

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, June 14, 2001
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Smoke, Vaughn, Vonk, Chair Heacock – 17.

Absent: Mast, Wahlfield (Excused) – 2.

Invocation: Commissioner Kuipers introduced Marge Parmerlee, Executive Director of Degage Ministries who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Todd Martin, a former inmate of the Kent County Jail, commented on a debt incurred at the jail, which he has been making payments on through a bill collector. This has denied him the ability to rent an apartment and receive credit from creditors and banks. He's concerned that this may present a problem for others like him and believes that the County should look at a different way to handle this debt perhaps by changing the rules/law regarding it.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of May 24, 2001 Meeting
- b) June 5, 2001 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

6-14-01-74 – AMEND PENSION PLAN – POLC – CIRCUIT COURT REPORTERS AND TEAMSTERS - PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Supervisors adopted the Kent County Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust effective December 8, 1948; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners adopted an amendment and restatement of the Plan effective January 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 2001-01 to the Plan, attached hereto, incorporates changes to the Plan contained in the respective collective bargaining agreements between the County and the POLC- Court Reporters and Teamsters – Public Health Nurses bargaining units; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the amendment is necessary to implement the collective bargaining agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves adoption of Amendment 2001-1 to the Kent County Employees' Retirement Plan and Trust.

6-14-01-75 – AMEND FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN – POLC – CIRCUIT COURT REPORTERS AND TEAMSTERS - PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners adopted the Kent County Flexible Benefits Plan effective August 1, 1997; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the Plan are necessary to incorporate changes arising out of collective bargaining and changes arising out of regulations published by the IRS permitting mid-year election changes; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the amendment is necessary to implement the changes to the Flexible Benefits Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves adoption of Amendment 2001-1 to the Flexible Benefits Plan.

6-14-01-76 – CONVENTION CENTER – RENOVATION AND ADDITION FUNDING / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION (A) DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A LEASE CONTRACT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$125,000,000 BUILDING AUTHORITY BONDS TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST OF RENOVATING, EXPANDING AND IMPROVING OF A CONVENTION CENTER; (B) APPROVING THE FORM OF A LEASE CONTRACT WITH THE CITY-COUNTY BUILDING AUTHORITY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; (C) PLEDGING CERTAIN HOTEL-MOTEL TAXES AND THE LIMITED FULL FAITH AND CREDIT OF THE COUNTY AS SECURITY FOR THE BONDS; AND (D) AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL AND/OR NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE AN OBLIGATION WITH THE LOCAL AUDIT AND FINANCE DIVISION OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING AUTHORITY BONDS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the County of Kent, Michigan (the "County"), along with the City Commission of the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan, have established the City-County Building Authority (the "Building Authority") pursuant to Act 31 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1948 (First Extra Session), as amended, MCL 123.951 et seq. ("Act 31"); and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and advisable for the County to assist in the extensive improvement, expansion and renovation of a convention/performing arts/entertainment facility known as the Grand Center and upon completion to be known as DeVos Place (the "Facility"), including the demolition of existing structures; the construction of infrastructure improvements, including the relocation of utilities in Monroe Avenue, N.W.,

Michigan Street, N.W., Lyon Street, N.W., and Pearl Street, N.W.; the renovation and

improvement of approximately 150,000 square feet of existing space; the addition of approximately 850,000 square feet of new space; the construction of an approximately 700 space below grade parking facility; the improvement of Riverfront Promenade and Lyon Square; the acquisition and installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment; and related and appurtenant improvements generally located and to be located south of Michigan Street, N.W., west of Monroe Avenue, N.W., north of Lyon Street, N.W., and east of the Grand River in the City of Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan (the "Project"), for use for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Building Authority is authorized by its Articles of Incorporation and Act 31 to construct, renovate, remodel, furnish and equip the Project and to lease the same to the County for subsequent sublease to the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority; and

WHEREAS, the County intends to enter into a limited full faith and credit general obligation contract of lease with the Building Authority substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A hereto (the "Lease Contract") pursuant to which the Building Authority will issue bonds in accordance with Act 31 in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$125,000,000) for the Project; and

WHEREAS, said Lease Contract may not become effective until 45 days after a notice of intent to enter into said contract of lease pursuant to Section 8(b) of Act 31 has been published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County; and

WHEREAS, Act 202 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1943, as amended, MCL 131.1 et seq. ("Act 202"), permits application to the Local Audit and Finance Division of the Michigan Department of Treasury ("Treasury") for an order of approval or an exception to prior approval by Treasury to issue bonds; and

WHEREAS, since the bonds will be issued on the credit and fiscal strength of the County, it is appropriate for the County to apply for an order of approval and/or exception to prior approval to issue bonds and to submit certain financial information in connection therewith to Treasury.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Kent, Michigan:

1. That the Lease Contract substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby approved.

2. That the obligations of the County set forth in the Lease Contract shall be secured by (a) a pledge of a certain excise tax levied by the County pursuant to Act 263 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1974, as amended, MCL 141.861, et seq., and (b) the full faith and credit limited general obligation of the County, it being understood that any tax levy of the County to meet this obligation is subject to existing statutory and constitutional tax limitations.

3. That the County Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a Notice of Intent to Enter into a Full Faith and Credit General Obligation Lease Contract in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, in *The Grand Rapids Press*, a newspaper of general circulation in the County, determined to be the newspaper reaching the largest number of persons to whom said notice is directed.

4. That the County Administrator or Fiscal Services Director of the County is hereby authorized and directed to file an Application for Approval and/or Notice of Intent to Issue an Obligation, including all necessary supporting documentation, with Treasury in order to obtain an order of approval or an exception to prior approval of the issuance of bonds in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$125,000,000) by the Building

Authority pursuant to Acts 31 and 202 to finance a portion of the cost of the Project.

5. That all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be, and the same hereby are, rescinded.

6-14-01-77 – MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMMING GRANT REQUESTS AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS / COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, in late March, the Department of Community Health (DCH) announced the availability of federal funds on a one-time basis for mental health programming. CMH staff met to evaluate needs in areas eligible for funding and identified seven projects that would benefit the mental health system; and

WHEREAS, the following projects are being proposed: Adult Jail Diversion, Recovery and Leadership Training, Person-Centered Planning Innovation, Consumer Drop-In, Community Collaborative Training, Employment Training Specialist (ETS) Program, and Senior Response.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Community Mental Health's request to submit seven grant applications totaling \$312,131 (grant funding: \$272,841; local agency funding: \$24,762; and county funding: \$14,528); and .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves an amendment to the budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with the grants, if approved.

6-14-01-78 – SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMMING GRANT REQUESTS AND BUDGET AMENDMENTS / COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Health has approximately \$1.7 million dollars available from lapsed federal block grant funding from the previous year, and is seeking proposals from Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies for one-time funding that would be available through September 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Kent CMH serves as the fiduciary for the MINK (Montcalm, Ionia, Newaygo and Kent) Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency. The following projects are being proposed for the region: Pharmacy Support, Adolescent Outreach, Women's Sober Living Unit, and Mission Outreach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Community Mental Health's request to submit four applications totaling \$84,546; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves an amendment to the budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with the grants, if approved.

6-14-01-79 – MARCH OF DIMES GRANT REQUEST AND BUDGET AMENDMENT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, in April, the Health Department received notice that funding for improving access to health care for women and infants was available from the March of Dimes. The Health Department has prepared a grant proposal on behalf of the Healthy Kent 2010 Infant Health Implementation Team to conduct a Community-Wide Prenatal Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Community-Wide Prenatal Assessment Program is to improve the health of infants and children by focusing on primary prevention behaviors. The project will include development of a standardized assessment of pregnant women's risk factors and provision of education and referrals for at-risk clients. Funding will be used for contractual staff, project evaluation, supplies, and administrative fees; and

WHEREAS, project evaluation will take place on two levels: systems change and change in medical outcomes. Measuring systems change will include agreement on a standardized assessment tool and its use, and sharing aggregate data on specific outcomes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Health Department's request to submit a grant application to the March of Dimes for a development of a Community-Wide Prenatal Assessment Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board approves an amendment to the budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with the grant, if approved.

6-14-01-80 – PROBATION OFFICER POSITION CHANGE FROM PART-TIME TO FULL-TIME / CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court Family Division has been unable to successfully recruit and fill the position of part-time Probation Officer for the Adolescent Sex Offender Program; and

WHEREAS, this is a very specialized position requiring a person with experience working with adolescent and preadolescent sex offenders; and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that the Court will find a person with the necessary qualifications who is willing to work on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, combining the funding of a part-time Probation Officer position along with the funding for a part-time contractual person would nearly cover the cost of salary and fringes for the full-time Probation Officer I position.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioner's authorizes the creation of one full-time Probation Officer I position in the Adolescent Sex Offender Program by combining one part-time Probation Officer position in the Adolescent Sex Offender Program and one part-time contractual person in the Adolescent Sex Offender Program.

Motion by Commissioner Kuipers, supported by Commissioner Sak, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Vaughn, Smoke, Sak, Postmus, Morren, Morgan, McGuire, Mayhue, Kuipers, Kuhn, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema, Chair Heacock – 17.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Parks Subcommittee

Commissioner Morren reported that the Parks Subcommittee held its first meeting with representatives from the Road Commission; Roger Sabine, Director of Parks; and Staff, to put together a plan and expects a report forthcoming to this Board by Labor Day.

Community Mental Health Funding Subcommittee

Commissioner Boelema reported that the Community Mental Health Funding Subcommittee met recently and received a presentation from the Director of Community Mental Health. They will also be hearing from representatives from other agencies in the future as well as representatives from the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health.

Task Force on Health Care for People of Color

Chair Heacock announced that on June 22, 2001, at 8:00 a.m., the first meeting of the Task Force on Health Care for People of Color will meet. The task force includes a number of community representatives from both health care and the minority communities along with Commissioners Morgan, Wahlfield and Morren. They will get some data and information regarding the provision of health care in Kent County.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jail Debt

Commissioner Mayhue responded to the public comment of Mr. Martin by saying that this credit situation needs to be looked at to allow these individuals an opportunity to get back on their feet, teach them how to repair their credit and prevent homelessness within our community.

Commissioner Vaughn asked how much money is collected from the jail debt fund. Administrator Delabbio said that it would be looked at, and Chair Heacock added that a summary of this law and how it works would be prepared for Commissioners.

Food Pantry Fundraiser

Commissioner Vaughn announced that he and Commissioner Mayhue will be hosting a fundraiser for the Food Pantry and would like the Commission to proclaim the first Sunday in August "Food Pantry Day."

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:44 a.m., Commissioner Kuipers moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, July 12, 2001, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sak. Motion carried.

Steven R. Heacock, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk