

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, November 13, 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, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Tanis, VanderMolen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 17.

Absent: Mast, Rolls – 2 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Wahlfield introduced Commissioner Hiddema who gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Donald Zerial, 7377 Cascade Terrace SE, Grand Rapids – In March of 2003, he sent letters (copies of which are on file in the Office of the County Clerk) to local clergy outraged by their support of the production of “Corpus Christi”, a play put on by the Grand Rapids Community College at Fountain Street Church. He is upset that he has never received a response from any of the clergy he wrote to and believes them to be behind the petition drive against a County “marriage” resolution.
2. Reverend Doug VanDoren, 1637 Cambridge Dr. SE, Grand Rapids – Presented 100 more petition signatures (copy on file in the Office of the County Clerk) from those who are against a County “marriage” resolution supporting a State constitutional amendment proposal. This would only serve to heighten a climate of discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in Kent County and throughout Michigan. Thanked Commissioners for their time on this issue and appreciates the recommendation by the marriage subcommittee.
3. Reverend Mary Martin, 774 Pine Avenue NW, Grand Rapids – Since her name was brought up during public comment, she wanted to say publicly, that she does not answer mean-spirited communications.

PUBLIC HEARING

Kent City Village / Tyrone Township Annexation

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, to go into a public hearing on the Kent City Village / Tyrone Township Annexation matter. Motion carried by voice vote.

At 8:40 a.m., a public hearing was held and there was no public comment.

At 8:42 a.m., motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, supported by Commissioner Wahlfield, to close the public hearing. Motion carried by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 23, 2003 Meeting
- b) October 7 & 21, & November 5, 2003 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

11-13-03-139 – KENT CITY PETITION FOR ANNEXATION / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2003, Two Cycle Development, LLC petitioned the Village of Kent City to have its property situated in Tyrone Township annexed to the Village for the purpose of acquiring Village services, including public utilities, which property is legally described as follows:

The North 3/10 of the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼, except the East 50 feet; also the East 5/8 of the North ½ of the Northeast ¼, except commencing at the Northeast corner of Section; thence South along the East section line 1066.33 feet; thence West perpendicular to the East section line 265.0 feet; thence North parallel with the East section line to the North section line; thence East to beginning and except commencing 1066.33 feet South along the East section line from the Northeast corner of section; thence West perpendicular to the East section line 50 feet; thence South parallel with the East section line to the South line of the North ½ of the Northeast ¼; thence East along said South line to the East section line; thence North to beginning, and except the North 50 feet of remainder, Section 29, Town 10 North, Range 21 West, Tyrone Township, Kent County, Michigan. Being more particularly described as: Commencing at the Northeast corner of said Section; thence N88°44'43"W 265.04 feet; thence S0°18'51"W 50.0 feet parallel with the East section line to the South right of way line of 18 Mile Toad and the place of beginning; thence continuing S0°18'51"W 1020.67 feet; thence S89°41'09"E 215.00 feet perpendicular to the East section line; thence S0°18'51"W 661.79 feet along the West right of way line of Peach Ridge Avenue; thence N88°41'42"W 1260.99 feet along the South line of the North 3/10 of the Southeast ¼ of said Northeast ¼; thence N0°18'46"E 398.73 feet; thence N88°42'25"W 327.75 feet along the South line of the North ½ of the Northeast ¼; thence N0°18'45"E 1278.88 feet along the West line of the East 5/8 of the North ½ of the Northeast ¼; thence S88°44'43"E 1373.72 feet along the south right of way line of 18 Mile Road to the place of beginning. Parcel # 41-01-29-200-022; and

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2003, the Village of Kent City filed a petition for annexation of the Two Cycle Development property; and

WHEREAS, the Kent City Village Council has consented to the annexation by resolution; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2003, the Tyrone Township Board declined to participate in the annexation request by passing a consent resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, in accordance with law, received the Village's petition, held a public hearing to consider the annexation, and determined that the petition should be granted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners grant the petition of the Village of Kent City for annexation of Two Cycle Development, LLC's property located in Tyrone Township, and that an order to that effect be signed by the Chair of the Board.

11-13-03-140 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH HOME REPAIR SERVICES OF KENT COUNTY, INC. AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department has used the services of Home Repair Services of Kent County, Inc., (HRS) for the provision of an Emergency Minor Home Repair Service Program for eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has recognized HRS, a not-for-profit agency, as a sole provider of these services; and WHEREAS, the new contract, if approved, will continue the Emergency Home Repair (\$60,000), Builder's Abundance (\$20,000), Accessibility Modifications (\$23,000), Tool Lending Library (\$1,000), and Volunteer Coordination (\$6,000) programs; and

WHEREAS, Civil Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Home Repair Services of Kent County, Inc.; and

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

11-13-03-141 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, this would be the eleventh year that Community Development Department has utilized the services of Disability Advocates of Kent County and its predecessor; and

WHEREAS, this non-profit agency will develop and maintain a list of handicap-accessible properties, provide accessibility modification designs to participating residential properties, and assist participants in obtaining resources to fund accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Civil Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is September 1, 2003, to August 31, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Disability Advocates of Kent County; and

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

11-13-03-142 – 2004 CONVENTION AND VISITOR'S BUREAU TOURISM PROMOTION PLAN AND BUDGET / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, on November 20, 2001, adopted Resolution 11-20-01-171 identifying priorities for use of Hotel/Motel Tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, by resolution and agreement entered into in September 2002, provided for a 2003 contribution of up to 20 percent of annual revenues, not to exceed \$900,000, from the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax to the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has, pursuant to the agreement between the County and the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau, received the 2004 proposed budget and Tourism Promotion Plan, which includes a request to continue the contribution of up to 20 percent of annual revenues from the Hotel/Motel Tax in 2004, excluding interest, late fees, and other charges, for the promotion of convention business throughout Kent County; and

WHEREAS, the contribution of up to 20 percent of annual revenues from the Hotel/Motel Tax to the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau is consistent with the priorities established in Resolution 11-20-01-171.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners accepts the proposed 2004 Budget and Tourism Promotion Plan of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the 2004 contribution of up to 20 percent of the annual revenues excluding interest, late fees, and other charges, from the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax, not to exceed an amount equal to payments made in calendar year 2003 as increased to reflect the annual change in the Consumer Price Index at December, 2003, to the Grand Rapids/ Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

11-13-03-143 – COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS FLOOD MAP AGREEMENT / DRAIN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the federal government has appropriated \$150 million to FEMA to modernize the nation's flood map inventory, and updating Kent County's map was deemed a priority by the agency due to the county's rate of development and the age of the existing map; and

WHEREAS, this initiative will result in new Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) for the entire County, and at this time not all local units have DFIRM, which makes them ineligible for flood insurance; and

WHEREAS, there will be no direct cost to the County for the map update, because Drain Commission and Information Technology staff time and money already expended on the REGIS system will be credited as the local contribution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to modernize county floodplain mapping; and

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

11-13-03-144 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the County is committed to fair housing in its service area; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids' (FHC) mission is to promote equal housing opportunity throughout the Grand Rapids metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, this is the twentieth year that the Community Development Department will use the services of FHC; and

WHEREAS, FHC is the sole provider of fair housing services in Kent County; and

WHEREAS, Civil Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; 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 enter into a contract with Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids; and

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

11-13-03-145 – FIRE COMMISSION BUDGET APPROPRIATION / FISCAL SERVICES / FIRE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, this is a Special Revenue Fund program that is equally funded by the County General Fund and the townships within the County; and

WHEREAS, in the FY 2003 budget, the Fire Commission Fund has incurred increased insurance costs of \$11,000, or 9 percent higher than anticipated as a result of increased liability coverage, higher rates, and an additional fire apparatus; and

WHEREAS, for the FY 2003 budget, the Fire Commission Fund has an available budget balance of \$2,500 with two months remaining in the fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$15,000 is required to cover the remaining expenditures for the FY 2003 budget; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Fire Commission Fund Balance to cover the remaining shortfall, this represents a change in the total appropriation from \$321,725 to \$336,725.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners recommends the appropriation of an additional \$15,000 from the Fire Commission Fund Balance to the 2003 Fire Commission budget.

11-13-03-146 – SECONDARY ROAD PATROL GRANT APPROPRIATION / 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, at the end of BY 2001, the Secondary Road Patrol Grant was moved from the General Fund to the Special Project Fund. Fourth quarter grant reimbursements for expenditures incurred in the General Fund during BY 2001 were deposited to the Special Project Fund in BY 2002; and

WHEREAS, \$238,799.69 is due to the General Fund from the Special Project Fund for the expenditures paid out of the General Fund and reimbursed to the Special Project Fund; and

WHEREAS, this represents a change in the total BY 2003 appropriation in the Secondary Road Patrol Grant from \$548,649 to \$787,448.69; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Special Project Fund Balance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners recommends the transfer of \$238,799.69 to the General Fund from the BY 2003 Special Projects Fund Secondary Road Patrol Grant.

11-13-03-147 – CAMP ROGER EASEMENT / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Parks Department desires to construct and maintain a hiking/nature trail to be used by the public, over property owned by Camp Roger in Cannon Township; and

WHEREAS, to construct the hiking/nature trail, the Parks Department requires an easement over property, depicted on the survey attached to the easement agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department will pay Camp Roger \$1.00 for grant of this easement, in recognition of the fact that it is in the best interest of both parties; and

WHEREAS, the extent and character of this easement can be found in the agreement attached; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves purchase of an easement from Camp Roger in Cannon Township for a hiking/nature trail.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

REPORT

Marriage Subcommittee

Motion by Commissioner Koorndyk, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, to receive and file the Marriage Subcommittee report.

Motion by Commissioner Voorhees, supported by Commissioner Horton, to send the report back to the Legislative & Human Resources Committee so that he can respond to the three points listed in the report.

Motion failed:

Yeas: Voorhees, Horton – 2.

Nays: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren – 15.

Commissioner Horton asked if the report could be amended. Civil Counsel said no as it is a report and not a resolution.

Motion to receive and file report carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren – 15.

Nays: Voorhees, Horton – 2.

Chair Morren brought back to the table Commissioner Voorhees' marriage resolution:

RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER VOORHEES

WHEREAS; the traditional definition of marriage has been the subject of national discussion and actions, resulting in the President of the United States, George W. Bush, presenting his views in support of traditional marriage as part of his politics; and

WHEREAS; in 1996, President Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows states to ignore same-sex unions licensed elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Clerk's Office is the licensee and the repository of marriage contracts for Kent County; and

WHEREAS, Michigan law and statutes provide that marriage is inherently a unique contract between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, as a matter of public policy, Kent County and the State of Michigan recognizes that it has a compelling interest in encouraging, supporting, and protecting marriage, so as to promote, among other goals, the stability and welfare of society, its families, and its children. Any contract between individuals of the same sex is not a marriage; and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the State of Michigan Constitution would more properly reflect and ensure the compelling interest in promoting and protecting the traditional institution of marriage; and

WHEREAS, the people of Kent County should have the opportunity to voice their feelings on an issue that so fundamentally affects the fabric and social foundation of our families and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners supports legislative action placing a proposed amendment to the State of Michigan Constitution, to secure the definition of marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman, before the vote of the people of the State of Michigan.

Commissioner Voorhees moved the resolution be adopted.

Motion by Commissioner Agee, supported by Commissioner Tanis, to postpone indefinitely the marriage resolution submitted by Commissioner Voorhees.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

11-13-03-148 – GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL BLUEPRINT II FUNDING / ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, as part of its October 2001 report, the Urban Sprawl Subcommittee recommended that, “The County work closely with the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC) Blueprint II Initiative.” The Blueprint II Initiative is a regional planning effort led by the Metro Council that divides the metropolitan area into subregions to better address land use, transportation, greenways, utilities, and other issues. Once each of the subregional plans is developed, they will be combined into one regional plan; and

WHEREAS, several subregional meetings have been held, and representatives from local governments, planning professionals, and citizens have all participated in developing draft subregional maps. As recommended in the Subcommittee report, the Kent/MSU Extension Land Use Educator partially supported by the County has represented the County at subregional meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Subcommittee recommended that the County provide funding for Blueprint II activities; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that funds be paid to GVMC once resolutions of support from local units of government are received, and that \$300,000 should be paid in equal installments over three years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve funding for the Grand Valley Metro Council’s Blueprint II related activities up to \$100,000 per annum for fiscal years 2003 – 2005, inclusive, with the 2005 commitment being subject to a budget appropriation within the 2005 Budget.

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

Motion by Commissioner Voorhees to amend the resolution to include:

No Kent County funds shall be dispersed regarding this resolution without proof of commensurate commitment by counties and local governments that are members of Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, proportioned on a per-capita basis.

Motion failed for lack of support.

Motion to adopt resolution carried:

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

Nays: Voorhees – 1.

11-13-03-149 – SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATIONS FOR 2004 / ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. (AAAWM) holds three-year contracts with more than 20 agencies to provide services with funding from the Kent County Senior Millage. Under the terms of the contracts, the funding level is evaluated annually based on new program proposals, current year operations and available funding; and

WHEREAS, in early October, the Kent County Senior Millage Review Committee reviewed 2004 funding requests and made recommendations regarding funding for each service. These recommendations were forwarded to the AAAWM Executive Committee on October 27, 2003, which is now recommending them to the County; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the annual contracts, Senior Millage funds will also be used to provide services and prescription assistance to seniors through purchase of service and voucher arrangements. Amounts to be allocated through this process have been included on the attached bid tabulation and recommendation sheet.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the allocation of \$4,502,174 in Senior Millage funds for 2004 as recommended by AAAWM.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-150 – LABOR AGREEMENT – POLC – ATTORNEY REFEREE / CIRCUIT COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

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 Circuit Court – Family Division and the Police Officers Labor Council – Attorney Referees; 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; and

WHEREAS, the salary and benefit increases will result in a cost of \$85,665 for the length of the contract; and

WHEREAS, this contract settlement will affect seven full-time employees assigned exclusively to the 17th Circuit Court – Family Division.

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 Board Chair is authorized and directed to sign said agreement on behalf of Kent County.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-151 – FEE ADJUSTMENTS / COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

WHEREAS, as required by Fiscal Policy “Fees & Charges,” departments are to review fees annually and to recommend changes to the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, most of the fees charged in the Clerk/Registers Office are set by statute; and

WHEREAS, their request is to increase 3 fees, decrease 8 fees, approve 10 existing fees and approve 4 new fees; and

WHEREAS, MCL 333.2891 allows registrars to charge up to \$15 for issuance of certified copies of vital records (i.e., birth, death & marriage certificates). The current charge is \$7, and it is being recommended to increase the fee to \$10. Fees for certified vital record copies were last raised in December 1991. Sixty-three counties charge more than Kent County; and

WHEREAS, MCL 55.117 allows a charge of \$2 for notarizing documents which would only be charged when notarizing documents not being filed with the County – an added service for the citizens; and

WHEREAS, ten fees denoted with asterisks are currently being charged, but there is no formal evidence of Board of Commissioners’ approval; and

WHEREAS, the County Clerk estimates an increase in revenue of at least \$120,000 annually; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk recommends that any approved fee increases take effect January 1, 2004, except where designated “immediate effect.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the fee schedule (a copy of which is on file in the Office of the County Clerk) for the Clerk/Register of Deeds’ Office.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: Mayhue – 1.

11-13-03-152 - DEEDS AUTOMATION FUND / REGISTER OF DEEDS

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2003, the Register of Deeds began collecting a fee created by the State (MCL 600.2568) to be placed in a fund earmarked for upgrading technology in the Deeds office; and

WHEREAS, in March 2003, the Register of Deeds estimated to the Board that \$600,000 would be collected during the remaining nine months of 2003; and

WHEREAS, due to greater than expected recordings of real property documents between April 1 and now, it is anticipated that the total fee collected will equal \$850,000 by year-end; and

WHEREAS, in light of the increased revenue, the Register of Deeds requested to accelerate implementation of the conversion process. Expediting the conversion of microfilm to digital images from 1988 back to 1980 will greatly benefit citizens and other users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$250,000 to the 2003 Deeds Automation Fund.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-153 – BUDGET AMENDMENT AND STAFFING ADDITIONS FOR NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has made funding available to four public health organizations in the State to replicate the Nurse-Family Partnership Program developed at the National Center for Children, Families and Communities at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department will use the Nurse-Family Partnership model to provide intensive services to first time, low-income African American mothers in selected high-risk areas in Grand Rapids; and

WHEREAS, the program focuses on helping families improve skills in the areas of maternal and child physical health; education and employment; family and friend support; and home safety; and

WHEREAS, to support the work required by the program, the Health Department has proposed the addition of a part-time Public Health Nurse Supervisor (MPP 24) at an average cost of \$31,599 per year for three years, a part-time Clerk-Typist II (UAW 15) at an average salary and fringes cost of \$20,963 per year for three years, and two full-time Public Health Nurses (Teamsters) at an average salary and fringes cost of \$64,219 each, per year for three years, and the department will also utilize an additional 2 FTE existing Public Health Nursing staff during implementation; and

WHEREAS, in the event that funding is eliminated, the positions will be eliminated unless continuation of funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Health Department's request to submit a grant application to the Michigan Department of Community Health to implement a Nurse-Family Partnership program and to appropriate \$1,026,399 (\$390,520 in 2004) over three years in funding to the Health Department contingent upon receipt of the grant.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-154 – LABOR AGREEMENT – UAW UNITS I-IV / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, County representatives recommended approval of a one-year extension of the labor contract with the United Auto Workers Local 2600 for the period of January 1 2004 through December 31, 2004 and all contract provisions will continue unchanged

except for wages, which will increase by 3%; and

WHEREAS, the wage increase will cost an estimated \$1,167,374 for the length of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the contract affects 876 full-time employees and 97 part-time employees; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract has been ratified by the UAW membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves a one-year extension of the labor agreement between the County of Kent and the United Auto Workers Local 2600 (Units I-IV) which represents a variety of classifications assigned to County departments and the Courts.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-155 – FACILITIES MANAGER POSITION RECLASSIFICATION / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, at the request of the Sheriff, a job audit was conducted for the Facilities Manager position in the Sheriff's Department administration division; and

WHEREAS, this positions job duties and responsibilities have expanded to include management of 500,000 square feet of facilities in seven locations; plans and manages new and alteration construction projects and physical plant operations and maintenance; and supervises a staff including first line supervisors, skilled and semi-skilled trades and custodial employees; and

WHEREAS, the audit report recommended that the position be reclassified to Facilities Management Director to accurately reflect the current functions and responsibility of the position and to establish equity; and

WHEREAS, the addition to annual salary cost for FY2004 is \$7,636, which is included in the Sheriff's Department FY 2004 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the reclassification of Facilities Manager (MPP 24) to Facilities Management Director (MPP 29).

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-156 – EAST PRECINCT TOWNSHIP LAW AGREEMENT MODIFICATION AND EAST PRECINCT STOREFRONT LEASE / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved a township law agreement with the townships of Grand Rapids, Ada, and Cascade that combined the three communities into

an "East Precinct"; and

WHEREAS, the agreement included a provision whereby the parties agreed to enter into discussions regarding development of an office facility for the East Precinct; and

WHEREAS, discussions involving the three townships, Sheriff Department, and County Administration have resulted in a proposal to jointly develop and fund an East Precinct storefront office; and

WHEREAS, the proposed location for the office is an existing building located at 877 Forest Hill Ave. SE, in Grand Rapids Township near the convergence of the borders of the three townships; and

WHEREAS, 2,775 square feet will be leased from Kochneff Properties at a rate of \$16.00 per square foot including water, sewer, and property taxes with annual lease increases of 2 percent per annum; and

WHEREAS, the County and townships will share the annual lease expense with the townships paying 75 percent and the County 25 percent of this expense, and the County will pay the cost of furniture, fixtures, and equipment in the amount of \$40,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the East Precinct Township Law Agreement Modification and the East Precinct facility lease with Kochneff Properties, contingent upon the approvals of both agreements by the townships of Grand Rapids, Cascade and Ada, and authorizes Chair Morren to execute necessary documentation for both agreements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the modification of the Township Law Enforcement Agreement, and approves an East Precinct Lease Agreement, and appropriates an additional \$84,400 to the Sheriff's 2004 General Fund Budget.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

11-13-03-157 – GENERAL FUND ADVANCE TO THE AERONAUTICS DEPARTMENT
ENTERPRISE FUND / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, representatives of the Aeronautics Board have negotiated for acquisition of certain property, more specifically described as 5572 Kraft S.E. (41-19-32-100-015) and 5867 60th St. S.E. (41-19-32-300-036); and

WHEREAS, the negotiated purchase price includes acquisition costs of \$9,400,000 and other related acquisition expenses not to exceed \$423,000; and

WHEREAS, the Aeronautics Board on behalf of the Aeronautics Department Enterprise Fund has requested that a cash advance be provided from the County General Fund in an amount sufficient to provide for these acquisition expenses; and

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller recommends such advance be made from the designated General Fund Account entitled "Unreserved/Undesignated" fund balance with repayment terms to include interest at a rate of 4.4% per annum and a ten-year level payment schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the advance of up to \$9,823,000 from the General Fund-Designated Fund Balance account entitled "Unreserved/Undesignated" for the purpose of providing financing assistance for the acquisition of certain property deemed necessary to the operation of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such an advance is to be amortized over a ten-year time period with a schedule of level annual payments including interest on the outstanding balance at a rate 4.4% per annum.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, VanderMolen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Horton, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren - 17.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Judicial Review Committee

Commissioner Morgan stated that the Judicial Review Committee has met twice already and will meet one more time. At the first meeting, they reviewed caseload data provided by the Circuit Court. The second meeting was with the State Court Administrator's Office and the judges to discuss the need. They anticipate having a recommendation to the Commission soon.

Jail Diversion for the Mentally Ill Committee

Commissioner Boelema reported that, at the first meeting of the Jail Diversion for the Mentally Ill Committee, they had good representation from all segments of the community. They hope to divert some of the mentally ill inmates, which every jail has, out of the system.

MISCELLANEOUS

Policy

Commissioner Voorhees asked that material not be released to the media before being sent to the Commissioners. (He had not received the Marriage Subcommittee's report when asked by the *Grand Rapids Press* to comment.)

Medicaid Co-Pay

Commissioner Mayhue announced that he would be meeting with individuals on Friday, November 14th at 11:30 a.m. in the Heartside area where there is a lot of concern about the Medicaid co-pay that has risen to \$5.00.

Public Transportation Millage

Commissioner Bulkowski commended the community for approving the millage on public transportation. Commissioners Mast and Bulkowski approached Chair Morren, earlier this summer, and asked that the County form a study committee in terms of what the County's role is in terms of public transportation and will now be activating that study committee.

Veteran's Day Parade

Commissioner Tanis announced that the Veteran's Day Parade was held Tuesday night and five Commissioners were in attendance. He reported that Commissioner Vonk did an outstanding job representing the County delivering its proclamation.

Commissioner Vonk thanked Commissioners for their support of the parade and the Sheriff for providing the escort. He was honored to have the opportunity.

Process

Commissioner Horton, referring back to the constitutional amendment and the Marriage Subcommittee, is frustrated with the process currently in place in that it does not allow Commissioners to have interchange with the public during Public Comment. In the legislative process, there is a give and take between a committee and those testifying, we tend to sit mute allowing some statements to go unchallenged. He wished that he would have had an opportunity to respond. Most of the public comment focused on the issue as opposed to the process. However, the debate that Commissioners have had amongst themselves has been on process on whether or not we think a resolution is a proper vehicle. We should make it very clear, regardless of where we stand on this issue that the action taken by the Board of Commissioners should not be interpreted by anyone that the Board supports gay marriage.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 a.m., Commissioner Wahlfield moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Tuesday, November 25, 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

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk