

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, October 26, 2000
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Vice Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Kooiman, Kuhn, Kuipers, Malone, Mast, McGuire, Morren, Postmus, Rekeny, Sak, Smoke, Talen, Turner, Wahlfield, - 17.

Absent: Horton, Chair Heacock - 2 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Rekeny introduced Commissioner Hiddema who gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Timberland Resource Conservation and Development Presentation

Phil Dakin, Coordinator of the Timberland Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. gave a presentation to Commissioners on the Timberland Resource Conservation and Development Program. Mr. Dakin reviewed the background of the Resource Conservation & Development (R.C. & D.) Program. He distributed an organizational chart and information on the R.C. & D. (copies of which are available in the Office of the County Clerk). He discussed how Timberland began, explained the funding of the program and some of the highlights of R.C. & D. assistance provided for Kent County.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2000 Meeting
- b) October 17, 2000 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

10-26-00-155 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS (FHC) AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the County is committed to fair housing in its service area; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids' (FHC) mission is to promote equal housing opportunity throughout the Grand Rapids metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, this is the seventeenth year that the Community Development Department will use the services of FHC; and

WHEREAS, FHC is the sole provider of fair housing services in Kent County; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is October 1, 2000, to September 30, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves Community Development's request to enter into a contract with Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids; and

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

10-26-00-156 – APPROVE CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS (FHC) AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the CDBG funding agreement with HUD requires Kent County to provide a method to investigate and deal with fair housing complaints; and

WHEREAS, to comply with this requirement, the Board authorized (Resolution 10-28-99-162) Community Development to enter into a contract with the Fair Housing Center (FHC) of Greater Grand Rapids to conduct fair housing tests; and

WHEREAS, FHC completed all 48 fair housing tests required under the original contract prior to June 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, FHC has completed an additional 17 fair housing tests between July 1 and September 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department recommends amending the original agreement to compensate FHC for conducting the additional fair housing tests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves Community Development's request to amend the contract with Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids; and

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

10-26-00-157 – CHILD CARE FUND ANNUAL PLAN APPROVAL / CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION AND FIA

WHEREAS, each year the Kent County Circuit Court - Family Division and Family Independence Agency (FIA) are required to prepare a plan showing how the Child Care Fund dollars will be spent by the two agencies. The plan encompasses in-home and out-of-home placement costs (e.g., foster care, detention, etc.) for children at risk of abuse or neglect as well as children determined to be delinquent; and

WHEREAS, the law provides that each county will receive a reimbursement from the State of 50 percent of the annual expenditures for all costs related to placement and efforts to reduce placement of abused children; and

WHEREAS, the plan represents a 26 percent increase over last year, resulting primarily from increases in in-home and placement services provided by the FIA for abused and

neglected children, and an increase in institutionalization for juveniles through the Court.

Expenditures of \$1.2 million for the operation of a staff secure facility at the former Child Haven site are also included. The contract for the facility is still being negotiated with the State and the proposed vendor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY2001 and to authorize the Board Chair to sign the document.

10-26-00-158 – PROPOSED INCREASED FEE SCHEDULE FOR PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND MAPPING / PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND MAPPING

WHEREAS, Kent County engaged DMG-Maximus, Inc. to conduct a detailed Cost of Service Analysis in 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Cost of Service Analysis recommended increases in fees charged for services provided by the County Property Description and Mapping Department (PD&M); and

WHEREAS, said fee increases will not cover the cost of providing services but will narrow the gap between current charges and actual cost of providing the service.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following proposed fee schedule for PD&M services:

SERVICE	FEE
Line Maps	\$ 8
Aerial Maps	\$10
Condo Index	\$50/\$10
Plat Liber	\$15
Plat Index	\$25/\$15
Street Index	\$25/\$15
Section Maps	\$ 6
Hourly Rate	\$25

Commissioner Talen requested that Resolution 10-26-00-157 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Hiddema requested that Resolution 10-26-00-158 be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Rekeny, supported by Commissioner Mast, that the consent agenda items be approved with the removal of Resolutions 10-26-00-157 and 10-26-00-158.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY2001 and to authorize the Board Chair to sign the document.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

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Hourly Rate

\$25

Motion by Commissioner Rekeny, supported by Commissioner McGuire, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Talen, Smoke, Sak, Rekeny, Postmus, Morren, McGuire, Mast, Malone, Kuipers, Kuhn, Kooiman, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema – 16.

Nays: 0.

Absent from room: Turner – 1.

RESOLUTIONS

10-26-00-159 – AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH WONDERGEM COMMUNICATIONS, INC. / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of County government to ensure that the programs and services of the County are being clearly communicated both internally and externally; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 County staff prepared and distributed a plan for improving communications between the County and the public; and

WHEREAS, the plan included a recommendation to contract with a firm with the qualifications necessary to improve the County's communication efforts; and

WHEREAS, a review committee comprised of the Board chair, the chair of the Aeronautics Board, the Administrator/Controller, staff from the Administrator's Office, and the Purchasing Manager issued a request for qualifications and price proposals to communications firms in the area; and

WHEREAS, the process of competitive qualifications, bidding, and screening, resulted in the review committee identifying Wondergem Consulting, Inc. as the firm best qualified to perform the Scope of Services; and

WHEREAS, Wondergem will be asked to advise the County on communications issues, to develop informational materials, and to review and refine procedures for responding promptly to requests for information; County officials will continue to serve as spokespersons for the County, and to respond to inquiries from the public or the news media regarding County issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator/Controller to negotiate a contract with Wondergem for a six-month trial period for a cost not to exceed \$25,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a report on the experience with the firm and a recommendation on future use of the firm's services be provided to the Board of Commissioners one month prior to the conclusion of the trial period.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Smoke, Rekeny, Postmus, Morren, McGuire, Mast, Malone, Kuipers, Kuhn, Kooiman, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema – 14.

Nays: Talen, Sak – 2.

Absent from room: Turner – 1.

10-26-00-160 – PROPOSED 2001 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller, with the assistance and cooperation of the Judiciary, Elected Officers, and Department Directors of the County, has developed a recommended budget for 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Finance and Physical Resources Committee has reviewed the proposed 2001 budget in detail; and

WHEREAS, a budget hearing was held by the Kent County Board of Commissioners on October 12, 2000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2001 Kent County budget attached hereto be adopted in the gross amount of \$386,334,329 for the purposes shown in the budget, contingent on the requirement that, to the extent any individual department and/or fund in the 2001 Budget, as adopted, is dependent on federal and state revenues and those revenues are reduced or eliminated, the involved departments and/or funds shall amend their 2001 Budget revenues and expenditures to reflect the reduced federal and state revenues without an additional appropriation from the General Fund in accordance with Resolution 12-14-95-143; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that *ad valorem* property tax in the amount of 4.2865 mills shall be levied for general operating purposes and, in addition, 0.7998 mills shall be levied for debt service and operation of the Kent County Correctional Facility and the Detention Facility and 0.2477 mills shall be levied for senior services, as more particularly described in the budget attached hereto (a copy of the budget need not be included in the published minutes but shall be on file in the Clerk's Office).

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

10-26-00-161 – APPROVAL OF AWARD AND BUDGET FOR COURTHOUSE HISTORICAL EXHIBIT DESIGN / INSTALLATION CONTRACTS AND AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN APPLICABLE AGREEMENTS / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, after the plan for the new courthouse were finalized and approved, it was realized that several areas in the new building would lend themselves to a display of information about the court system, information related to the history of the court and the building site (which is the site of the old City Hall), and other related historical materials; and

WHEREAS, the Courthouse Historical Committee appointed by the Board of Commissioners has been working for the past year on plans to include an exhibit of historical materials in the new Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has identified a curator and a design firm to undertake the development and design, and to oversee the installation of two exhibits in the

Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, the total project budget is estimated to be \$195,000 to be allocated as

follows:

Curator	\$15,000
Design/Fabrication/Installation	\$150,000
Special lighting and other building considerations	\$30,000;

WHEREAS, the Committee has drafted an agreement for the services of a curator, Joseph Kapler, at a rate of \$35 per hour not to exceed \$15,000, which has been approved as to form by Civil Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Committee, through the County's competitive qualifications process and interview recommends Envisions Design as the firm best qualified to provide the concept and design of the exhibit and to oversee its fabrication and installation; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management Director, Jim Leach, will act as project manager and has projected that the exhibit may require special lighting and other building considerations at an estimated cost of \$30,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve a total project budget of \$195,00 to be transferred from the County's contingency fund to the 2000 Facilities Management CIP Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the agreement with Joseph Kapler, curator for the project for a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Courthouse Historical Committee to negotiate an agreement with Envisions Design, Inc. for a cost not to exceed \$150,000 for the design, fabrication, and installation of two exhibits in the new Courthouse.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Turner, Talen, Smoke, Rekeny, Postmus, Morren, McGuire, Mast, Malone, Kuipers, Kuhn, Kooiman, Boelema – 14.

Nays: Sak, Hiddema, Buege – 3.

10-26-00-162 – 2000 APPORTIONMENT REPORT / BUREAU OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, the Finance and Physical Resources Committee has reviewed the supporting documents setting forth the necessary millage required by the several taxing jurisdictions in the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has further examined the dollar requirements necessary to fund the assessments for drains and rejected taxes and finds them in proper order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby certify the millage rates of these governmental jurisdictions and directs that the millage rates of the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges, and the dollar amounts for the drains and rejected taxes be spread on the

respective township and city rolls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby

authorize and direct the Chair and the Clerk of the Board to sign the millage rate certificates.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

10-26-00-163 – AMENDMENTS TO THE SOCIAL WELFARE AND CHILD CARE FUND BUDGETS / FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY

WHEREAS, following adoption of the Child Care Fund budget, the State indicated that it would no longer reimburse the County separately for Family Independence Program (FIP)-eligible children in emergency shelter care. Discussions with the State seeking to reverse the decision have been unsuccessful; and

WHEREAS, general funds were only requested to cover 50 percent of certain non-reimbursable expenses relating to avoiding out-of-home. These expenses (totaling \$90,341) should have been budgeted at 100 percent County cost; and

WHEREAS, the FIA has identified unanticipated revenues of \$39,000 in the Child Care Fund and an under-expenditure of \$18,400 in the Social Welfare Fund to cover a portion of the shortfall.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the transfer of \$18,400 from the Social Welfare Fund and \$37,270 from the Contingency Account to the 2000 FIA Children's Services Budget in the Child Care Fund.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Senior Millage Review Committee

Commissioner McGuire reported that the Senior Millage Review Committee met about two weeks ago where it did the funding for the new three year contracts for the providers. The Committee members have remained the same since the committee was created, in early 1999, and is committed to getting a senior program running and running well. There was about a half million dollars of interest to dole out, but, as always, there were requests for more funds than funds available so cuts had to be made. This is the first three year contract and annual assessments will be done on the contract.

MISCELLANEOUS

Timberland Resource Presentation

Commissioner Smoke commented on the Timberland Resource presentation by saying that he is on the R.C. & D. along with Commissioner Horton and essentially to highlight some of the items touched by Mr. Dakin. In this program the Federal government enables people to do what they want without any strings and it is very underutilized at this R.C. & D. site. The location in Traverse City has seven full-time paid employees because of the number of projects that they are doing. Mr. Dakin addressed urban sprawl and water quality, which there is potential to take further advantage of the programs because of our connection with neighboring counties.

Open House

Vice Chair Morren reminded Commissioners of the Open House at the Probate Court Building for the Information Technology department.

Appointment Board Interview Subcommittee Meeting

Vice Chair Morren announced that there will be an Appointment Board Interview Subcommittee meeting following this meeting.

ADIJOURNMENT

At 9:33 a.m., Commissioner Rekeny moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 9, 2000 at 8:30 a.m. for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sak. Motion carried.

Vice Chair

Chief Deputy County Clerk