

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, November 18, 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, VanderMolen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Commissioner Vonk 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 pumpkin pie and turkey jerkey. Michigan is third in the nation in pumpkin production and Kent County is home to the Michigan Turkey Co-op, which employs about 400 people. A tour is planned in late February for Commissioners to visit local businesses that deal with agriculture.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 28, 2004 Meeting
- b) November 2, 2004 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Family Independence Agency Board Appointment – Joan Krause
- d) Resolutions:

11-18-04-107 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

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 twenty-first 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, the contract period is October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005.

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.

11-18-04-108 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, this would be the twelfth year that the 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, 2004, to September 30, 2005.

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.

11-18-04-109 – 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 19 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 (\$57,000), Builder's Abundance (\$20,000), Accessibility Modifications (\$23,000), Tool Lending Library (\$1,000), and Volunteer Coordination (\$6,000) programs, and initiate a Foreclosure Intervention program (\$3,000); and

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

WHEREAS, the contract period is September 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005.

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.

11-18-04-110 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – SEWER PIPE & MANHOLE RELINING PROJECTS / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works performs various maintenance projects for local units having municipal systems; this work is 100% reimbursable by the local unit; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has received requests for sewer pipe & manhole relining in excess of expectations when the budget for 2004 was presented and adopted; and

WHEREAS, the original approved appropriation is \$1,996,681, the current available appropriation is \$686,796; and

WHEREAS, the level of work performed to date in 2004 and the projects initiated and yet to be completed will require an additional \$425,000 in appropriations and a corresponding increase in associated revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$425,000, from estimated revenues, to the 2004 Water & Sewer Fund.

11-18-04-111 – GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (DPW) desires to construct, operate, maintain repair and/or replace a 16-inch water main on property owned by the County, located off of the 10-mile property about 200 feet south of 10-mile; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has unanimously approved Plainfield Charter Township's proposal; 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 the grant of a water main easement to Plainfield Charter Township; and further authorizes the Board of Public Works to execute the easement agreement.

11-18-04-112 – EXECUTION OF QUITCLAIM DEEDS / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the County Property Book is updated annually pursuant to an inventory of all real property owned by and located in the County, and the most recent update was in July 2004; and

WHEREAS, during that process, it was identified that several properties should be conveyed between and among County entities, including properties held by the County, Drain Commission, and Road Commission (see attached Exhibit A). Transfer of ownership is also necessary from the Board of County Drain Commissioners to the existing and newly formed Drainage Districts; and

WHEREAS, County Counsel, Property Description and Mapping Division, and affected entities have reviewed County conveyances for current use, responsibility for maintenance, and ownership issues, and have compared the legal descriptions of affected parcels

with the Sidwell maps; and

WHEREAS, the quitclaim deeds once executed will be recorded with Register of Deeds, and property transfer affidavits will be filed with the assessor for the city or township where the parcels are located; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Counsel has approved the quitclaim deeds for execution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the execution of quitclaim deeds between and among various county entities to correctly vest title in the entity that has interest and control over the property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Chair, or vice-chair, in his absence, be hereby authorized and directed to execute the quitclaim deeds for parcels listed in Exhibit A, and such other ancillary documents as may be necessary.

11-18-04-113 – ACCEPT A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT FROM THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND BUDGET AMENDMENT /
SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has funds available under the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are considered a one-time award and require a 10 percent cash match; and

WHEREAS, funds may be used to hire or train law enforcement personnel (sworn officers or support personnel); for overtime, equipment or technology; and to support drug courts, enhanced adjudication of violent offenders, establishing multi-jurisdictional task forces, crime prevention programs, or purchasing indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department is proposing to use these funds for the continuation of the "Rangemaster" program that has just begun and to purchase dry suits for the rescue/dive operation program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the Sheriff's request to accept a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby appropriates \$27,761 from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Special Projects – Local Law Enforcement Block Grant budget, contingent upon award and execution of a contract.

11-18-04-114 – STRONG BEGINNINGS PROGRAM – SPECTRUM HEALTH /
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Spectrum Health has made funding available for the Health Department to be a partner in the Spectrum Health Strong Beginnings Program for the eight months covering October 1, 2004 through May 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department is one of several agencies included in a community partnership through the Strong Beginnings Program created to improve health care and health education for African American mothers and their babies – from pregnancy through early childhood; and

WHEREAS, the Strong Beginnings Program has fundamental goals to reduce the infant mortality rate for African Americans, to reduce the barriers to care for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers through community outreach, case management, and education, and to improve care for pregnant women through improved screening and coordination; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department will focus its outreach, support and case management services to African American women who live in the City of Grand Rapids and who are pregnant or are the mother of a child 0-2-years of age; and

WHEREAS, to support the work required by the program, the Health Department is requesting the creation of a .5 FTE Public Health Nurse Supervisor (MPP) and 3.5 FTE Outreach Worker I positions (UAW 15); and

WHEREAS, the cost for salary and fringes is \$124,100 for eight months covering October 1, 2004 through May 31, 2005 and includes \$7,194 to cover supplies and travel costs, and an additional \$9,928 to cover administrative overhead costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the creation of a .5 FTE Public Health Nurse Supervisor and 3.5 FTE Outreach Worker I positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board accepts funding from Spectrum Health for the Strong Beginnings Program, and appropriates \$141,222 in funding to the 2005 Health Department budget; 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.

11-18-04-115 – UNITED WAY – EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ACT – EARLY

CHILDHOOD SERVICES GRANT / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, United Way has made funding available through a federal Early Learning Opportunity Act (ELOA) – Early Childhood Services Grant for the Kent County Health Department to promote early childhood literacy concepts within Kent County WIC, childhood immunization, and well-child clinic; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department will coordinate services through classroom instruction and the development of health related take home materials, and each child will receive an age and culturally appropriate book from the Health Department at each clinic appointment as a reinforcement tool, and to encourage compliance with follow-up appointments; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Early Childhood Services program is to see that every young child is ready to succeed in school and life and to enhance early childhood literacy efforts through targeted parent and professional education on the importance of early reading; and

WHEREAS, this grant funding will allow for 7,000 parents/caregivers attending local WIC, immunization, and well child clinics to receive information about the importance of early childhood literacy; and

WHEREAS, to support the work required by the program, the Health Department is requesting a 1.0 FTE Social Worker I position (UAW 19). The cost for salary and fringes is \$69,254 for the seventeen months covering October 1, 2004 through February 28, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the funding includes \$12,402 to cover approximately 10 percent of an existing Public Health Supervisor position. In addition, the grant includes funds to cover the costs of children's books, supplies, travel, and administrative overhead of \$120,750; and

WHEREAS, the funding requires an in-kind contribution of \$20,875 which includes the cost of staff supervision and supplies. This contribution is an existing cost within the Health Department's approved 2004-2005 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the creation of one 1.0 FTE Social Worker I position (UAW 19); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding be accepted from the United Way ELOA – Early Childhood Services Grant; and Early Childhood Services Grant is appropriated to the 2005 Health Department budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the position will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants.

(Commissioner Mayhue requested that Item C – Family Independence Agency Board Appointment be removed from the consent agenda.)

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

c) Family Independence Agency Board Appointment – Joan Krause

Motion by Commissioner Vonk, supported by Commissioner Tanis, that the appointment be approved.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn - 3.

RESOLUTIONS

11-18-04-116 – INVESTMENT POOL AGREEMENT – CONVENTION / ARENA
AUTHORITY / TREASURER'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the Treasurer of Kent County ("County Treasurer") is authorized, upon resolution of the County Board of Commissioners, to establish a local government investment pool ("investment pool") pursuant to Section 3 of the Local Governmental Investment Pool Act, and to contract with various local units of government ("local units") within the County for the deposit of money in the investment pool; and

WHEREAS, the treasurer or other chief fiscal officer of the local unit, upon resolution of the governing body of the local unit, is authorized to enter into a contract with the County Treasurer for deposit of money in the investment pool pursuant to Section 3 of the Local

Governmental Investment Pool act; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Local Governmental Investment Pool Act requires the parties to set forth the terms and conditions regarding the deposit of money in the investment pool in a written contract; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention/Arena Authority has approved the contract for participation in the Local Government Investment Pool; and

WHEREAS, the Finance and Physical Resources Committee recommends the County Treasurer be authorized to contract with the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention/Arena Authority for purposes of participating in the Local Government Investment Pool.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Treasurer to enter into a contract with the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention/Arena Authority to participate in the Local Government Investment Pool.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

11-18-04-117 – SENIOR MILLAGE ALLOCATIONS FOR 2005 / 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 2005 funding requests and made recommendations regarding funding for each service.

These recommendations were forwarded to the AAAWM Executive Committee on October 25, 2004, 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 \$4,637,174 in Senior Millage funds for 2005 as recommended by AAAWM.

Motion by Commissioner Rolls, supported by Commissioner Vaughn, that the resolution be

adopted.

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

11-18-04-118 – FY 2004 REVENUE SHARING RESERVE FUNDING / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Public Act 357 of 2004 amends the General Property Tax Act to provide for transition of the County property tax levy from winter to summer tax billing; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires all property tax monies set aside by the County shall be kept in a separate special revenue fund to be known as the "Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund;" and

WHEREAS, revenues credited to the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund from the December tax levy shall be accrued to the fiscal year ending in the year of that December property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the total amount required to be placed in the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund shall equal one-third of the County's December 2004 operating tax levy or \$24,676,162; and

WHEREAS, the County may expend an amount not to exceed the payments made to the County under Public Act 140 of 1971 or \$6,845,403 for FY 2004; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be transferred to the General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the establishment of a separate special revenue fund, to be known as the "Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund;" and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$6,845,403 to the FY 2004 Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund from revenues received from the December 2004 tax levy.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

11-18-04-119 – FY 2005 REVENUE SHARING RESERVE FUNDING / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, Public Act 357 of 2004 amends the General Property Tax Act to provide for transition of the County property tax levy from winter to summer tax billing; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires revenues credited to the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund from the December tax levy of a county with a fiscal year ending December 31 shall be accrued to the fiscal year ending in the year of that December property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, the total amount required to be placed in the Revenue Sharing

Reserve Fund shall equal one-third of the County's December 2004 operating tax levy or \$24,676,162; and

WHEREAS, the County may expend an amount not to exceed the payments made to the County under Public Act 140 of 1971 or \$10,494,321 for FY 2005; and

WHEREAS, these funds will be transferred to the General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$10,494,321 to the FY 2005 Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund from revenues received from the December 2004 tax levy.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

Guests

Commissioner Voorhees introduced Aaron Sterling, a Boy Scout from Lowell who is working on earning his Eagle Scout badge. He also recognized Brent Beuschel, former Sparta Township Trustee.

Veteran's Day Parade & Hazard Mitigation Planning Session

Commissioner Tanis thanked and commended Commissioner Vonk for his deliverance of the County's proclamation at the Veteran's Day Parade.

He also announced that Lt. Jack Stewart, Emergency Management Coordinator, will hold a hazard mitigation planning session to which all Commissioners are invited.

Republican Caucus

Commissioner Morgan announced that that Republican Caucus would be held on Monday, November 29, 2004, 5 p.m., at Republican Headquarters.

Events

Commissioner Mayhue commented that he recently attended two events: 1) Veteran's of Foreign Wars dinner at the Creston Post, and 2) Michigan Council of Deliberations event at Prince Hall.

Michigan Housing & Community Development Fund Legislation

Commissioner Bulkowski commented that two bills referring to the Michigan Housing & Community Development Fund are before the state legislature. Barb Holt, Walker City Commissioner, who co-chairs the United Growth Legislative Committee, will attend the

November 23rd Legislative Committee meeting to address these bills and the impact on our community. Address comments on the bills to Representative Jerry Kooiman who sponsored the current bills.

Jail Capacity Report

Commissioner Boelema stated that the Jail Capacity Report indicates that overcrowding does exist in the jail. He encourages Assistant Administrator Wayman Britt, who will look at this information, to consider jail diversion as a major solution to jail overcrowding.

Homelessness

Commissioner Mast attended a press conference at which Chair Morren & Mayor Heartwell announced an advisory committee to develop a plan to end homelessness in 10 years in our community. Homelessness is a serious issue in our nation and our community, and he is proud that Chair Morren is co-chairing this effort.

Chair Morren stated that this effort is being led by the Salvation Army and they have a dedicated staff person in charge and he is very optimistic.

Voter Turnout

County Clerk Mary Hollinrake reported that there were 292,600 voters in the Presidential Election on November 2nd (40,000 more than ever before in Kent County) with a 74% turnout.

Commissioner Mayhue commented that Grand Rapids saw a youth (ages 18-21) turnout of 68% according to the Grand Rapids City Clerk. Clerk Hollinrake will get the total 18-21 year old turnout for all of Kent County.

Evaluation

Chair Morren asked commissioners to turn in their evaluations on the Administrator's performance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:03 a.m., Commissioner Vonk moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, December 9, 2004, 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