

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

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

Absent: Horton, Mast – 2 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

GFOA Award

The County has been awarded again the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. Bob White, Fiscal Services Director, presented the award to Chair Morren, acknowledging Fiscal Services employees Steve Duarte, Francine Farrington and Sherah Richard for their hard work.

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the Minutes of May 26, 2005 Meeting

b) Resolutions:

6-9-05-44 – GRANT OF AN EASEMENT TO PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP / PARKS

WHEREAS, the Plainfield Charter Township acquired an easement from a previous owner on a parcel of land presently owned by the County and reserved for future park purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Township now proposes a new route to construct, operate, maintain, repair and/or replace drains, sewers, water lines or other public utility, or any combination thereof and for the said purposes is requesting the County for a new easement on the same parcel of land; and

WHEREAS, the Township has abandoned the original easement, and is willing to release the original easement in lieu of the new one; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department has reviewed the proposal, and opines that this easement will not interfere with any future development plans on this property; and

WHEREAS, both County and Township are agreeable on the terms and conditions of the easement agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department recommends the grant of an easement subject to Township's release of the original easement; 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 an easement to Plainfield Charter Township subject to release of the original easement; and further authorizes the Board Chair, or his designee, to execute the necessary legal documents to accomplish the easement.

Motion by Commissioner Vander Molen, seconded by Commissioner Wahlfield, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried by voice vote.

RESOLUTIONS

6-9-05-45 – PAUL I. PHILLIPS RECREATION CENTER LEASE RENEWAL / FACILITIES

MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the County has leased the Paul I. Phillips Recreation Center to the City since 1974 for \$1 annually. The City staffs and provides recreational opportunities to all ages of residents in Grand Rapids and Kent County. Over 30,000 visitors annually enjoy basketball, volleyball, table tennis, fitness activities, weight lifting, game rooms, exercise bikes, treadmills and elliptical trainer at the Center; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Board of Commissioners adopted the Facilities Use Policy, which requires that lessee's pay for costs associated with maintenance of a facility. In March 2003, the County extended the lease and approved the request by the City of Grand Rapids to grant a waiver of the costs to operate and maintain the facility, noting that "Any new lease negotiated by the parties shall include a provision requiring Lessee to pay for its proportionate share of the costs and expenses (Operating Costs) incurred by Lessor in connection with the operation of the property including the Premises."; and

WHEREAS, the most recent lease will expire on June 30, 2005, and the City has formally requested to continue to waive the operating costs, as it did in 2002, to be able to use the Paul I. Phillips Center as it has since 1974; and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease provides that when a new lease is executed, it will comply with the requirements of the County that the lessee pay for its prorated share of costs and expenses incurred in connection with the operation of the property; and

WHEREAS, Civil Counsel has prepared and approved the proposed lease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the renewal of a lease between the County and the City of Grand Rapids for the Paul I. Phillips Recreation Center, beginning July 1, 2005, and ending June 30, 2006; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair, or his designee to execute the lease agreement.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

6-9-05-46 – AUTHORIZATION OF A SUMMER 2005 (JULY 1, 2005)
GENERAL

OPERATING PROPERTY TAX LEVY / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCLA 141.412 and 141.413 notice of a public hearing concerning the 2005 County Budget was published in a newspaper of general circulation on August 30, 2004 and a public hearing concerning the budget was held on September 9, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners adopted a Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriation on September 23, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the budget as adopted requires the levy of 1.4267 mills for general operating purposes to be authorized for the 2005 summer tax billing which has a tax levy date of July 1, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies a levy of taxation of 1.4267 mills for general operating purposes for the County of Kent for 2005 and the County Clerk is directed to provide City/Township Treasurers with a certified copy of this resolution.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Klein, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Vander Molen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren – 17.

Nays: 0.

6-9-05-47 – AMEND FY 2005 TITLE IV-D COOPERATIVE REIMBURSEMENT AND
MEDICAL SUPPORT GRANTS AND BUDGET AMENDMENT / FRIEND

OF

THE COURT

WHEREAS, in the past, the FIA Office of Child Support provided grant funding to the Friend of the Court to conduct medical support enforcement activities to reduce the use of Medicaid by children whose non-custodial parents have access to health insurance for dependents; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2004, the Board adopted a resolution that authorized the submission of a medical support enforcement grant covering the period of October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the State has terminated funding for medical support as a separate

program eliminating \$146,898 in funding and has recommended that since medical support costs are Title IV-D eligible that they be incorporated as part of the Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant; and

WHEREAS, because of the State's actions, the medical support activities will go from being 100% funded by the state to requiring a 46% match from the County; and

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court can absorb this additional cost without any additional General Fund contribution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the Friend of the Court's request to amend the FY 2005 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement and Medical Support Grants from the State Department of Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a cost-benefits analysis will be performed prior to the County including the positions in the 2006 Budget, 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 all grant documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby de-appropriate estimated revenues to the FY2005 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement (\$48,384) and Medical Support (\$146,898) budgets contingent upon award and execution of a contract.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Klein, Koorndyk, Vaughn, Mayhue, Bulkowski, Postmus, Vander Molen, Agee, Voorhees, Boelema, Hiddema, Tanis, Rolls, Morgan, Wahlfield, Vonk, Chair Morren – 17.

Nays: 0.

6-9-05-48 – CREATION OF MILLENNIUM PARK COMMUNITY COMMITTEE / PARKS

WHEREAS, in response to the community interest and investment in Millennium Park, Chair Morren has requested that a committee process be developed to facilitate the flow of information from the County to the community about the Park, as well as to provide a mechanism by which citizens can provide input into the development of this unique and significant - in both public and private support - gift to the community; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Millennium Park Community Committee will consist of 13-members:

- Two residents from each of the four cities that touch the park (Grandville, Walker, Wyoming and Grand Rapids);
- Two at-large appointees from outside of the four cities;
- Two County commissioners, one of whom represents one of the four cities; and
- Chair of the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, appointments will be made by the Board of Commissioners through its regular appointment process with staggered, two-year terms; and

WHEREAS, the Committee would be advisory, and its primary purpose would be to serve as a conduit for input from its own membership and to provide a defined opportunity for public input outside of formal Board meetings or informal contact with Parks staff; and

WHEREAS, the Committee will serve as a clearinghouse where activity during the previous six-months will be presented, along with a preview of upcoming activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the Millennium Park Community Committee, to consist of 13 members, designated and appointed as described above.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

6-9-05-49 – KENT COUNTY DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN (457 PLAN) / HUMAN RESOURCES

WHEREAS, the County's Deferred Compensation (457) Plan was established in April 1972, and has been updated periodically to accommodate IRS changes. There are currently two providers: Lincoln Financial (since 1972) and ING/Aetna (since 1997). The size of the plan, both in assets and number of participants, has grown substantially over the years without a formal review of the current and prospective service providers. In addition, when the Parks Department was transferred to the County, the County became responsible for working with the administrator of the 401K Plan (Citistreet); and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the Deferred Compensation Plan requires a periodic due diligence review so in 2003 an interdepartmental staff committee was established by the County Administrator/Controller to review the current plan and providers. As a result of the review, it was determined that it would be in the best interests of the County and its employees to have a single plan provider that could accommodate both the 457 Plan and the 401K Plan. Aon Consulting was selected by the committee to assist it with the process to establish minimum requirements for a Plan provider, to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP), and to provide a complete analysis of the responses; and

WHEREAS, eleven providers responded to the RFP and eight met the minimum requirements. The eight providers were evaluated on a variety of factors including: number of plans administered, financial condition, customer service capability, investment performance, and administrative fees. Two providers (Citistreet and Nationwide) were invited to make formal presentations to the committee; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the comprehensive review and evaluation, as well as the formal presentation, Nationwide was selected as the preferred provider. Nationwide will: (1) enhance financial planning tools and resources with emphasis on employee education and communication including risk/reward scenarios and lifestyle choices; (2) offer a balanced and comprehensive platform of Mutual Funds with less emphasis on insurance products; current assets will all be mapped to like investments within the Nationwide platform; (3) offer a fee structure that includes a decreasing administration fee with plan growth and competitive investment management fees at the fund level; no back-end surrender charges or front-end loads are incorporated; (4) assume the record-keeping and investment management of the 457 Plan and the 401K for Parks; this will ease and simplify the County administration of these plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves Nationwide as the provider for the Kent County Deferred

Compensation (457) Plan; and to authorize the County Administrator/Controller to sign all 457 Plan documents.

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

Motion carried by voice vote.

REPORTS

Legislative & Human Resources

Commissioner Koorndyk sent a memo to Commissioners with regard to constituent complaints and requests. This memo outlines the County's current procedure as to how to handle them, and this will be on the next LHR agenda. If Commissioners have any comments or input on this matter, please direct them to him.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:16 a.m., Commissioner Vander Molen moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, June 23, 2005, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Agee. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk