

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, October 25, 2007
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Roger C. Morgan.

Present: Commissioners Dillon, Hennessy, Hiddema, Klein, Mast, Mayhue, Morren, Parrish, Rolls, Tanis, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morgan - 15.

Absent: Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Vander Molen (Excused) - 4.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Legal Assistance Center Update

Jon Muth, Trustee of the Legal Assistance Center ("LAC") Board, said that ten years ago he introduced the Board of Commission to the concept of the Legal Assistance Center for the new Courthouse. His purpose today is two-fold: to thank the Board for its continued support, and to give an update on what those joint efforts have accomplished. He introduced Nelson Miller, President of the LAC Board.

As President of the LAC Board, Mr. Miller spends time every week at the Mel Trotter Mission, DeGage Ministries, and the Hispanic Center making referrals to the LAC. By doing this, he not only sees the needs, but how they are provided for by the LAC. The LAC fills some of the gaps in services provided by Legal Aid and pro bono attorneys. Approximately 45-80% of those appearing in our courts are unrepresented and, until the LAC, these individuals had little means by which to obtain the forms and information on basic procedures. Pro per litigants are ill prepared. The Center opened in March of 2002, and has served over 51,000 clients. Of the 1,100 patrons served every month, most are below the poverty line. He introduced Valerie Ambrose, Executive Director of the LAC.

Ms. Ambrose said that the LAC would like to expand services and make the justice system even more accessible by: 1) sponsoring a clinic for law students to work with in pro pers; 2) partnering with more community organizations; 3) establishing online linkages through the library system so that people can access information and the forms to pursue court matters; and, 4) pursuing additional funding resources. They are setting up a patron club program and pursuing grants and bequests as well as individual and corporate donors to help underwrite their services.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of October 11, 2007 Meeting
- b) October 16, 2007 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Establish Public Hearing Date and Time – November 15, 2007, 8:30 a.m.:
 - 1) Proposed 2008 millage rates and 2008 budget
 - 2) Soil Erosion Ordinance
- d) Resolutions:

10-25-07-107 – KENT HEALTH PLAN CONTRACT APPROVAL / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, for the past four years, the Kent Health Plan, a private, non-profit corporation, has provided primary care services for eligible County residents (200% of poverty) through State and local funds; and

WHEREAS, the Kent Health Plan will contract with the County to provide primary prevention programming and substance abuse prevention programming. The County will subcontract with existing providers (Child & Family Resource Council and network180) to provide prevention programming services funded through the Prevention Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed the proposed contract and is satisfied with the proposed contractual relationships.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves a one-year contract (October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008) with the Kent Health Plan for delivery of eligible services provided by the County.

(Commissioner Hiddema requested that Item C – Establish Public Hearing Date and Time be removed from the Consent Agenda.)

Motion by Commissioner Voorhees, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Morren, Mayhue, Mast, Klein, Hiddema, Hennessy, Dillon, Chair Morgan – 15.

Nays: 0.

- c) Establish Public Hearing Date and Time – November 15, 2007, 8:30 a.m.:
 - 1) Proposed 2008 millage rates and 2008 budget
 - 2) Soil Erosion Ordinance

Motion by Commissioner Voorhees, seconded by Commissioner Morren, that Item C – Establish Public Hearing Date and Time be approved.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Morren, Mayhue, Mast, Klein, Hiddema, Hennessy, Dillon, Chair Morgan – 15.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

10-25-07-108 – LAND ACQUISITION AGREEMENT FOR THE EXPANSION OF CHIEF

HAZY CLOUD PARK / PARKS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved (resolution 7-27-06-71) submittal of a grant request to the Michigan DNR Trust Fund seeking funding to expand Chief Hazy Cloud Park; and

WHEREAS, based on estimated purchase costs of \$1.5 million, the DNR awarded a grant to the County of up to 74 percent (an estimated \$1,110,000) of purchase costs; and

WHEREAS, the 96-acre parcel to be acquired meets the 2003 Kent County Parks *Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan's priority of acquiring land adjacent to existing County Park land and preserving land rich in natural resources in that the proposed parcel included 1,900 feet of Grand River frontage; and

WHEREAS, to proceed with the grant award, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires a resolution by the County Board of Commissioners approving the terms of the DNR Land Acquisition Project Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by Corporate Counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a Land Acquisition Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to fund 74 percent of the acquisition costs to expand Chief Hazy Cloud Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appropriates up to \$1,110,000 to the Parks Acquisition and Development Budget.

Motion by Commissioner Wahlfield, seconded by Commissioner Morren, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, Tanis, Rolls, Parrish, Morren, Mayhue, Mast, Klein, Hennessy, Dillon, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: Hiddema – 1.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

Request for Subcommittee

Commissioner Hennessy stated that several commissioners had previously requested that a subcommittee be established to look at the public's right-to-know on potential health threats and risks as they come to the Health Department's attention. Although their initial request was rejected, the same group has sent a letter to Chair Morgan requesting that the County establish guidelines on when information is released, and how it is made available to the public.

Proclamation

Commissioner Rolls announced that he will present a proclamation, on behalf of the Board, to John Varineau. Mr. Varineau has been with the Grand Rapids Symphony for 22 years and is currently celebrating his 20th anniversary with the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. The proclamation will be presented to Mr. Varineau at the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony's concert on November 4th at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Auditorium.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Voorhees moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, November 15, 2007, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Klein. Motion carried.

Roger C. Morgan, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk