

## KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, October 26, 2006  
Administration Building - Room 310*

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Meeting called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Chair Roger C. Morgan.

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

Absent: Mast, Postmus – 2 (Excused).

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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Helen Brinkman, Candidate for Circuit Court Judgeship - Briefly compared her career in public service (Prosecutor's Office) to her opponents and asked Commissioners for their support of her candidacy.

### SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### Legal Assistance Center Update

Kristin Hanratty, Executive Director of the Legal Assistance Center ("LAC") noted that the LAC was opened in March of 2002 by the Grand Rapids Bar Association in cooperation with community partners. Located in the Kent County Courthouse, the LAC has helped over 42,000 people resolve disputes and increase their understanding of the legal system. The LAC has approximately 1,000 visitors per month, with 61% having annual incomes at or below \$20,000, 68% concern family law issues. Trustee Jon Muth thanked the Board members for their vision in 1996 in providing an office in the courthouse and continued monetary support of the LAC.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 12, 2006 Meeting
- b) October 17, 2006 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

10-26-06-115 – POSITION CONVERSION – CLERK II / CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

WHEREAS, the County Clerk/Register of Deeds requested the conversion of two part-time Clerk II positions into one full-time Clerk II position to result in improved operations in the Vital Records office. One of the part-time positions is vacant; and

WHEREAS, the additional cost in salary and benefits resulting from combining the positions would be \$10,604 annually; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk/Register eliminated one full-time Clerk II position in the Register of Deeds office reducing budgeted 2007 salary and benefit costs by \$42,369; and

WHEREAS, the overall net savings to the County for budget year 2007 will equal \$31,765.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves converting two part-time Clerk II (UAW 15) positions to one full-time Clerk II (UAW 15) position.

10-26-06-116 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – 2004 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT – SPECIAL PROJECTS / SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, approximately ninety percent of 2004 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) funding comes from Federal grants; the remainder comes from the County's General Fund and interest earnings. The LLEBG provides funding for the specific purposes of hiring and training of law enforcement personnel, overtime, equipment/technology, establishing multi-jurisdictional task forces, drug courts, enhanced adjudication of violent offenders, crime prevention programs, and the purchase of indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, the original 2004 LLEBG budget appropriation was \$27,761. The grant will accumulate \$29,036 in total revenue, as a result of interest earnings in excess of original estimates, exceeding the current appropriated budget by \$1,275; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Department is requesting that the \$1,275 in additional funds be appropriated to their FY 2006 budget for future utilization, bringing the amended budget appropriation to \$29,036; and

WHEREAS, the additional funds will be used for the purchase of digital video recording equipment, for police cruisers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$1,275 to the 2004 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) FY 2006 budget in the Special Projects Fund.

10-26-06-117 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DISCRETIONARY UNMET NEEDS PROGRAM / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Unmet Needs – Non County program budget is used for the specific purpose of funding the unmet needs contract with the Salvation Army for the Housing Continuum of Care Coordinator position; and

WHEREAS, the original DHS Unmet Needs – Non County budget was adopted at \$32,500 with funding provided by the City of Grand Rapids (\$25,000) and Kent County Community Development (\$7,500); and

WHEREAS, the DHS has been notified that the Kent County Community Development Office has an additional \$2,500 in available funds; and

WHEREAS, the DHS is requesting that the \$2,500 in additional funds be appropriated to their FY 2006 budget for future utilization, bringing the amended budget appropriation for Unmet Needs – Non County to \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, the additional funds will be used to provide increased support for the vision to end homelessness which is being spearheaded by the Salvation Army's Housing Continuum of Care Coordinator.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of \$2,500 to the FY 2006 Department of Human Services Discretionary Unmet Needs Program budget in the Social Welfare Fund.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

## RESOLUTIONS

### 10-26-06-118 – KENT COUNTY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM AMORTIZATION PERIOD / FISCAL SERVICES / HUMAN RESOURCES – PENSION

WHEREAS, Kent County Employees' Retirement Plan contracts with an independent actuary, Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Company, to prepare a report entitled "Annual Actuarial Valuation", which is presented to the Kent County Pension Board for its review; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Actuarial Report for Kent County Employees' Retirement System establishes the contribution rates for funding purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Pension Board approved a 15-year amortization period based on the recommendation of the actuary, at the October 4, 2006, Pension Board meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes an amortization period change for the Kent County Employees' Retirement System from a 12-year amortization period to a 15-year amortization period.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

10-26-06-119 – PARK LAND ACQUISITION – PARIS PARK EXPANSION / PARKS

WHEREAS, Kent County currently owns 60 acres of undeveloped, passive recreation land consisting of forest and wetlands in the City of Kentwood known as Paris Park. A parcel of adjacent property has become available for purchase; and

WHEREAS, the parcel will provide 3.61 acres for inclusion in Paris Park; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of the parcel is consistent with Parks Master Plan's priority of acquiring land adjacent to existing County park land; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price is supported by an appraisal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the purchase of 3.61 acres of land (PPN 41-18-35-351-005) at a cost of \$100,000 for expansion of Paris Park in the City of Kentwood.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Morren, Rolls, Tanis, Vander Molen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morgan – 15.

Nays: Hiddema, Mayhue - 2.

10-26-06-120 – APPROVAL OF SUBLEASE WITH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES / DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES / FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, for several years, the County has expressed concern over the conditions of the Kent County offices of the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) at 415 Franklin Ave., SE. While both the County and State have attempted to maintain this facility, the DHS clients and staff have been subjected to less than satisfactory conditions for many years, as various efforts to relocate the department have not been successful; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Rep. Jerry Kooiman initiated a series of discussions with the County, the State, and the City of Grand Rapids to resolve the issue; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these discussions, the County, in February 2006, presented the State with a proposal to construct a new facility at the site of the Sheldon Complex, co-locating services with a County Health Clinic and Area Community Services Employment and Training (ACSET) service center on properties owned or available to the City at 121 Franklin Street and 801 and 811 Jefferson Avenue, commonly known as the Sheldon Complex. On July 27, 2006, the County approved option agreements with the City for the properties, pending successful negotiations with the State of Michigan for a sublease for space in a new facility; and

WHEREAS, a proposed sublease agreement has been negotiated with staff representatives of the State and the County, and requires approval of the County Board of Commissioners and the State Joint Capital Outlay Committee in order for the project to proceed; and

WHEREAS, under the terms of the sublease, the new facility will be developed at the site of the Sheldon Complex and designed, constructed, and financed by the County through the County Building Authority for approximately \$27,000,000. Under the terms of the agreement, the State will occupy approximately 80 percent of the facility and will pay a pro-rated share of debt retirement for the life of the bonds (20 years), operations and maintenance costs.

The initial lease term will be 20 years, with two five-year renewal options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the sublease with the State of Michigan for space within the proposed Kent County Consolidated Human Services Facility to be located at 121 Franklin Street (Sheldon Complex). S.E., Grand Rapids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board authorizes the Administrator/Controller to take the steps necessary to execute the document, subject to its approval by the appropriate State officials.

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

Motion carried:

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

Nays: 0.

## REPORTS

### Sports Commission Subcommittee

Commissioner Koorndyk reported that the Sports Commission Subcommittee will hold a stakeholders' update soon at the Van Andel Arena.

### Transportation Subcommittee

Commissioner Vander Molen announced that the Transportation Subcommittee will meet following this meeting.

### Health Care Benefits Subcommittee

Commissioner Klein said that the Health Care Benefits Subcommittee met and is working on solutions to the continuing rise in healthcare costs while still providing excellent benefits for employees.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Civil Rights Initiative

Commissioner Mayhue solicited interested Commissioners to sign a press release from an ad hoc group of Commissioners opposing the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative (Proposal 2).

### Veteran's Day Parade

Commissioner Tanis invited Commissioners to walk with him in the Veteran's Day Parade.

### Standing Rules Amendment

Commissioner Horton asked members to consider a future amendment to the Standing Rules that would require political caucus meetings held to discuss and decide appointments be announced at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, and notice be posted at least two weeks prior to the caucus date (i.e., to follow the Open Meetings Act).

### Campaigning

Commissioner Agee commented on the Public Comment today by urging candidates to keep the campaign tone on a higher level.

### ADJOURNMENT

At 9:15 a.m., Commissioner Tanis moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 16, 2006, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk. Motion carried.

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Roger C. Morgan, Chair

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Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk