

**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*Thursday, September 12, 2002  
Administration Building - Room 310*

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Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

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

**Absent:** Mayhue, Wahlfield – 2 (Excused).

**Invocation:** Commissioner Agee introduced David Anderson, Grand Rapids Baptist High School, who gave the invocation.  
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joseph Duba, 1108 Lake Michigan Drive, Grand Rapids – (Opposed to CMH becoming an authority) Is not convinced of any benefits nor is it in the best interest of the community. Taking community services from local government and placing them in private hands is a mistake made way too often. He urged Commissioners to work for the people of Kent County and vote against authority status.

Jodie Vokes, Executive Director – Tobacco Free Partners - Their mission is working collaboratively to improve the health of West Michigan communities by promoting a tobacco-free future. By focusing on prevention, treatment/cessation and advocacy, they hope to decrease tobacco use.

Merry Smith, International Representative for UAW Local 2600 – Learned recently that one of the Commissioners said on Access TV that she lied about the Kent Community Hospital and the Kent District Library. She would never do that. She can back up anything that she has said.

Alfred Alessandrini, 2578 Bridgeport Lane SE, Kentwood – The Reeds Lake Triathlon on September 8, 2002, interfered with traffic flow in all directions on the East Beltline. Why wasn't it started and ended in and around Reeds Lake or in East Grand Rapids proper? Why is it so poorly organized and so poorly administered? This event or any event should never impede the traffic flow of the East Beltline.

Keith Cook, 1913 Radcliffe Avenue SE, Grand Rapids – Again here to oppose CMH becoming an authority. Does not see any evidence that will benefit those in need of mental health or substance abuse treatment services. Most staff that he is in contact with are frustrated by the process and opposed to CMH becoming an authority.

Scott Atchison, 2251 South Saulk Trail, Grand Rapids – Addressed the Board of Commissioners (“BOC”) 6 weeks ago about putting a directions and information booth in downtown Grand Rapids. He read the letter from the County urging him to contact the visitor’s bureau for consideration. Mr. Atchison believes that a portion of the hotel/motel tax should go towards a directions and information booth which would be outdoor and all-season and what would help conventioners, visitors, tourists and citizens. Again he asked for support both physically and financially to accomplish this.

Jerry Kiel, 1108 Lake Michigan Drive, Grand Rapids – (Again in opposition) He is appalled that a County Commissioner indicated that the union lied and misrepresented itself. The oversight of the full County Commission is essential to insure that every citizen of Kent County has adequate representation and equal access to the services provided by Community Mental Health.

Hugh Hufnagel, 2546 Oakwood, Grand Rapids – As Chairman of the CMH Board, he said they have been working over the last couple of months, with some outside assistance, on the benefits program and the pension plan so that when the decision is made to become an authority, they can maintain the benefit levels the employees have now. They think that they will be successful and the BOC will know before it votes on authority status what will be done with both benefits and pension.

#### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

##### 2003 Budget and Millage Rate Public Hearing

County Administrator Daryl Delabbio presented an overview of the budget (copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk).

Motion by Commissioner Sak, supported by Commissioner McGuire, to go into a public hearing on the 2003 budget and millage.

Motion carried by voice vote.

At 7:40 p.m., a hearing was held on the proposed 2003 budget and millage. There was no public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Sak, supported by Commissioner McGuire, to go back into general session.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Chair Heacock declared the hearing closed at 7:41 p.m.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of August 22, 2002, Meeting and Work Session
- b) August 20, and September 3, 2002, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes (Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Appointments to Aeronautics Board – Joe Jones and Board of Election Canvassers – Nancy Giar and Fred Overeem

d) Resolutions:

9-12-02-120 – TB CLINIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the existing TB Clinic operated by the Kent County Health Department is currently located in Spectrum Hospital (the former Kent Community Hospital Complex). The Health Department leased space and equipment from the hospital to perform these services for the public. Spectrum has notified the Health Department of the need for this space and is not renewing the lease. The lease expires October 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the TB operation requires special equipment, air handling/quality and physical separation to conduct a clinic operation of this type. No space in the existing Health Department Facility is designed to accommodate this clinical function; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management has reviewed all available space and is recommending the former doctor's residence located directly adjacent to the Health Department be converted to the clinic operation. The proximity of this house will allow the Health Department staff to support the clinic in the same manner operated out of the Spectrum Hospital facility; and

WHEREAS, the house was used as a CMH contract transition house in the past but has been vacant for approximately 4 years. The house is in very good structural condition, but will require a new roof, reconfiguration to control patient movement, a radiology room, dark room, new mechanical systems with appropriate ventilation to meet MIOSHA standards and compliance to the ADA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of \$310,000 from the Unreserved/Undesignated General Fund balance to the 2002 Capital Improvement Program.

9-12-02-121 – APPROPRIATION OF PARKS DEPARTMENT / FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS LAND EXCHANGE / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution #9-27-01-136, approving the exchange of 14 acres of land owned by Kent County, located in the Knapp Valley Forest for 10 acres of land owned by Forest Hills Public Schools, adjacent to Seidman Park; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills Public Schools agreed to pay \$130,000 for the net additional 4 acres that they received per this exchange; and

WHEREAS, the County received a total of \$128,987 after title insurance expense was paid; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the exchange should be appropriated to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Parks Acquisition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of \$128,987 to the Capital Improvements Fund – Parks Acquisition.

9-12-02-122 – FAMILIES IN TOUCH GRANT APPROVAL, CONTRACT, AND BUDGET  
AMENDMENT APPROVAL / KENT/MSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1998, the Board of Commissioners approved Cooperative Extension's request to apply to Spectrum Health for a Families in Touch Grant.

Continuation funding was approved for both FY00 and FY01; and

WHEREAS, the Families in Touch Program provides education in financial management, parenting and nutrition to under-served families in five Grand Rapids schools. Parents are referred to the program by school health aides and other school staff; and

WHEREAS, the program is eligible for an additional year of funding from Spectrum Health. MSU will continue to be the employer of record for the positions. No County staff positions or funds are involved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts funding from Spectrum Health for the Families In Touch Program, to amend the Memorandum of Agreement with Cooperative Extension for the performance of the grant, and to appropriate an additional \$56,400 in grant funding to the Kent MSU Cooperative Extension Budget for the program.

9-12-02-123 – MONTCALM, IONIA, NEWAYGO AND KENT (MINK) SUBSTANCE  
ABUSE COORDINATING AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION /  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, Kent CMH currently serves as the Coordinating Agency for the MINK Substance Abuse region. The Michigan Department of Community Health requires each Coordinating Agency to submit an annual action plan. Although Montcalm, Ionia and Newaygo counties are in the process of realigning their substance abuse regions to provide better coordination with mental health services, they are still part of the MINK region and therefore the plan was prepared to reflect the entire region. Adjustments to the plan may be made after the realignments are approved by the State; and

WHEREAS, CMH projects that 4,376 individuals within the MINK region will be served in FY 03, and will continue to provide immediate assistance to all populations designated as high priority by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Health Department will continue to provide prevention services for the agency during FY03, prioritizing programs that target youth (as a first priority), women prior to and during pregnancy (second priority) and individuals experiencing major life transitions, including movement to both young adulthood and older adulthood (third priority). Only programs that have been designated as "Effective Programs" by federal agencies working in the area of substance abuse are made available; and

WHEREAS, the \$8.5 million program budget is funded with grant funds, Medicaid, liquor tax, and general funds. PA 2 of 1983 requires that 50 percent of liquor tax revenue be used for substance abuse programming. Montcalm, Ionia, and Newaygo also fund the program with their liquor tax revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves Community Mental Health's annual action plan with the Michigan Department of Community Health (DCH) for the MINK (Montcalm, Ionia, Newaygo, and Kent) Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

9-12-02-124 – APPROVAL OF ANNUAL PLAN AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT /  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, Public Act 258 of 1974 (The Mental Health Code), as amended, requires the Board of Commissioners to review and approve the Annual Plan and Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Community Health requires each CMH Program to submit an annual action plan responding to eight separate topics including an assessment of needed services, waiting lists, residential bed capacity and number of persons to be served in each of the specific populations. If a previous year's description is still accurate, the CMH Programs may choose not to update the description. For FY03, Kent CMH has chosen to update only the Adult with Mental Illness needs assessment; and

WHEREAS, CMH estimates it will serve 11,445 individuals during FY03. This figure is slightly higher than the 11,110 expected to be served in the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the State's planning process for this year did not allow for CMH to request new funding for programs. The Department of Community Health anticipates issuing a separate Request for Proposals for new programs later in the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the 2002 Community Mental Health (CMH) Annual Plan and Needs Assessment.

9-12-02-125 – 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 40 changes to existing fees and the establishment of 13 new fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves amendments to the Health Department's fee schedule effective October 1, 2002.

Motion by Commissioner Agee, supported by Commissioner McGuire, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 9-12-02-126 – 2003 MILLAGE RATE / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller has submitted a proposed budget for the year 2003, which outlines requirements for revenues and expenditures for operations and capital programs; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on the proposed 2003 budget following notice as required by law, including notice concerning the millage rate to be levied as required by the Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, P.A. 2 of 1978, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget requires the levy of 5.3140 mills, including the levy of 4.2726 mills for general operating purposes, 0.7952 mills for debt service and operation of County correction and detention facilities, and 0.2462 mills for senior services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies a levy of taxation of 5.3140 mills, which includes the levy of 4.2726 mills for general operating purposes for the County of Kent for 2003, 0.7952 mills for debt service and operation of County correction and detention facilities as approved by County electors on August 7, 1990, and 0.2462 mills for senior services as approved by County electors on November 3, 1998.

Motion by Commissioner Morren, supported by Commissioner Morgan, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

### 9-12-02-127 – CONVENTION CENTER FUNDING / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, in March 2000, the Board of Commissioners adopted Articles of Organization, Bylaws, an Operating Agreement and a memorandum of Understanding creating the Grand Rapids-Kent County Convention/Arena Authority, and authorizing various actions related to the renovation and addition to the Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, in June 2001, the Board of Commissioners approved provisions for the issuance of bonds, pledging the County's Lodging Excise (Hotel/ Motel) Tax proceeds, to fund \$86 million toward the cost of the Convention Center project; and

WHEREAS, the Convention Center project is estimated at \$220 million; and

WHEREAS, to date, \$207.3 million in funding has been pledged and/or secured, leaving a projected deficit of \$12.7 million; and

WHEREAS, unless the deficit is eliminated, a portion of the project (the Grand Ballroom) will not be completed; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority (DDA) have been approached to provide funding to eliminating the deficit; and

WHEREAS, Board Chair Heacock is requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider contributing \$5 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund to fund a portion of the deficit, contingent upon an additional \$5 million contribution from the Grand Rapids DDA.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners does hereby commit to contributing \$5 million from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund balance to the Convention Center Renovation/Expansion project, contingent upon the Grand Rapids DDA allocating and contributing an additional \$5 million (bringing its total contribution to \$10 million) toward funding the deficit.

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

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Postmus, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 16.

Nays: Kuhn – 1.

9-12-02-128 - ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHY / BUREAU OF EQUALIZATION / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, the County contracted for aerial mapping services for the benefit of the County and local units from 1968 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has created the ability to produce aerial photos that are based on ground control points through orthophotography; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to fly the County at one time to ensure that natural features and infrastructure are consistent throughout the County in the final product; and

WHEREAS, the County contracted for aerial mapping services from 1968 to 1998 and billed local units half of the expense; and

WHEREAS, the REGIS Agency contracted for orthophotographic services from 1998 – 2000; and

WHEREAS, 15 Kent County cities, villages and townships are members of REGIS and 20 are not members at this time; and

WHEREAS, the County should resume responsibility for contracting for orthophotographic services and request that local units assist with this expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Undesignated/Unreserved General Fund Balance to Special Projects Fund – Orthophotography; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local units of government in Kent County be requested to pay \$64,200, their cost share amount for the 1994-1998 period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local units of government be encouraged to prepare financially for paying half of the full cost of the next orthophotography flight, projected to occur in 2007.

Motion by Commissioner Morren, supported by Commissioner Buege, that the resolution be adopted.

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

Nays: 0.

## REPORTS

### Justice Task Force

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Justice Task Force had its last focus group meeting on August 27 at which time they met with neighborhood groups arranged by Commissioner Vaughn. They plan to have the report back to the BOC by the end of the month.

### Purchase of Development Rights

Commissioner Horton stated that on September 19, 2002, there will be a meeting at the Grand Rapids Township Hall, 7:00 p.m., regarding the issue of the purchase of development rights. A work group put that program together, but a larger task force that will be invited along with Commissioners as they make a presentation of what has been accomplished at this point in time - how the program works, the criteria, the selection process, the type of questions Commissioners will need to have answered as they move toward the adoption of a ordinance.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Airport Police Certification

Commissioner Sak stated that he has received a couple of phone calls regarding the airport police certification. Chair Heacock stated that would be done through the airport board level.

### Reeds Lake Triathlon

Commissioner Agee will contact Mr. Alessandrini and let him know that the triathlon is an East Grand Rapids function and not one of the County government.

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Commissioner Kuhn read a conflict of interest disclosure:

I, Katherine O'Connor Kuhn, Kent County Commissioner, disclose that I have accepted a position with Citizens for Better Care, a non-profit agency providing advocacy for senior citizens in long-term care facilities. Although another position within the agency is supported in part by County senior millage funds, I declare that the work I will perform for Citizens for Better Care will not be supported in whole or in part by County senior millage funds and does not present a conflict of interest with my role as a Kent County Commissioner.

If at any time I perceive a conflict between my work with Citizens for Better Care and my position as a Kent County Commissioner, I will make a formal disclosure of said conflict in accordance with applicable state law.

### 911 Remembrance

Chair Heacock stated that he proudly represented the BOC at the 911 Remembrance held yesterday in Grand Rapids.

### Appointments

Chair Heacock stated that the County is looking for applications for appointments to a number of boards.

Retirement

Chair Heacock announced that Deputy Treasurer Bill Mann is retiring this month.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52 p.m., Commissioner Agee moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, September 26, 2002, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Sak. Motion carried.

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Steven R. Heacock, Chair

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Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk