

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, September 11, 2003
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Chair Morren asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those who died two years ago today, September 11, 2001, in the terrorist attacks.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 18.

Absent: VanderMolen – 1 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Vaughn introduced Pastor Sam Reeves, Madison Square Christian Reformed Church, who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Atchison, 2251 South Saulk Trail, Grand Rapids – Appearing before the Board of Commissioners again with his request for a Directions and Information Booth in downtown Grand Rapids. The booth would be located in front of the McKay Tower and Rosa Parks Circle, operational 365 days a year, and have a weather beam on the top for anyone who is ever lost downtown. Again, he asked Commissioners to look over his handout (copy on file in the Office of the County Clerk) and consider his request.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Zoo Employee Recognition – U.S. Postal Service

Deputy Administrator Al Vanderberg presented to Barb Snyder and Cheryl Dykstra, Animal Curators at the John Ball Zoo, Certificates of Appreciation from the U.S. Postal Service for their assistance when a whitetail deer entered the downtown post office during regular business hours.

PUBLIC HEARING

2004 Budget and Millage Rate

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner Postmus, to go into a public hearing on the 2004 budget and millage rate.

Motion carried by voice vote.

At 7:14 p.m., a hearing was held on the proposed 2004 budget and millage.

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

Public Comment:

Scott Atchison, 2251 South Saulk Trail, Grand Rapids – How much money is the County giving to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau next year?

Administrator Delabbio stated \$900,000, which comes out of the County's Hotel/Motel or Lodging Excise Tax.

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner Agee, to go back into general session.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Chair Morren declared the hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the Minutes of August 28, 2003 Meeting and Work Session

b) September 2, 2003 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)

c) Resolutions:

9-11-03-107 – COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPROPRIATION / COURT SERVICES

WHEREAS, this is a Special Project Fund program that receives the majority of its funding from the Community Corrections Office; and

WHEREAS, \$324,457 was appropriated to the Special Projects Fund for the Community Corrections Grant requiring a General Fund contribution of \$105,847 and State funding in the amount of \$218,610; and

WHEREAS, in preparing its 2003 budget request, Court Services staff utilized the Contributions From Local Units revenue line to represent the County General Fund allocation. Since the County typically uses the Transfer revenue line to reflect County General Fund contributions, an amount equal to the anticipated General Fund request was not included in the General Fund appropriations in the 2003 budget; and

WHEREAS, \$324,457 was appropriated to the Special Projects Fund for the Community Corrections Grant requiring a General Fund contribution of \$105,847 and State funding in the amount of \$218,610; and

WHEREAS, at the June 12 Board meeting, \$62,000 was appropriated to the Special Projects Fund for the Community Corrections Grant, with the understanding that funds would be available in the Circuit Court Services budget in the General Fund to cover the remaining shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court Services grant is now entering its final month, and it is anticipated that \$15,000 is required to cover the remaining expenditures for the FY2003 budget. This represents an overall reduction in required funding from the County's General Fund from \$105,847 to \$77,000 and reduces the total appropriation from \$324,457 to \$295,610; and

WHEREAS, the County's fiscal policies require inter-fund transfers to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners recommends the transfer of \$15,000 originally appropriated to Circuit Court Services in the General Fund to the 2003 Court Services – Community Corrections Grant in the Special Projects Fund.

9-11-03-108 – FEE SCHEDULE / BUREAU OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioners last increased Property Description & Mapping Division map prices in July 2002, and

WHEREAS, per the completion of the REGIS system and the provisions of Public Act No. 462 of 1996 (Enhanced Access to Public Records Act), staff recommends changes to the fee schedule for map products; and

WHEREAS, the County has contracted with the Sidwell Company for approximately thirty years for production of half size atlases that Sidwell then leases to seventy institutional clients in Kent County. Sidwell pays the County a royalty for their limited use of the map for lease sales.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following fee schedule for Bureau of Equalization map products:

1/8 th Section Map (20" x 30"), 1" = 100' Line Map	\$8
1/8 th Section Map (20" x 30"), 1" = 100' Composite Map	\$10
Parcel Map (11" x 17"), 1" = 100' Composite or Line Map	\$5
Parcel Map (8.5" x 11"), 1" = 100' Composite or Line Map	\$2
Custom Mapping	\$25/hour
Condo Index	\$25
Plat Index	\$25
Street Index	\$25
Remonumentation Section Maps	\$5
Remonumentation State Plane Coordinate Township Maps	\$15
Remonumentation Second Order Densification Maps	\$25
Sale Summary Report (per parcel)	\$5
Tax Descriptions (per parcel)	\$1

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves a contract agreement with The Sidwell Company for sales and marketing of Kent County tax maps for a term of two years after which time staff anticipates producing tax map atlases directly from REGIS, and authorize the Board Chair (or Vice-chair in his absence) to sign the contract.

9-11-03-109 – AMENDMENT OF KENT COUNTY RETIREMENT PLAN / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners adopted the Kent County Employees' Retirement Plan (the "Plan") effective December 8, 1948, which Plan has been amended from time-to-time thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners desires to amend the Plan to grant the Plan's Board of Trustees the power to lend securities held by the Plan in order to assist in the management of the return on the Plan's portfolio of investments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves amendment 2003-3 to the Kent County Employees' Retirement Plan in the form attached hereto giving the Plan's Board of Trustees the power to lend securities held by the Plan which is hereby adopted effective on the dates stated therein, and the Administrator/Controller is directed to execute said amendment on behalf of Kent County.

9-11-03-110 – KENT COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM AMORTIZATION PERIOD / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, Kent County Employees’ Retirement System contracts with an independent actuary, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Company to prepare a report entitled “Annual Actuarial Valuation”, which is presented to the Kent County Pension Board; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Actuarial Report for Kent County Employees’ Retirement System establishes the contribution rates for funding purposes; and

WHEREAS, the amortization period should be reviewed every five years and the last review was for 1998 contribution rates; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Pension Board adopted a 12-year amortization period as a smoothing method for market fluctuations at the May 14, 2003, Pension Board Meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an amortization change for the Kent County Employees’ Retirement System from a 15-year amortization period to a 12-year amortization period.

9-11-03-111 – LABOR AGREEMENT – POLC CAPTAINS & LIEUTENANTS / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Negotiating Committee recommends approval of a two- year labor agreement for the period of January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2004, between the County of Kent, the Sheriff and the Police Officers’ Labor Council (POLC); and

WHEREAS, the proposed agreement is summarized on attachments to this resolution; and

WHEREAS, this proposed contract has been ratified by members of the Police Officers’ Labor Council representing Captains and Lieutenants; and

WHEREAS, the salary and fringe benefit increases will result in a cost of \$156,034 for the length of the contract; and

WHEREAS, this contract settlement will affect twenty full-time employees assigned exclusively to the Sheriff Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approve and ratify said proposed contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair is authorized and directed to sign said agreement on behalf of Kent County.

Motion by Commissioner Vaughn, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Mast, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 18.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

9-11-03-112 – ADDITION OF ROAD PATROL SERGEANT AND SEASONAL PARK POLICE OFFICERS FOR MILLENNIUM PARK / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Parks Subcommittee chaired by then Board Vice Chair David Morren developed an operations & maintenance budget for Millennium Park that included funds for security. At that time, it was not known what the form of security in Millennium Park would be. The 2003 Parks Budget includes funds for operations & maintenance and security is included in that budget. Thus, an additional General Fund appropriation does not need to be made to pay for this new position; and

WHEREAS, an agreement has been reached with the City of Walker regarding patrol and services. The Sheriff Department will patrol during established open park hours throughout the traditional park season. To fulfill this agreement, a full-time Sergeant position will be responsible for supervising a rotating group of eight certified, seasonal Park Police Officer positions that will have arrest powers. A separate agreement with Walker is being developed for recommendation to the Board that would add a patrol position south of M-45 on a one-year trial basis to assist with increased activity due to the new Millennium Park; and

WHEREAS, during the "off season" – December through March – the Sergeant will perform a variety of duties including: recruitment, attending mandatory training, park security planning, writing grant proposals, and teaching safety courses; and

WHEREAS, the cost of a full-time Sergeant position is \$76,233 annually including salary and fringes; and each Park Police Officer position would earn \$17 per hour for the 2003 season. Benefits will not be provided for the seasonal positions. A total of \$11,660 for monthly leasing of a used patrol car and miscellaneous equipment is included in the funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the addition of one full-time Road Patrol Sergeant position and the creation and addition of eight seasonal Park Police Officer positions for Millennium Park.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Mast, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 18.

Nays: 0.

9-11-03-113 - 2004 MILLAGE RATE / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller has submitted a proposed budget for the year 2004, which outlines requirements for revenues and expenditures for operations and capital programs; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on the proposed 2004 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 4.2803 mills for general operating purposes, 0.7893 mills for debt service and operation of County correction and detention facilities, and 0.2444 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 4.2803 mills for general operating purposes for the County of Kent for 2004, 0.7893 mills for debt service and operation of the County correction and detention facilities as approved by

County electors on August 7, 1990, and 0.2444 mills for senior services as approved by County electors on November 3, 1998.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Mast, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 18.

Nays: 0.

9-11-03-114 – WILDLIFE PARK PROJECT / ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, Kent County has owned, operated, and maintained the John Ball Zoological Garden since 1989; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved the current Zoological Garden Master Plan in December 2001, and intended to work with John Ball Zoological Society to complete the expansion/construction of the Zoological Garden; and

WHEREAS, due to continued controversy over expansion of the John Ball site and the 2001 master plan, Mr. Frederik Meijer purchased land in Grand Rapids Township and committed to donating said land to Kent County for purposes of constructing a Wildlife Park. Mr. Meijer has also committed to match contributions to the Zoological Society up to \$25 million for construction of the proposed Wildlife Park; and

WHEREAS, since receiving Mr. Meijer’s offer, the County has conducted and reviewed extensive research regarding the feasibility of constructing the Wildlife Park on the site, with Grand Rapids Township being a partner in this effort; and

WHEREAS, the John Ball Zoological Garden Society presented a Wild Life Park concept that would cost \$170 million to construct (\$200 million adjusted for inflation and other cost);

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that a special millage will be necessary in order to fund the Wildlife Park; and

WHEREAS, Grand Rapids Township ordinance requires a special use permit to operate a Wildlife Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, contingent upon conceptual approval of a special use permit by Grand Rapids Township, the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves presenting a special millage request to the citizens of Kent County for a Wildlife Park in Grand Rapids Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes staff to draft ballot language for a special millage request for not to exceed 0.55 mills for twenty-five years.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Postmus, Mast, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 16.

Nays: Bulkowski, Horton – 2.

9-11-03-115 – MILLENNIUM PARK AMENDED GRANT AGREEMENT / PARKS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved the submittal of the first Millennium Park land acquisition grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) on August 24, 2000, and

WHEREAS, the DNR subsequently approved the grant request and the Michigan Legislature appropriated funding for the grant request; and

WHEREAS, not all parcels are available for purchase within grant deadlines; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department requested that the DNR shift grant funds from these properties to a 13 acre portion of the former Domtar property that had been scheduled for purchase in the second DNR acquisition grant in order to receive the full value of the approved grant; and

WHEREAS, the MNRTF Board met on September 10, 2003 and approved the Parks Department request.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the amended grant agreement and authorizes the Board Chair or his designee to execute necessary documents.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Mast, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 18.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 p.m., Commissioner Vaughn moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, September 25, 2003, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Voorhees. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk