/Community Services Coordinator will provide support for both KCFCCC and the human services coordination functions and other activities of the Administrator's Office; and

WHEREAS, the Internal Auditor position (MPP 21) in the Administrator's Office is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, the County contracts with an outside firm to perform auditing

services, and has not used the now-vacant position for auditing for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Board of Commissioners budget – Contractual Services, and the Administrator’s Office budget to cover the additional salary cost of converting the Internal Auditor position (MPP 21) to a Program Coordinator position (MPP22).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the creation of a Program Coordinator classification (MPP Grade 22), the conversion of the vacant Internal Auditor position to a Program Coordinator position, and deletion of the Internal Auditor classification.

8-10-00-105 – DAY TREATMENT / NIGHT WATCH GRANT SUBMISSION / CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

WHEREAS, in 1993, the Juvenile Court (now the Family Division) instituted a Day Treatment/Night Watch Program to replace the discontinued Youth Camp; and

WHEREAS, Day Treatment/Night Watch is a 10- to 15-month, seven-day per week program that involves three phases with varying levels of control, involvement, and supervision. The program serves as an alternative to institutional placement for delinquent youths; and

WHEREAS, the Day Treatment/Night Watch staff includes a Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor to administer the program; two probation officers and four Home Detention Monitors to provide counseling and around-the clock surveillance; and one Clerk Typist II to provide clerical back-up; and

WHEREAS, the grant counts rent, supplies, etc., included in the Circuit Court - Family Division Budget as an in-kind contribution; and

WHEREAS, in the event grant funding is eliminated, decreased, or fails to fully support the positions, the position(s) will be eliminated unless continuation funding is requested and approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants & Contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners to approve the Circuit Court - Family Division’s request to enter into a contract with the State Family Independence Agency for a Day Treatment/Night Watch Grant.

8-10-00-106 – GRAND RAPIDS INTERVENTION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION / CIRCUIT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION

WHEREAS, in mid-1999, the Grand Rapids Police Department approached the Circuit Court Family Division to establish a Court-Community Policing partnership to provide expanded probation services in the southeast sector of the City where a majority of the referrals for delinquency originate. Two grant funding sources (City Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant) were used to start the program; and

WHEREAS, this non-traditional way of providing probation has been successful, according to the program’s formal evaluation, and according to surveys of the police, neighborhood groups, schools and parents; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids Police Department has requested that the program be expanded into the West Side and South sectors. The City has applied to the State Office of Drug Control Policy for an estimated \$300,000, of which \$136,990 would be allocated to the Court to contract for part-time surveillance officers and support staff for the new areas. The City will be responsible for the required 25 percent match for the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Circuit Court – Family Division’s request to accept grant funding to implement a Grand Rapids Intervention Program with the City of Grand Rapids Police Department and an amend the budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with the grant, if approved.

8-10-00-107 – INCREASE IN CONSULTANT CONTRACT FOR 4-H / KENT/MSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WHEREAS, Kent MSU Extension uses two-full time individuals to provide this service. One of the agents is paid for entirely by Michigan State University. The other agent is charged 50 percent to Kent County, and 50 percent to the Food and Nutrition Education Program funded by the USDA; and

WHEREAS, Kent/MSU Extension has experienced significant growth in its 4-H program over the past two years as a result of its efforts to recruit adult and youth volunteer leaders and to increase public awareness of the program. Youth participation has increased from 1,268 in 1997 to 8,067 in 1999. The program has also expanded its efforts to coordinate with other County and school programs; and

WHEREAS, the USDA currently has available funding which would increase the staff time available for the Food and Nutrition Education Program from 20 to 36 hours per week, and would like to use one individual to perform all 36 hours of staff time for the program. Increasing the number of hours that current staff dedicates to 4-H will allow Kent MSU Extension to retain trained and established staff in that position; and

WHEREAS, Human Resources has reviewed the request and concurs that full-time staff would address Kent/MSU Extension’s need for additional staffing and flexibility; and

WHEREAS, if approved, the memorandum and the funding would be effective January 1, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners increase the number of consultants hired by Michigan State University and assigned to the Kent/MSU Extension 4-H Program by .5 FTE at a cost of \$23,250, annually; and authorizes the Chair to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the University related to the funding of the position.

Motion by Commissioner Talen, supported by Commissioner McGuire, that the consent agenda items be passed.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Kuhn, Kuipers, Malone, Mast, McGuire, Morren, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

8-10-00-108 – ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATION REVISION / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Public Act 368 of 1978 (the Public Health Code), as amended,

authorizes the adoption of regulations to safeguard the public health and prevent the spread of

diseases and contamination.

WHEREAS, in November 1999, the Board of Health appointed an Animal Control Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations for changes to the existing Animal Control regulations and to address the issue of aggressive animals; and

WHEREAS, revisions to the regulations were recommended and a public hearing scheduled for July 20, 2000, at the Health Department; and

WHEREAS, a schedule of monetary civil penalties has been included in the Health Department fee revisions to be reviewed by the Finance and Physical Resources Committee on August 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Civil Counsel participated in the review process and approved the revisions as to form; and

WHEREAS, the regulations are effective on August 18, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the revisions to the Animal Control Regulations.

Motion by Commissioner Horton, supported by Commissioner Sak, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried by voice vote.

8-10-00-109 – REVISIONS TO HEALTH DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE / 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 the 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, the Health Department is recommending 74 changes to the fee schedule, including 46 revisions, 19 new fees, and 9 discontinued fees.

WHEREAS, included in this revision are monetary civil penalties associated with the proposed revisions to the Animal Control Regulations reviewed by the Legislative and Human Resources Committee on July 25, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves amendments to the Health Department’s fee schedule, effective October 1, 2000.

Motion by Commissioner Sak, supported by Commissioner Kuhn, moved that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Kuhn, Kuipers, Malone, Mast, McGuire, Morren, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

8-10-00-110 – CALLING OF 1977 WELSH AUDITORIUM BOND ISSUE / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Joint City/County Building Authority issued bonds in 1977 to pay for the costs of remodeling and refurbishing the Welsh Auditorium; and

WHEREAS, the bonds were issued for a period of 25 years with the final maturity planned in 2002; and

WHEREAS; subsequently it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the Joint City/County Building Authority to call the bonds early.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2000 Budget for the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax be amended by \$1,010,000 to account for the additional costs associated with calling of the 1977 Bond Issue.

Motion by Commissioner Mast, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Kuhn, Kuipers, Malone, Mast, McGuire, Morren, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Accountability Committee

Commissioner Kuhn stated that the committee has met with the five department heads who report to boards. They will meet again this morning and she hopes that they can finalize some recommendations, that will then go the Board of Commissioners, to improve the process by which those individuals are evaluated.

Prevention Committee

Commissioner Buege said that their timeline has been lengthened because there are a number of community people that they still need to hear from. They hope to wrap up in time to get the input from their full committee since some of their committee members will be leaving at the end of December.

Urban Sprawl Committee

Commissioner Mast reported that they have met and had a good presentation by a professor from Michigan State University on urban sprawl.

Insight Committee

Commissioner Turner said they have had a couple of concerns, which has been passed on to Tom Carnegie and hopefully before the month is out, once they get responses from those concerns, they will have a meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

Italian Festival

Commissioner Sak invited everyone to the Italian Festival this weekend (August 11 – 13) on the Calder Plaza.

Irish Festival

Commissioner Kuhn announced that an Irish Festival will also be held this weekend in Rockford.

Millennium Park Grant

Chair Heacock announced that the grant application, which the County submitted to the State, for purchase of property for the Millennium Park in the amount of \$500,000, has been approved. This money will go towards Phase I of the park.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05 a.m., Commissioner Talen moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, August 24, 2000 at 8:30 a.m. for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sak. Motion carried.

Chair

County Clerk