

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Tanis, Vander Molen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 18.

Absent: Rolls – 1 (Excused).

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

(Commissioner Mayhue introduced his nephew, Gabriel Grant, who attends Iroquois Middle School, and is present today as part of a school project.)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mona Sallie, 2321 Kent Blvd., Grand Rapids – It has been two years since her mother's death, her family has previously asked the Board of Commissioners to look into this matter, today she requested a formal hearing.

Kristi Sallie, 2321 Kent Blvd., Grand Rapids – Recited MCL 52.201(f) regarding to the removal of an medical examiner after a hearing. She joined her sister, Mona, in asking for a hearing on this matter. She believes that there are contradictions and falsifications surrounding their mother's death.

David Bulkowski, Disability Advocates of Kent County, discussed the state's proposed community based long term care reform. This report focuses on home based care instead of institutionalized care such as nursing homes. Not only does it save money, but people want to stay at home. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for its support of the reform.

Paul Bastiene, 11010 Pine Creek Court, Allendale - Referenced a billboard at I96 west of Thornapple Drive which is on property owned by the Kent County Road Commission. The Road Commissioners met on May 9, 2005 and decided to discontinue Lamar Outdoor Advertising's use of the billboard. He would like the Board of Commissioners to overturn Road Commission's decision.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Michigan Association of Counties (“MAC”) Update

Tim McGuire, Executive Director of MAC, discussed current issues that they are working on including revenue sharing, the transportation bill, financing of local governments, etc. MAC will keep the Commissioners informed via the MAC Legislative Update.

Public Works Update

Commissioner Postmus, Chair of the Public Works Board, provided a *Guide to Waste Management Options and Alternatives* booklet and introduced an informational video on waste reduction and recycling in Kent County. This informational video is used in schools as an educational tool.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2005 Meeting
- b) May 17, 2005 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)

Motion by Commissioner Mast, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Vonk, Wahlfield, Morgan, Horton, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Agee, Mast, Vander Molen, Postmus, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Koorndyk, Klein, Chair Morren – 18.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

5-26-05-41 – PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS SELECTION CRITERIA AND APPLICATION CYCLE FOR 2005/06 / ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the PDR ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners in November of 2002 established procedures for the administration of the PDR program. By ordinance, the Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board is responsible for much of the program administration, with certain items presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board has prepared 2005/06 selection criteria to be used to rank and prioritize PDR applications. Per ordinance, the Board of Commissioners must approve the criteria; and

WHEREAS, this year’s selection criteria continues to focus on preservation efforts in areas with large blocks of agricultural land and considers factors such as soil type, parcel size, proximity to sewer and water, and nearby development activity. There are no changes from the 2004/05 selection criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Preservation Board will submit qualifying applications to a newly established Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund. The deadline for submitting this first round of applications to the State is October 15, 2005; and

WHEREAS, once the selection criteria are established and approved, all necessary components will be in place to proceed with an application cycle. The Board of Commissioners may hold an annual application cycle at its discretion. All applications need to proceed through the County process in order to be eligible for submittal to the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Fund program. The deadline for submittal is October 15, 2005. It is recommended that the County application cycle be from June 1 – June 30, 2005. Qualified applications accepted during the June 2005 application cycle will also be submitted in the spring of 2006 to the USDA NRCS Federal Farm & Ranch Land Program for federal funding consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) selection criteria and authorizes the application cycle of June 1 – June 30, 2005, for Fall 2005 Michigan Agricultural Reserve Fund grant application submission and Spring 2006 USDA NRCS Federal Farm & Ranch Land Program grant application submission.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

5-26-05-42 – FACILITY AND PROPERTY – SALVAGE OF STRUCTURE POLICY /
ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE

WHEREAS, a work team representing Fiscal Services, Facilities Management, Parks, and the Administrator’s Office was assembled to develop a Salvage of Structure Policy to standardize the process for removing unneeded structures from County-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the Salvage of Structure Policy ensures the prompt evaluation and removal of unneeded structures on real estate purchased by the County and establishes a process of due diligence to determine the feasibility for moving, salvage, sale and/or demolition of structures; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of preserving housing, the policy establishes a feasibility review, conducted by Facilities Management and the Purchasing Division, for all houses to determine viability of moving a structure; and

WHEREAS, for salvageable structures, the Purchasing Division will solicit qualified bids in accordance with the policy for moving structure to an alternate location; and

WHEREAS, unsalvageable structures will be offered to police and/or fire departments in the local jurisdiction for temporary training purposes. The County will solicit qualified bids for demolition and structure(s) will be removed and site restored in accordance with County policy and applicable federal, state and local laws and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the policy has been reviewed and approved as to form by Civil Counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves of the Facility and Policy – Salvage of Structure policy as submitted.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

5-26-05-43 – EMERALD ASH BORER TREE PLANTING GRANT PROGRAM / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an exotic boring beetle native to Asia that attacks ash trees. It was unknown to North America until its discovery in Michigan during the summer of 2002; and

WHEREAS, the EAB Tree Planting Grant Program responds to community level needs for tree replacement due to losses associated with EAB; providing competitive financial cost-share assistance to communities for tree planting; assessing local capacity to deliver urban and community forestry activities; creating and maintaining healthy and sustainable urban and community forests through tree planting and strategic canopy restoration; providing urban and community forestry technical and educational assistance to both homeowners and local units of government and improving the understanding of the benefits that trees provide; and

WHEREAS, Kent County Parks applied for and received a \$20,000 grant award for tree replacement. Several thousand ash trees have already been removed from Palmer Park and L.E. Kaufman Golf Course in an effort to stop the spread of EAB; and

WHEREAS, this is a 50-50 cost share match program. The County's \$20,000 match will be comprised of in-kind labor and equipment. The project must be completed by May 31, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the EAB Tree Planting Grant and appropriates \$20,000 to the FY 2005 Parks budget.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS

Central Dispatch Authority

Commissioner Tanis reported that the committee met, elected officers, passed by-laws and set it's meeting schedule.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Based Long Term Care Reform

Commissioner Koorndyk thanked David Bulkowski for appearing and talking about the community based long term care reform. A letter is available for Commissioners to sign, which will be sent to local legislators supporting this reform.

Commendation and Sallie Family

Commissioner Mayhue commended local police departments for their handling of the shooting incident on 33rd Street last evening. He also mentioned the need to resolve the Sallie family issue.

Chair Morren stated that investigations of the Sallie death found no Kent County improprieties. The family can, if they believe it to be a medical misjudgment, take appropriate legal action.

Community Based Long Term Care Reform

Commissioner Bulkowski thanked Commissioner Koorndyk for drafting a letter to legislators in support of community-based long term care reform. A rally is scheduled for June 9th in Lansing.

Public Comment

Commissioner Hiddema asked if the Board of Commissioners could be kept informed of any County response when a request is made during Public Comment.

MSU Extension - LOOP

Commissioner Mast reported that he participated in the Kent MSU Extension's LOOP event. This is an annual event which helps city elementary and middle schools. This year, approximately 20 schools participated.

Memorial Day Parade

Commissioner Vonk announced that the Memorial Day Parade will be held Monday, May 30th at 9:30 a.m.

Hearing Loop

Commissioner Vander Molen said that a hearing loop has been installed in the Board of Commissioners meeting room for the hearing impaired. He tested the unit out during today's meeting and reported on some flaws in the system.

Road Commission Employee

Commissioner Tanis reported that a Road Commission employee is hospitalized and asked the Board of Commissioners to send get well wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:37 a.m., Commissioner Mast moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 9, 2005, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vander Molen. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk