

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, August 14, 2003
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, VanderMolen, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 14.

Absent: Horton, Kuipers, Mast, Vaughn, Voorhees – 5 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Alkema, 1736 Morningside Drive SE, Grand Rapids - Has questions for the Board of Commissioners for which he wants answers including whether the \$25,000,000 given by the Meijer family for the new zoo, is a “true” gift. He wants the money trail to be visible. (A copy of Mr. Alkema’s letter is on file in the Office of the County Clerk.)

Richa, Homeless – (**Opposes Zoo move**) How can we spend so much on the Zoo and Convention Center when we have homeless? As a mayoral candidate, he suggested that we re-look at our priorities, and if the zoo does indeed go forward Commissioners consider giving 10% of what is raised to other needy projects and turn the old zoo into a petting zoo.

Dennis Murphy, 1952 DeHoop SW, Grandville - As President of the Western Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, he stated that mountain biking is vastly under-served in Kent County and that they would like to see more unpaved foot/bike trails. (A copy of Mr. Murphy’s information packet is available in the Office of the County Clerk.)

Paul Geer, 5811 Cannonsburg Road, Cannon Township – (**Opposes Zoo move**) He doesn’t want the zoo if it means higher taxes. The zoo should be user-fee based so that taxpayers do not have to pay for it.

Laurie McDonough, 5093 Mountain Ridge, Ada – (**Opposes Zoo move**) The Grand Rapids Township area has already absorbed too much development. Is the community willing to pay for the zoo move at the expense of other priorities?

Nick Helmholdt, 7695 Cascade Road SE, Cascade Township - (**Opposes Zoo move**) As a Grand Rapids Planning Department intern, he feels that the reclamation of the old zoo is not being planned carefully enough. He showed photos as to how quickly such areas can deteriorate. He believes that Kent County has skewed priorities and that the zoo is frivolous.

Delores Parbel, 2315 Montclair Avenue NW, Walker - (**Opposes Zoo move**) Asked how much does the County now pay for zoo upkeep annually. Relocation to the new site will create traffic problems and the schools need the money more.

Sid Deans, 836 Dickinson Street SE, Grand Rapids - (**Opposes Zoo move**) Would like to see the water system improved. Pollution in Lake Michigan and the Grand River needs to be cleaned up before a new zoo and other non-essential projects are considered.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Retiree Awards

Chair Morren presented service awards to the following retirees:

Wanda Bierman, Health Department – 23 years
Philip Blackport, Sheriff Department – 29 years
Alice Cain, Register of Deeds – 19 years
Robert Dengate, Health Department - 23 years
Mark Donker, Sheriff Department - 28 years
Steven Dunker, Prosecutor’s Office – 29 years
Lisa Fales, Sheriff Department – 23 years
Steven Fales, Sheriff Department – 24 years
Beulah Guydon, Community Mental Health – 18 years
Sue Harvey, Prosecutor’s Office – 23 years
Mary Ann King, Friend of the Court – 29 years
Salliann McConnell, 63rd District Court – 15 years
Craig Minkus, Sheriff Department – 26 years
Barry Powell, Sheriff Department – 24 years
Richard Rutherford, Aeronautics – 22 years
Karen Shook, Aeronautics – 17 years
Elinor Vandepol, Register of Deeds – 17 years
Joan Welke, Register of Deeds – 22 years

2002 Audit Presentation by BDO Seidman

Larry Oberst and Pat Duperron reviewed the Statements of Net Assets, Statement of Activities, General Fund - Balance Sheet and Revenue/Expenditure Statement. (A copy of the *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* and *Memorandum of Recommendations* is on file in the Office of the County Clerk.)

Presentation of GEOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Administrator Delabbio stated that Kent County, for the third year, has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officer’s Association (“GFOA”). This award represents a significant achievement by the County as it reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of July 24, 2003 Meeting and Work Session
- b) August 5, 2003 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

8-14-03-96 – ACCEPT FY 2004 TITLE IV-D COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT / FRIEND OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, the Michigan Family Independence Agency provides funding to counties to operate a Cooperative Reimbursement Program designed to secure and enforce support orders; and

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court's Cooperative Reimbursement Program currently operates with 108 full-time positions plus 7 FTEs in support services from the Circuit Court – Family Division (Referees & clerical); and

WHEREAS, the anticipated grant period is October 1, 2003, to September 30, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Friend of the Court's request to accept an FY 2004 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant from the State Family Independence Agency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the position(s) will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants; and

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

8-14-03-97 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – WOMEN, INFANT, AND CHILDREN (WIC) / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Health Department was informed that additional FY 2003 WIC funding of \$101,591 is available from the MDCH in support of existing performance base caseload;

WHEREAS, the additional funds are based on the Health Departments previous level of services to pregnant, breastfeeding women, high-risk enrollees, plus pregnant women who are enrolled in the program in the first trimester;

WHEREAS, the funds will continue as part of the FY 2004 caseload funding and serve as a foundation to help increase capacity and implement initiatives that will result in WIC caseload expansion in FY 2004;

WHEREAS, the increased participation in WIC Programming, 4,787 over the original assigned base caseload, the MDCH has made \$40,690 available to the Health Department;

WHEREAS, the one time funding and will not change the Health Department's contracted monthly base caseload of 17,000; and

WHEREAS, the increased MDCH allocation available to the Health Department, the total WIC allocation increases \$142,281 from \$1,651,688 to \$1,793,969.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the amendment to the 2003 Health Department budget for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Programming and appropriates an additional \$142,281 from the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

Motion by Commissioner Bulkowski, supported by Commissioner VanderMolen, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Koorndyk, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 14.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

8-14-03-98 – COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE REPAIR WORKER / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the Kent County Courthouse has been in operation for over 18 months and the maintenance and operation plan for the facility is intended to protect the significant investment that has been made in the building. The Maintenance Repair Worker will perform routine and preventative maintenance on the building, systems, equipment, and grounds; and

WHEREAS, additional construction has been completed in the Courthouse that has added two courtrooms, one judicial suite, conference space, file room space, and the equipment and systems needed to operate these areas; and

WHEREAS, improved service levels and reduced customer inconvenience will be achieved as this will be a second shift position. A significant portion of the work to be performed by this position is currently being done under construction warranties that are expiring; and

WHEREAS, the work to be performed is required. Therefore, the option is to contract it out or to hire staff; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of contracting the service is \$75,000 annually. The cost of one Maintenance Repair Worker (UAW Range 18) salary and fringes is estimated to be \$41,300 for annual savings of \$33,700; and

WHEREAS the City of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Bar Association will pay 32.8% (\$13,545) of the annual cost of salary and fringes of this position and the General Fund will pay 67.2% (\$27,755) of the annual cost of salary and fringes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the addition of one full-time Maintenance Repair Worker to provide maintenance for the Kent County Courthouse and that funds be included in the 2004 Facilities Management budget.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Koorndyk, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 14.

8-14-03-99 – GENERAL FUND – REVENUE FORECAST / APPROPRIATION UPDATE / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the County previously established a General Fund Fiscal Year 2003 Operating Budget which identified certain estimated revenues intended to support General Fund Appropriations; and

WHEREAS, certain previously established revenue estimates have been found to be in excess of that which can be derived from these sources in the current fiscal year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby reduces certain previously established revenue estimates in the amount of \$3,720,785 and in a like manner decrease certain previously established appropriations by \$3,800,000, with a net balance of \$79,215 to be returned to the General Fund Undesignated/Unreserved fund balance.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Vonk, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Koorndyk, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 14.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

Introductions

Administrator Delabbio introduced the new Human Resources Director, Douglas DeFrain, and Management Analyst Laura Hutzel from the Administrator's Office.

Health Department

Commissioner Agee commended Health Department employee Kathy Armstrong for assisting his family with a bat encounter in his home. She did an outstanding job.

Thank you

Commissioner Mayhue commended and thanked Gail Glocheski for the excellent job she did as the interim Human Resources Director.

Proposal

Commissioner Mayhue said that he liked Richa's proposal, during Public Comment, that some dollars generated by the new zoo millage or fees go to some social services area.

Mountain Biking

Commissioner Boelema stated that he appreciated the Michigan Mountain Biking Association's presentation and would like some follow up regarding his suggestions and the development of biking trails in some of our parks.

Millennium Park

Chair Morren announced that the Millennium Park Beach will open to the public tomorrow (Friday, August 15, 2003).

Zoo Work Session

Chair Morren announced that there will be another work session scheduled for immediately following the August 28, 2003 Board of Commission meeting.

Cooperative Extension Open House

Chair Morren reminded Commissioners of the open house at Cooperative Extension immediately following this morning's work session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 a.m., Commissioner Bulkowski moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, August 28, 2003, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mayhue. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk