

**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*Thursday, June 10, 2004  
Administration Building - Room 310*

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Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Roger C. Morgan. (Morren resumed chairing the meeting after the Pledge.)

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 17.

Absent: Mast, VanderMolen – 2 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Morgan introduced Chair Morren, who gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Schwartz Duty, 3284 Thorncrest Drive SE, Cascade Township – As President of the Festival Board of Directors, she thanked the Board for its continued support of Festival and showed appreciation by giving each Commissioner a signed and numbered 2004 festival poster.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of May 27, 2004 Meeting
- b) June 1, 2004 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

6-10-04-52 – JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT / CIRCUIT

COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

WHEREAS, the federal government has made funds available through the State for local governments to increase the accountability of juvenile offenders and the juvenile justice system. The program was started in 1999, and is now in its fifth year of operation; and

WHEREAS, funding is determined according to a formula based on the governmental unit's justice expenditures and reported violent crime data. Five local governments are eligible for funding: Kent County, and the cities of Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker and Wyoming. All five units cooperate in a regional program with the County acting as fiduciary. This year's proposal is a continuation of the arrangements and programs started in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Family Division of Circuit Court proposes to use the funds to

continue to support the Court-Community Policing Partnership. JAIBG funds will support five

existing Juvenile Probation Officers to provide an accountability-based sanction program including expanded drug testing and assessment, counseling, and out-patient services; and

WHEREAS, grant funds may only be used to pay for 90 percent of the program costs with remaining costs paid for by the participating units; and

WHEREAS, if grant funding ceases, the positions will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants and Contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners here by approves the grant application to the Michigan Family Independence Agency for the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appropriates \$246,994 to the 2004 Special Project Fund budget, including \$238,700 in grant and local unit contributions, and \$8,294 from the Circuit Court General Fund Budget.

6-10-04-53 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM, INC, AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department has used the services of Senior Meals Program, Inc., (SMP) for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, SMP prepares and delivers meals to senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the new contract, if approved, will partially fund meals for diabetics throughout the County's Community Development Block Grant jurisdiction and partially fund meals at congregate meal sites; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is January 1, 2004, to December 31, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves Community Development's request to contract with Senior Meals Program, Inc. for the provision of a senior meals program; and

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

6-10-04-54 – ACCEPT GRANT FROM AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING (ACSET) / FRIEND OF THE COURT

WHEREAS, for at least the last nine 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, 2004, to September 30, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts a grant from the Area Community Service Employment & Training agency, contingent upon award and execution of a contract; 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.

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner Koorndyk, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 6-10-04-55 – LABOR AGREEMENT – POLC COURT REPORTERS / CIRCUIT COURT

WHEREAS, the County, the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court and the Police Officers Labor Council Court Reporters have negotiated a tentative labor agreement; and

WHEREAS, the agreement provides a 3% increase to base wages for 2004, consistent with increases provided to all other employee groups; and

WHEREAS, the agreement provides for a re-opener for wage increases in 2005; and

WHEREAS, negotiated health care plan changes will save approximately \$2,868 in benefit costs over the two-year contract period; and

WHEREAS, total annual base wages for the seven-member bargaining unit will be \$374,041 with the increase; and

WHEREAS, the net annual increase to wage and benefit costs will be \$10,637 and the total new wage and benefit costs will be \$13,505;

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the two-year labor agreement for the period January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2005 between the County of Kent and the Police Officers Labor Council representing the Court Reporters for the 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Agee, Boelema, Hiddema, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 14.

Nays: Horton, Voorhees - 2.

### 6-10-04-56 – CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP DDA PROPOSED DISTRICT EXPANSION / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Cascade Charter Township Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has proposed to amend the boundaries of its Downtown Development Authority District; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed amendment was held by the Cascade Charter Township Board on April 14, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the County of Kent contributes over \$1.8 million annually to tax increment authorities in the various units of local government within the County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment will result in an increase of the County's

tax levy being captured by the Cascade Charter Township DDA; and

WHEREAS, the County of Kent is required to assess the impact on the County's financial condition which would result from expansion of this tax increment district; and

WHEREAS, Act 197, P.A. of 1975, as amended, provides that not more than sixty days after a public hearing, the governing body of the jurisdiction levying property taxes that would otherwise be subject to capture, may exempt its taxes from capture by adopting a resolution to that effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Kent, that the County of Kent hereby exercises its option, pursuant to the provisions of Act 197, P.A. 1975, as amended, to exempt its property taxes from capture in the area to be added to the Downtown Development Authority District by the proposed boundary amendment, which was the subject of the public hearing held on April 14, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Clerk of Cascade Charter Township as required by Act 197, P.A. of 1975, as amended.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

6-10-04-57 – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS AND THE COUNTIES OF KENT AND OTTAWA – HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that communities must have a current Hazard Mitigation Plan in place by November 2004 to continue to be eligible to apply for hazard mitigation grant funds; and

WHEREAS, experience has shown that the most effective Hazard Mitigation Plan is one that considers a regional perspective; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division is strongly encouraging communities to work together to develop hazard mitigation plans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rapids, the County of Kent and the County of Ottawa have joined in an undertaking to form a Hazard Mitigation Coordination Team to develop as well as secure funding for a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Hazard Mitigation Coordination Team selected the City of Grand Rapids to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant to support the hazard mitigation planning effort; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Rapids, as the grantor, will serve as the fiduciary of the grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the County's contribution will be limited to soft match that includes staff coordination time as well as providing existing documents from Emergency Management, Drain Commission, GIS, and other mitigation partners; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding, Kent County has agreed to refrain from submitting an independent application for a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Sheriff's request to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding

with the City of Grand Rapids and Ottawa County; and

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

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

6-10-04-58 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – SHERIFF’S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY – HEALTH SERVICES SHORTFALL / SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Correctional Facility’s health care contract, for inmates, with Correctional Medical Services (CMS) limits their liability for hospitalization, offsite services, pharmaceutical services and ancillary services; and

WHEREAS, ancillary services are defined as lab work, x-ray, physical therapy, prosthetics, and orthotics; and

WHEREAS, the effective aggregate cap was \$812,500 in FY 2003 and is \$851,875 for FY 2004, anything over the cap is the County’s responsibility; and

WHEREAS, prior to FY 2003 the Correctional Facility had not exceeded the aggregate cap and therefore never budgeted for it; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2003, after the FY 2004 budget was submitted, the Correctional Facility received its first invoices for expenses over the cap; and

WHEREAS, in FY 2003 the aggregate cap was exceeded by nearly \$1.2 million and is estimated to exceed the cap by \$1.2 million in FY 2004; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the majority of the health services budget shortfall can be absorbed by other line items within the Correctional Facility budget; and

WHEREAS, the remaining shortfall will require an additional \$200,000 appropriation; and

WHEREAS, the Correction and Detention Facilities Fund has available funding to support the projected budget shortfall resulting from the medical services contract; and

WHEREAS, the Correction and Detention Facilities Fund accounts for the proceeds of a dedicated millage levied to pay for operations and debt service related to the correction and detention facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$200,000 in the Correction & Detention Facilities Fund to transfer to the General Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$200,000 to the Sheriff’s Correctional Facility budget in the General Fund.

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

(Commissioner Bulkowski entered the meeting at 8:40 a.m.)

Motion carried:

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

Nays: Voorhees - 1.

## REPORTS

### Education Renewal Zone Act Subcommittee

Commissioner Koorndyk reported that the Education Renewal Zone Act subcommittee met on Tuesday, June 8, 2004. Members of the initiative attended giving them more information on the initiative and, specifically, on the renewal zones. They are awaiting information from the City of Grand Rapids and, once received, will make recommendations to the Board.

### Workshop – Project for Public Spaces (“PPS”)

Commissioner Bulkowski attended a workshop put on by Project for Public Spaces on Thursday, June 3, 2004, at John Ball Park Zoo. Individuals from County/City governments and residents of the community worked in groups broken down into 5 different topics to look at possible uses for the 17 acres of John Ball Zoo should the wildlife park millage pass. Mr. Kent of PPS spoke to the uniqueness and character of the Zoo.

Chair Morren said that a broad cross section of people attended the workshop, which was a fun experience. He is very optimistic that great things can happen there should the voters decide in August to pass the wildlife park millage. The County will receive a report from PPS by the end of the month and Commissioners will have the opportunity to review it and reconvene to see where to go with it.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Wayland Casino

Commissioner Voorhees stated that a year ago the Board looked at a resolution regarding a casino in Wayland. That resolution died in committee. This issue is once again in the news. On Tuesday, a *Grand Rapids Press* article indicated that our administrator said that Kent County has taken a neutral position on the casino. That is not a correct - the Board took no position. He hopes that the Board *will* take a position *against* the establishment of another casino so close to the county line.

### 10K Challenge

Commissioner Vonk asked Commissioner Tanis to give an update on the City/County 10K challenge. Commissioner Tanis stated that the City is winning however, noted that he is doing his share for the County.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 9:04 a.m., Commissioner Morgan moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 24, 2004, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion carried.

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David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk