

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, October 23, 2003
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, VanderMolen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 19.

Absent: None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Wayne Creelman, MD, 1620 Sage Court, Grand Rapids Township – Republican candidate for state representative (District 86) distributed campaign information (copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk).
2. Linda Knieriemen, 1156 W. Chippewa, Grand Rapids – Spoke out against the marriage proposal. As a Presbyterian minister, she believes that it is divisive and discriminatory.
3. Tom Ozinga, 2781 Timberlane, Grandville – Opposed to the marriage amendment to the state constitution. He encouraged the Commissioners to vote “no” on this issue. Marriage is not government business.
4. William “Greg” Dean, Oakfield Township Supervisor, 10300 - 14 Mile Road, Rockford - Opposed to the Kent County Health Department overseeing private septic systems. He distributed a letter (copy of which is on file in the County Clerk’s Office) detailing his concerns.
5. Steven Davidson, 11 Prospect NE, Grand Rapids – As a voice for the lesbian and gay community of Kent County, he said that the marriage proposal serves little purpose and is a waste of money. No one should have the right to say who should or shouldn’t get married. The bottom line is we are PEOPLE too.
6. Reverend Doug VanDoren, 1637 Cambridge Dr. SE, Grand Rapids – Presented signed petitions (copy on file in the Office of the County Clerk) from approximately 350 people who are against a County “marriage” resolution or support of a State proposal, that would limit the rights and benefits of same sex couples, and would only serve to heighten a climate of discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in Kent County and throughout Michigan.

7. Bill Voetberg, 862 Mayhew Drive SE , Grand Rapids – Opposed to the County adopting a marriage resolution. The trend for Fortune 500 companies has been to be inclusive not exclusive. Michigan needs to retain jobs and get jobs back that it has lost and the only way to do that is to create a climate to attract new business.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2003 Meeting
- b) Board Chair Appointment to the Cowan Lake Improvement Board – Commissioner Gary Rolls.
- c) Resolutions:

10-23-03-126 – ACCEPT GRANT FROM AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (ACSET) / FRIEND OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, for at least the last eight years, the County has operated or been affiliated with the Work First (WF) program formerly known as Parents' Fair Share; and

WHEREAS, the objective of the WF program is to provide employment services for unemployed parents with child support obligations in Kent County; and

WHEREAS, the grant will continue to pay 100% of the salaries and fringe benefits for three existing positions; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts a grant from the Area Community Service Employment & Training 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 the contract documents.

10-23-03-127 – 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. Since then, continuation funding has been awarded and approved annually; 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 accepts funding from Spectrum Health for the Families In Touch Program, amends the Memorandum of Agreement with Cooperative Extension for the performance of the grant, and appropriates an additional \$52,500 in grant funding to the Kent MSU Cooperative Extension Budget for the program.

10-23-03-128 – MiCSES 2.4 CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM POST CONVERSION / FRIEND OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, all Michigan Friends of the Court are required to use the statewide computer system to track clients and administer the child support enforcement program. The current system, known as the Child Support Enforcement System (CSES) has experienced several problems, and the process to introduce a new, improved product, which would meet federal requirements, has been difficult but is occurring throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, in late November 2002 the State announced its plan for converting from CSES to the new version – MiCSES 2.4, and provided funding to support the conversion. Now the Michigan Family Independence Agency has made additional funds available to support the MiCSES 2.4 Post Conversion Clean-up activities; and

WHEREAS, Kent County's allocation is \$92,805, the funding provides reimbursement to the County for FY 2004 overtime and/or temporary staff required for post conversion activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves and appropriates an additional \$92,805 in State funding to the Friend of the Court for data post conversion clean-up activities.

10-23-03-129 – GRANT OF HIGHWAY EASEMENT TO KENT COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (DPW) desires to construct a new transfer station access road to fulfill the need for improved traffic flow on 10 Mile Road due to the current commercial development, specifically a Meijer store; and

WHEREAS, the proposed transfer station would be in line with the traffic light (on 10 Mile Road) serving the Meijer store and would significantly improve ingress and egress; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) also wants road improvements on the south side of 10 Mile across from the Meijer ingress-egress that may, in future include realignment of Belmont Avenue to the Meijer store ingress-egress intersection; and

WHEREAS, to accomplish these road improvements, KCRC needs the North Kent Landfill property highway easement from the County; and

WHEREAS, the KCRC will pay DPW \$85,000 for this easement, which will be deducted from the current \$134,648 South Kent Landfill credit the Road Commission has with DPW. This would result in a KCRC remaining landfill credit balance of \$49,648, and

WHEREAS, the easement agreement has been reviewed and approved by Civil Counsel, Sherry Batzer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby grants a highway easement to Kent County Road Commission on the North Kent Landfill property in Plainfield Township, to accomplish road improvements.

10-23-03-130 – ACCEPT A SECONDARY ROAD PATROL GRANT / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the County has received Secondary Road Patrol (SRP) funds for the past 25 years; and

WHEREAS, the SRP program provides supplemental funding for road patrol and accident prevention on secondary roads; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds, if approved, will continue to pay for six sworn officers including fringe benefits as well as the equipment and operating costs necessary for the officers to perform their duties; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated date of the grant award is October 1, 2003.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Sheriff's request to accept a Secondary Road Patrol and Traffic Accident Prevention Program Grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; 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.

10-23-03-131 – SECONDARY ROAD PATROL GRANT APPROPRIATION – PAYROLL ACCRUAL / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, this is a Special Project Fund program that receives the majority of its funding from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2003 budget for the Secondary Road Patrol Grant has an available budget balance of \$3,963 with an unanticipated payroll accrual of \$5,963 still outstanding; and

WHEREAS, \$2,000 is required to cover the remaining expenditures for the FY 2003 budget; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2003 Sheriff Administration and Road Patrol budget in the General Fund to cover the remaining shortfall. This represents a change in the total General Fund support for this grant from \$35,991 to \$37,991, and increases the total appropriation from \$542,686 to \$544,686.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners recommends the transfer of \$2,000 originally appropriated to the 2003 Sheriff Administration and Road Patrol Budget in the General Fund to the 2003 Sheriff Secondary Road Patrol Grant in the Special Projects Fund.

10-23-03-132 – MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT / JOHN BALL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

WHEREAS, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural affairs has awarded \$42,400 to the John Ball Zoological Garden; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will be used for ongoing programs to enhance visitor experiences and visitor education programs, expansion of promotional and marketing efforts, providing permanent and seasonal zoo graphics, and use of Michigan artists in zoo programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the \$42,400 grant and appropriates it to the 2004 General Fund – John Ball Zoological Garden revenue and expense budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chair Morren is authorized to sign the grant agreement.

10-23-03-133 – FUNDING FOR BREWER PARK PARKING LOT RESURFACING / PARKS

WHEREAS, \$73,500 was appropriated to the CIP Fund for the Parking Lot Extension at Douglas Walker Park. The Parks staff is requesting this project be deleted and the funds transferred to a new project for the Parking Lot Resurfacing at Brewer Park; and

WHEREAS, Brewer Park is a facility that is open for public use year round for various activities; and

WHEREAS, soil and structure testing was performed resulting in a recommendation that the entrance drive and north parking lot be milled, regraded, and asphalted; and

WHEREAS, the completion of this project is necessary for safety, parking, and the traffic flow. Patching is not an option.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners recommends the transfer of \$73,500 originally appropriated to the CIP Fund for the Douglas Walker Park Parking Lot Extension to the Brewer Park Parking Lot Resurfacing project in the CIP Fund.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Wahlfield, Morgan, Rolls, Horton, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Agee, Mast, VanderMolen, Postmus, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

10-23-03-134 – 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; and

WHEREAS, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY 04 and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the document.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Wahlfield, Morgan, Rolls, Horton, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Agee, Mast, VanderMolen, Postmus, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

10-23-03-135 – PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPLICATION CYCLE / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners in November of 2002 established procedures for the administration of the PDR program; and

WHEREAS, by ordinance, the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board is responsible for much of the program administration, with certain items presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board has prepared selection criteria to be used to rank and prioritize PDR applications, and the Board of Commissioners must approve the criteria; and

WHEREAS, the selection criteria is intended to focus preservation efforts in areas with large blocks of agricultural land and considers factors such as soil type, parcel size, proximity to sewer and water, and nearby development activity; and

WHEREAS, applicants are automatically ineligible from the program if: 1) the landowner does not volunteer the land, 2) less than half of the property is devoted to agricultural use, 3) the township does not approve the application, 4) the property is zoned commercial or industrial, is planned for water and sewer, or is in a city or village, 5) current zoning does not permit agricultural use, or 6) owners of mineral and other separated rights associated with the property do not agree to participation/subordination; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners may hold an annual application cycle at its discretion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Purchase of Development Rights program selection criteria, and authorizes an application cycle for the program to open December 1, 2003 and close on January 30, 2004.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

10-23-03-136 – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANT – POSITION REQUEST AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has received federal pass-through funding that is being distributed to local health departments to increase ability and capacity when responding to public health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, total funding to the Health Department is \$479,393, of which \$129,000 is already included in the Health Department's budget as part of its Comprehensive Plan and Budget Contract (CPBC) Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the additional funding will be used to increase the Health Department's ability to respond in five focus areas: Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment, Surveillance and Epidemiology, Health Alert Network and Information Technology, Communicating Health Risks, and Education and Training; and

WHEREAS, to support the tasks outlined in the grant work plan, the addition of two positions is recommended, the first being a Health Educator I (UAW range 24), at an estimated cost of \$59,252 and the second a Public Health Program Assistant (UAW range 23), a newly created classification, at an estimated cost of \$56,337; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department will also utilize 2.55 FTE of existing staff to assist in accomplishing the work plan, and of the 2.55 FTE, 1 FTE is currently funded by grant funding already included in the Health Department's CPBC Agreement and budget, and 1.55 FTE is currently funded by the General Fund. Since the duties of these individuals are eligible to be paid for with grant funds, they will be paid from that source as long as the grant is available; and

WHEREAS, per County policy, all grant-funded positions will be eliminated when the grant funding is eliminated unless approved for continuation by the Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners accepts an additional \$350,393 in funding from the Michigan Department of Community Health to enhance the Health Department's emergency preparedness and appropriate the funds to the Health Department budget; to create a new classification of Public Health Program Assistant (UAW Range 23); and to add the positions of Public Health Program Assistant and Public Health Educator I (UAW Range 24) to the Health Department to fulfill the requirements of the grant.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Wahlfield, Morgan, Rolls, Horton, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Agee, Mast, VanderMolen, Postmus, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

10-23-03-137 – WONDERGEM CONSULTING, INC. AGREEMENT / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the County has contracted for communications consulting services with Wondergem Consulting, Inc. for the past year and a half; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement for Professional Services terminated on September 30, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the County desires renewal of the agreement for fifteen months; and

WHEREAS, staff will complete an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of contracting for this service versus hiring in-house staff for the 2005 budget process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the extension of the Agreement For Professional Services with Wondergem Consulting, Inc. for an additional year beginning October 1, 2003, and terminating December 31, 2004, for a cost of \$75,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Chair Morren is authorized to execute the agreement.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: Voorhees, Bulkowski, Mayhue - 3.

10-23-03-138 – 2003 APPORTIONMENT REPORT / BUREAU OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, the Finance and Physical Resources Committee has reviewed the supporting documents setting forth the necessary millage required by the several taxing jurisdictions in the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has further examined the dollar requirements necessary to fund the assessments for drains and rejected taxes and finds them in proper order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby certify the millage rates of these governmental jurisdictions and directs that the millage rates of the County of Kent, townships, local school districts, intermediate school districts and community colleges, and the dollar amounts for the drains and rejected taxes be spread on the respective township and city rolls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize and direct the Chair and the Clerk of the Board to sign the millage rate certificates.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Wahlfield, Morgan, Rolls, Horton, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Agee, Mast, VanderMolen, Postmus, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

Armistice Day Parade

Commissioner Vonk asked Commissioners for their support of the Armistice Day Parade on November 11th.

ADIJOURNMENT

At 9:13 a.m., Commissioner Vonk moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 13, 2003, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner VanderMolen. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Sonya Dean, Chief Deputy County Clerk