

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, October 10, 2002
Administration Building - Room 310*

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

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 19.

Absent: None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Kubik, 462 Emerald Avenue NE, Grand Rapids – Distributed information which he released to the media today containing a press release, a response letter by Chair Heacock and a civil rights case brought against Commissioner Sak. He asked Commissioner Sak to resign his County Commission seat. (Copy of handouts available in the Office of the County Clerk.)

Sharon Steffens, 6690 Walker NW, Grand Rapids - As an apple grower on the ridge, a member of the State Agricultural Preservation Board and Alpine Township Trustee, she applauded the Board of Commissioners' ("BOC") approval of the Urban Sprawl Report. She urged the Commission to approve an agricultural preservation program for Kent County.

Bruce Butgereit, 2555 Ridgemoor Drive SE, Kentwood – On behalf of The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, he asked the BOC for a \$50,000 contribution towards the restoration of the Kent County Civil War Monument.

Steve Utik, 1116 Carrier Creek Blvd., NE, Grand Rapids – In favor of Purchase of Development Rights ("PDR") work group and task force that the County Commission authorized with the release of its Urban Sprawl Report. The groups have been meeting since June developing a program. The County has an opportunity to help curb urban sprawl. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the two informational meetings in Sparta and Lowell.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Purchase of Development Rights

Commissioner Postmus stated that the Urban Sprawl Committee, which he chaired, makes five recommendations in its report. One of the recommendations is in effect at the present time - the support of an information person. Now they are looking into another recommendation - the Purchase of Development Rights Program. The PDR workgroup has been meeting since June '02, and has done an excellent job. He introduced Dr. David Skjaerlund,

Executive Director of Rural Partners of Michigan and facilitator of the County's PDR workgroup. Mr. Skjaerlund gave background information on the PDR program and an update on the County's progress. The work group's five goals include: 1) avoid designated growth; 2) protect most productive farmland; 3) avoid existing islands; 4) prioritize areas; and, 5) farmland protection. The PDR workgroup will hold informational meetings on October 14, 2002, 7 p.m., at the Bradford Farms in Sparta and on October 16, 2002, 7 p.m., at the Lowell Township Hall. The BOC will consider the report at the October 24, 2002 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of September 26, 2002, Meeting
- b) October 1, 2002, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Appointment to Community Corrections Advisory Board – Rusty Merchant and
Family Independence Agency Board – Robert Jamo
- d) Resolutions:

10-10-02-140 – AUTHORIZE CONVERSION TO TWO-PART TIME LANDFILL UTILITY WORKER POSITIONS TO FULL-TIME POSITIONS / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, tonnage at the transfer station has increased significantly over the last several months because of the new electronics recycling program and expansion of the household hazardous waste program; and

WHEREAS, this has increased the number of filled trailers that must be switched each week. Switching of full trailers requires two employees, and the employee assigned to the tipping building must leave the building to help unhitch and maneuver trailers; and

WHEREAS, additional year-round coverage of the facility is required to ensure that an employee is present to supervise the tipping building operations at all times and ensure customer safety; and

WHEREAS, additional man-hours are also required to prepare recyclable computer electronics for shipping; and

WHEREAS, the DPW Solid Waste Division currently employs two seasonal Landfill Utility Workers (UAW 16) at the transfer station; and

WHEREAS, converting the existing seasonal positions to full-time will provide the necessary coverage; and

WHEREAS, the additional annual labor cost of \$37,661 for the two positions will be funded by the Public Works Enterprise Funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the conversion of two part-time Landfill Utility Worker positions (UAW 16) to two full-time positions to provide additional, year-round coverage for the transfer station.

10-10-02-141 – FY 2003 BUDGET AMENDMENT – SEXUAL ASSAULT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Health Department received notice that the Michigan Department of Community Health will provide additional funding for the Project Respect Sexual Assault Program; and

WHEREAS, this grant funded initiative targets youth between the ages of 12 and 18. The goal of the program is to reduce the likelihood that youth will become victims or perpetrators of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, through this project two six-session curriculums are implemented in the community. The first, Proyecto Respeto, is conducted in Spanish and is designed for Latino Youth. The second, Project Respect, is targeted to youth whose life experiences put them at high risk for sexual assault. In the fall of 2000, the Project Respect curriculum was modified to be used with Native American Youth. Classes are implemented by health educators from the Kent County Health Department or by community facilitators who have been trained by health education staff; and

WHEREAS, increased funding will be used to fund existing staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts and appropriates an additional \$23,383 to the Health Department from the Michigan Department of Community Health for the Project Respect Sexual Abuse program.

10-10-02-142 – SPARTA LANDEILL – ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF CONSENT / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (Department) entered into an Administrative Order of Consent (AOC) in September 1993 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to conduct a remedial investigation and feasibility study on the Sparta Landfill located in Sparta Township; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works completed the remedial investigation and feasibility study and on September 27, 2000, a Record of Decision was issued by the USEPA for the Sparta landfill; and

WHEREAS, the Department as authorized by the Board of Public Works will enter into a new AOC to implement the ROD; and

WHEREAS, the new AOC requires payment of past USEPA oversight costs in the amount of \$84,442 for the Sparta Landfill site.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners appropriate an additional \$84,442 to the 2002 Solid Waste Fund Operating Budget.

10-10-02-143 – FY 2002 BUDGET AMENDMENT – CIRCUIT COURT-FAMILY DIVISION / CIRCUIT COURT

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court-Family Division has from time to time received donations from organizations for specific purposes. The current balance of these funds total \$5,757.76; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court-Family Division is requesting that these funds be appropriated to their FY 2002 Budget so that they may be accounted for through the County's financial system; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be used as discretionary funding directly related to the treatment plan and associated casework-related expenses for juveniles and/or families, such as mentoring, tutoring, special classes, incentives, rewards for positive behavior, pro-social outings such as to museums, or as otherwise specified by the donor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts and appropriates an \$5,757.76 to the FY 2002 Circuit Court-Family Division.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, Vaughn, Sak, Postmus, Morren, Morgan, McGuire, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Kuhn, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema, Agee, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

10-10-02-144 – CHILD CARE FUND ANNUAL PLAN APPROVAL / CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION AND FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY

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 each agency; and

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

WHEREAS, overall the document reflects a 17 percent increase over the FY02 submission, primarily due to increases in the costs of institutional care following a federal government decision to no longer allow the State to pay 100 percent of the costs of caring for children whose parents receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, and costs associated with detention (staffing and facilities management expenses).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY03 and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the document. Funds have been included in the 2003 Budget.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

10-10-02-145 – APPROVAL OF COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING, BUDGETING AND CONTRACTING (CPBC) AGREEMENT FOR FY 03 / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contracting (CPBC) document is an annual agreement between the State and the County, and the primary funding vehicle for required services (immunization, infectious disease, sexually transmitted disease, hearing and vision screening, and food protection. For FY03, the State has added funding for bio-terrorism activities into the agreement; and

WHEREAS, funding for Local Public Health Organization (LPHO) activities remains consistent with last year's level. However, the overall contract amount has decreased due to the elimination of the Michigan Health Initiative and Ryan White AIDS programs; and

WHEREAS, the programs will now be managed directly by MDCH, and reduced funding for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program will now utilize a third-party administrator for payments to the County's providers. Funding for certain bio-terrorism activities have been added to the contract as well.

WHEREAS, the Health Department prepared its 2003 budget request using estimated funding figures. The actual contract amount is \$29,932 higher than expected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contracting Agreement for FY03, and to appropriate an additional \$29,932 in State funding to the Health Department.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, Vaughn, Sak, Postmus, Morren, Morgan, McGuire, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Kuhn, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema, Agee, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

10-10-02-146 – MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS DEMONSTRATION GRANT SUBMISSION APPROVAL AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is seeking proposals for Medical Reserve Corps Demonstration projects; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department, Grand Rapids Medical Education and Research Center (GRMERC), and Kent County Emergency Medical Services are proposing a cooperative project to establish a Medical Reserve Corp to provide surge capacity in emergency situations. The Medical Reserve Corp will consist of 75 volunteer citizens (active and retired) that are members of various medical/health disciplines; and

WHEREAS, volunteers will be recruited through the continuing education efforts of GRMERC and local hospitals. Volunteers will be trained and participate in a tabletop exercise by September 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department will serve as the fiduciary of the grant, and will subcontract with the GRMERC to support volunteer recruitment and training activities.

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 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for a Medical Reserve Corps Demonstration Project, and to appropriate \$50,000 to the Health Department for the project.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, Vaughn, Sak, Postmus, Morren, Morgan, McGuire, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Kuhn, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Buege, Boelema, Agee, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

10-10-02-147 – APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, MCL 52.201 requires the Board of Commissioners of each county to appoint a County Medical Examiner for four-year terms. The current term, being filled by Dr. David Persaud, expires December 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Persaud has indicated his desire to resign from the County, effective upon the County's securing a suitable replacement; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stephen Cohle has worked in the County's Medical Examiner Program since 1982. Currently he serves as the Chief Deputy Medical Examiner through a contractual arrangement with Laboratory Pathologists, P.C. Dr. Cohle meets the requirements of County Medical Examiner as provided for in MCL 52.201. The proposed arrangement will require an amendment of the current contract with Laboratory Pathologists, P.C. The amendment has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Civil Counsel; and

WHEREAS, Laboratory Pathologists, P.C. also serves as a subcontractor of Spectrum Health to provide autopsy services for the County Medical Examiner Program. As permitted by the statute, Dr. Cohle will continue to provide autopsy and investigative services while serving as County Medical Examiner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Stephen Cohle, M.D., as the County Medical Examiner, effective October 11, 2002, for the term extending through December 31, 2002.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS

Urban Sprawl

Commissioner Postmus stated that in the next two weeks, the PDR work group should have a final report to the BOC. The group now moves on to septic and water. The process has received tremendous input from citizens and township officials. He thanked David Skjaerlund for the excellent job he has done in guiding the workgroup.

Justice Task Force

Commissioner Morgan announced that a meeting would be held on October 22, 2002, to discuss the eight recommendations of the focus groups.

MISCELLANEOUS

Zoo Feasibility Task Force

Chair Heacock announced that he was creating a Zoo Feasibility Task Force. The following individuals will be appointed to this committee: Commissioner Agee, Postmus, and Vaughn along with representation from the following organizations: Meijer, Inc., Zoo Society, County and Zoo staff, Zoo Advisory Board, and the Grand Rapids Township Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:45 a.m., Commissioner Kuhn moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, October 24, 2002, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion carried.

Steven R. Heacock, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk