

## LEGISLATIVE AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, November 22, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.  
Board Room – County Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Koorndyk; Commissioners Dick Bulkowski Marvin Hiddema, Nadine Klein, Harold Mast, Paul Mayhue, Tom Postmus, Art Tanis, and Ted Vonk

ALSO PRESENT: County Administrator Daryl Delabbio; Assistant Administrators Mary Swanson and Wayman Britt; Executive Assistant to the Board Jim Day; County Lobbyist Becky Bechler; Civil Counsel Sherry Batzer; Legal Analyst Sangeeta Ghosh; Management Analysts Jennifer DeHaan and Matthew VanZetten; Office Administrator Kelly Berendsen; Human Resources Director Donald Clack; Fiscal Services Director Bob White; Prosecutor Bill Forsyth; Sheriff Larry Stelma; Chief Deputy Tom Hillen; Sheriff Administrator Lloyd Pitsch; County Clerk Mary Hollinrake; Sr. Administrative Specialist Pam Van Keuren

Chair Koorndyk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

### I. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS REVIEW – PROSECUTOR’S OFFICE

The Committee and Prosecutor Bill Forsyth reviewed the performance measurements for the Prosecutor’s Office. A copy of the performance measurements is on file in the Board of Commissioner's Office.

(Commissioner Mayhue arrived at this time.)

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Mast moved to approve the November 8, 2005, minutes as written.

Supported by Mr. Tanis.

Motion carried.

### IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASSOCIATES

Ms. Bechler reported the Legislature is heading into the final weeks of legislative session before the end of the year and the focus continues to be on both the securitization and tax packages. The Legislature passed both packages of bills and presented them to the Governor. She explained the Governor signed all bills in the securitization package but line-item vetoed two bills relative to the tax package and by doing this she negated the entire tax package. A Q&A handout, a copy of which is on file in the Board of Commissioners Office, was provided relative to the Jobs/Securitization/Tax Legislative Package which explains why the Governor was able to do this. It is questionable how the Legislature will react to the veto and how they will move forward with the tax package when they return from break. Other issues being worked on and/or monitored relative to Kent County include the Telecommunications

Act recently signed by the Governor and which Kent County is supportive of; a package of bills on Eminent Domain which has moved through the Senate and is in the House Government Operations Committee; a bill (SB 736) dealing with the inmate health care cost reimbursement which has moved through the Senate and is now in the House Insurance Committee and has the support of various counties, sheriff's associations and hospital networks; a recent package of bills (SB 868 & 875) dealing with the flexibility of foreclosure statements which is very concerning to the County Treasurer; and the drain commission bill which now has become two pieces of legislation. Ms. Bechler stated that she will continue to monitor these bills and keep the County apprised of any movement.

Mr. Mayhue asked how extensive the Medicaid cuts will be and asked what concerns the County Treasurer has relative to SB 868 and 875.

Ms. Bechler explained the County Treasurer is working with the Michigan Association of Counties on preparing a position paper and would be happy to provide more details on this once the position paper is completed. She added that the Medicaid budget has been spared significant cuts that were initially proposed because the caseloads continue to be reduced and also because federal cuts did not come into play as once anticipated.

Mr. Mayhue asked how the Medicaid Fraud Recovery is going.

Ms. Bechler stated that the Michigan Attorney General as well as a task force put together by the Legislature are looking into what Michigan can do about this. She will provide information from the legislative task force as well as the Attorney General on this.

Chair Koorndyk asked for an update on the board size legislation for the Road Commission and the Department of Human Services, and also on the DDA/TIFA legislation.

Ms. Bechler replied legislation dealing with the flexibility of the size of road commissions has been sent to conference committee and appears to be favorable to Kent County as flexibility would be under the control of county commissions and not the road commission. She added that board size legislation regarding the Department of Human Services Board has been introduced but there has been no movement on this bill. The DDA legislation has yet to be introduced. Representative Kooiman is working on forming work groups in hopes of putting together and introducing legislation soon.

Chair Koorndyk thanked Ms. Bechler for the update.

V. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES FOR 2006

Mr. Delabbio stated approval is requested to recommend to the Board of Commissioners various citizen and Commissioner appointments to boards, commissions, and committees for 2006. This request is proposed to go to the Board on January 3, 2006. A summary of the request follows:

- The Board of Commissioners, on an annual basis, appoints citizens and Commissioners to boards, commissions, and committees in accordance with applicable statutes or its Standing Rules. Nominees



to fill vacancies are noted by a check on the attached listing. 98 resumes were received from citizens for 29 citizen vacancies.

- The Legislative and Human Resources Committee's Appointments Interview Subcommittee reviewed all resumes and conducted interviews of applicants for various vacancies in October. The subcommittee members were Commissioners Koorndyk (Chair), Klein, and Vonk.

No cost or funding is required.

Ms. Klein moved to recommend to the Board of Commissioners various citizen and Commissioner appointments to boards, commissions, and committees for 2006.

Supported by Mr. Tanis.

Mr. Bulkowski commented on the number of commissioner slots on the CMH Authority Board (as well as other boards and committees) and would like the board to consider reducing the number of commissioner slots from 4 to 3 to allow for the position to be filled by a citizen as he feels it would be more advantageous to fill these slots with citizens. He also suggested changes to the Agricultural Preservation Board. He would like to see Dennis Heffron moved into the Township Representative slot and possibly appoint Tim Howard to the agricultural interest slot.

Chair Koorndyk explained Tim Howard was not interviewed because the subcommittee was looking for an individual to fill the township representative slot – which Tim Howard did not meet that criteria but Sandi Parrish does and therefore she was interviewed and recommended to fill the slot.

Ms. Klein further explained that the township representative slot became vacant at the last minute as the person who applied for reappointment withdrew his name after interviews had already been scheduled. The subcommittee proceeded to interview Ms. Parrish and felt she was a well qualified candidate to fill the vacant slot.

Mr. Bulkowski said he would like to see the subcommittee open up the appointment process and to consider altering these recommendations.

Chair Koorndyk feels this is not necessary and feels Ms. Parrish is well qualified to serve in the township representative slot and will be a good fit for the board.

Mr. Mast said he would not be in favor of any changes to this board either and is comfortable with the recommendation of Sandi Parrish and feels she will be a good township representative for this board.

Mr. Vonk commented that there are many qualified applicants and sometimes it may take a year or so before they are appointed to the committees for which they apply. Good applicants that have been reviewed could be looked at again the following year.

Ms. Klein commented on the number of commissioner slots on the CMH Authority Board. This would be an option for the future based on commissioner interest in serving on this board. Furthermore, there are many qualified citizens willing to serve on the various boards and committees but there aren't enough slots to fill each year.

Mr. Bulkowski stated he appreciates the work of the committee and the caucus but will be voting no on these recommendations.

Yeas: Commissioners Klein, Hiddema, Mast, Tanis, Vonk, Postmus, Mayhue

Nays: Commissioner Bulkowski

Motion carried.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Public Comment

Mr. Postmus asked if there would be follow up to a constituent who spoke during public comment at the November 17, 2005, Board Meeting concerning the medical examiner's office.

Chair Koorndyk replied yes there will be follow up regarding the concerns addressed during public comment.

Football Championships

Chair Koorndyk wished the Caledonia, Rockford, and Catholic Central High School football teams good luck at the state championships this coming weekend.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chair Koorndyk adjourned the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL FOR DISTRIBUTION \_\_\_\_\_

prv