

**KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*Thursday, October 28, 2004  
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, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 18.

Absent: VanderMolen – 1 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim May, 7737 Fruitridge Avenue NW – On behalf of the Kent County Farm Bureau, he presented commissioners with apple cider and doughnuts and reported that when the farm tour details are worked out he will update the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 14, 2004 Meeting
- b) October 14 & 19, 2004 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

10-28-04-98 – 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 sixth 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. Locally, all eligible units have agreed to cooperate in a regional program administered by the County. This year, only two local governments are eligible for funding: Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids; and

WHEREAS, the Family Division of Circuit Court proposes to use the funds to continue to support the Court-Community Policing Partnership. Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) funds will support four existing Juvenile Probation Officers to provide an accountability-based sanction program including expanded drug testing and

assessment, counseling, and out-patient services. The Partnership is also funded, in part, with

funds from the Child Care Fund; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the grant application to the Michigan Family Independence Agency for the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant.

10-28-04-99 – 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY 05 and authorize the Board Chair to sign the document.

10-28-04-100 – WONDERGEM CONSULTING, INC. AGREEMENT / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS / 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 is scheduled to be terminated on December 31, 2004; and

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

WHEREAS, staff will complete an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of contracting for this service versus hiring in-house staff for the 2006 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 January 1, 2005, and terminating December 31, 2005, for a cost of \$25,000; and

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

10-28-04-101 – 2004 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.

10-28-04-102 – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2004 A & B / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners authorized the issuance of bonds in resolution 8-26-04-79 for improvements (Monroe Acquisition, Courthouse Settlement, and Ionia Acquisition) to the County of Kent; and

WHEREAS, the bonds of the County, aggregating not to exceed the sum of \$10,620,120, were issued for the purpose of defraying the cost of the capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, all proceeds of the borrowing shall be deposited in a separate fund, established in resolution 8-26-04-79, known as the “General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds Improvement Fund, Series 2004 A & B”; and

WHEREAS, the Bonds shall bear principal and interest payments of \$966,660 in FY 2005; and

WHEREAS, all monies set aside by the County toward the debt service of the capital improvements shall be kept by the County in a separate fund, established in resolution 8-26-04-79, known as the “General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds Debt Service Fund, Series 2004 A & B”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of \$10,620,120 for capital improvements in the General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds Improvement Fund, Series 2004 A & B and \$966,660 for debt service in the General Obligation Limited Tax Capital Improvement Bonds Debt Service Fund, Series 2004 A & B.

(Commissioner Voorhees requested that Resolution 10-28-04-99 be removed from the consent agenda.)

Motion by Commissioner Kuipers, supported by Commissioner Agee, to approve the remaining 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.

10-28-04-99 – 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Child Care Fund Annual Plan for FY 05 and authorize the Board Chair to sign the document.

Motion by Commissioner Kuipers, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, 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.

RESOLUTIONS

10-28-04-103 – 2005 CONVENTION & VISITORS 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 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 2005 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 2005, 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 2005 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 2005 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 2004 as increased to reflect the annual change in the Consumer Price Index at December, 2004, to the Grand Rapids/ Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

Absent from room: Mayhue – 1.

10-28-04-104 – PURCHASE OF PROPERTY AT 1504 BRADFORD STREET NE / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, in accordance with its on-going development plan for the Fuller Campus, the County actively seeks to acquire parcels adjacent to the Campus on the south side of Bradford Street NE, as such parcels become available; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Management Department recently learned that a qualifying parcel at 1504 Bradford Street NE was available for purchase; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2004, the County made an offer on the parcel to secure it until such time as the Board of Commissioners could consider the purchase; and

WHEREAS, based on property appraisals, the County has offered to purchase the parcel for \$122,377, which includes a relocation allowance; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Management Department recommends purchase of the parcel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the purchase of the property at 1504 Bradford Street NE (property parcel #41-14-20-284-044) for the sum of \$122,377, and to appropriate \$122,377 from the unreserved, undesignated General Fund balance to the 2004 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) fund.

Motion by Commissioner Wahlfield, supported by Commissioner Postmus, 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.

10-28-04-105 – PARK LAND ACQUISITION – WAHLFIELD PARK ADDITION / PARKS

WHEREAS, Wahlfield Park began in 1983 as a gift of 50 acres from Fritz and Marlene Wahlfield; and

WHEREAS, an additional 200 acres was purchased in 2002, and in 2004 the County received a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund Grant for the development of two picnic shelters, a playground, nature trails, restroom facilities, parking lot and foot bridge; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 15-acre parcel was identified many years ago for additional expansion, and is consistent with the 2003 Parks Master Plan. The piece contains unique natural features which will enhance the park and help protect the Mill Creek watershed; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, Alpine Township has committed \$120,000 to the acquisition and development of the Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the purchase of 15 acres of land from John Schweitzer (property parcel number 41-09-11-100-008 - partial) in Alpine Township adjacent to Wahlfield Park at a cost of \$75,000.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: Hiddema - 1.

#### 10-28-04-106 – ADDITIONAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION FOR TAX TRIBUNAL REFUND

##### /TREASURER’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Michigan Tax Tribunal provides all citizens and businesses with the opportunity to resolve state and local tax disputes at a fair and impartial hearing; and

WHEREAS, the County received an order from the Michigan Tax Tribunal that greatly reduced the taxable value on three Steelcase parcels for the 1997 and 1998 tax years, resulting in a FY 2004 county tax refund of \$98,636.96; and

WHEREAS, the order required the City of Kentwood to adjust the taxable value on these three parcels for subsequent tax years, 1999-2003, resulting in a FY 2004 county tax refund of \$231,835.54; and

WHEREAS, the total FY 2004 refund to Steelcase is \$330,472.50, other State ordered refunds are estimated at \$39,527, while the FY 2004 adopted budget is \$200,000; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$170,000 is required to cover the remaining expenditures for the FY 2004 budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of an additional \$170,000 to the Treasurer’s FY 2004 Tax Tribunal Refund program in the General Fund from the Unreserved, Undesignated General Fund Balance.

Motion by Commissioner Morgan, supported by Commissioner Koorndyk, 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

### Board & Committee Interview Subcommittee

Commissioner Koorndyk reminded commissioners that any comments on board appointments need to be received by Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. The subcommittee will meet following this meeting today and on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to set up interviews.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Hillman Commission Report

Commissioner Voorhees attended the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hillman Commission's report on medical services in Kent County. No representatives from the Kent County Health Department were present and he would like to see KCHD more involved.

### Registered Voters

County Clerk Mary Hollinrake reported that the number of Kent County registered voters for the November 2<sup>nd</sup> General Election is 394,997. All registered voters must go to their proper precinct in order for their votes to count on Election Day.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 8:55 a.m., Commissioner Kuipers moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 18, 2004, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk. Motion carried.

---

David J. Morren, Chair

---

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk