

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, February 9, 2006
Administration Building - Room 310

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

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Klein, Koorndyk, Mast, Mayhue, Morren, Postmus, Rolls, Vaughn, Voorhees, Chair Morgan – 15.

Absent: Tanis, Vander Molen, Vonk, Wahlfield – 4 (Excused).

Invocation: Commissioner Boelema introduced Nate Heyboer, Director of Youth and Congregational Care at Faith Community Christian Reformed Church, who gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clyde Sallie, 2321 Kent Blvd., Grand Rapids – His family refuses to sign a release for the autopsy. Again, asks that the Sheriff's Department or Board of Commissioners (BOC) investigate his wife's death.

Mona Sallie, 2321 Kent Blvd., Grand Rapids – She complained about the political party division of the BOC (16 Republicans / 3 Democrats). She, too, asked for an investigation.

Kristi Sallie, 2321 Kent Blvd., Grand Rapids – She complained about Peter Noble's (Medical Examiner's Office) behavior and responses at the scene of her mother's (Annie Mae Sallie) death.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Vision to End Homelessness

Sister Maureen Geary, Coordinator and Victoria Sluga, Project Manager, Grand Rapids Area Housing Continuum of Care, presented the *Vision to End Homelessness*. This collaborative effort will be brought to fruition through an implementation plan to end homelessness in Kent County by the end of 2014. Focus will be on: the prevention of homelessness; decrease in emergency shelter need, use and bed capacity; increased coordination of systems and services; expansion of the role of *Housing First* as a local strategy for permanent housing. Vision implementation, local education and planning efforts will be coordinated by the Grand Rapids Area Housing Continuum of Care. (A copy of *Vision to End Homelessness* is on file in the Office of the County Clerk.)

CONSENT AGENDA

a) Approval of the Minutes of January 26, 2006 Meeting

b) Resolutions:

2-9-06-11 – LODGING EXCISE TAX FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Lodging Excise Tax Fund accounts for expenditures incurred in promoting Kent County, and maintaining, acquiring, or constructing its public convention and entertainment facilities. Revenues are provided by the excise tax on transient room rentals; and

WHEREAS, in February 2005, the County agreed to pay an amount equal to the amount paid in the immediate preceding fiscal year increased by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the most recent 12 month period for which such information was available. Based on the terms of the agreement, the amount paid in a fiscal year shall not exceed the lesser of 20% of the Hotel/Motel tax revenues levied and collected in such fiscal year or the amount noted above;

WHEREAS, the County paid the Convention and Visitor's Bureau \$830,947 in FY 2004, the annual increase in the CPI, for 2004, was 2.7%. The maximum amount to be distributed in FY 2005 was calculated at the rate of 20% of monthly Hotel/Motel tax revenues not to exceed \$853,383; and

WHEREAS, the County budgeted \$840,000 prior to the agreement. Fiscal Services is requesting an additional \$13,583 appropriation to cover the remaining FY 2005 expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of an additional \$13,583 in the FY 2005 Lodging Excise Tax Fund budget.

2-9-06-12 – ADDITION OF A GRANT FUNDED POSITION / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2005, the Board of Commissioners approved the Housing and Community Development Consolidated Plan for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the plan included the creation of a position Grant Administrator (UAW 25) in the department to administer the \$750,000 HOME grant awarded to the County; and

WHEREAS, the annual salary cost for the Grant Administrator position, at current contract rates, is \$61,238, which will be fully funded by the HOME Grant; and

WHEREAS, in the event grant funding is eliminated or decreased, the position will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the fiscal Policy on Grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the creation of the job classification Grant Administrator (UAW 25) to administer the HOME grant money awarded to Kent County.

2-9-06-13 – POSITION RECLASSIFICATIONS / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, at the request of the Housing/Community Development Director, Human Resources conducted job audits of the existing positions in the department; and

WHEREAS, based on audit results and the needs of the department, Human Resources recommend the following reclassifications:

1. Clerk III to Auditor
2. Community Development Analyst to Clerk III
3. Housing Administrator to Community Development Manager
4. Public Improvement & Planning Administrator to Contract & Compliance Administrator (title change only); and

WHEREAS, the results of the audit have been reviewed with the Housing and Community Development Department Director; and

WHEREAS, the annual addition to salary and benefit costs from reclassification of the three positions is \$5,519 based on current pay scales; the funds for the additional costs are included in the department budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approves the reclassifications of Clerk III to Auditor, Community Development Analyst to Clerk III, Housing Administrator to Community Development Manager; and the job title change of Public Improvement & Planning Administrator to Contract & Compliance Administrator, to improve operating efficiency in the department and to more accurately reflect job functions.

(Commissioner Hiddema asked that resolution 2-9-06-11 be removed from the consent agenda.)

Motion by Commissioner Boelema, seconded by Commissioner Postmus, to approve the remaining consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Voorhees, Vaughn, Rolls, Postmus, Morren, Mayhue, Koorndyk, Klein, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: 0.

Absent from room: Mast – 1.

2-9-06-11 – LODGING EXISE TAX FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Lodging Excise Tax Fund accounts for expenditures incurred in promoting Kent County, and maintaining, acquiring, or constructing its public convention and entertainment facilities. Revenues are provided by the excise tax on transient room rentals; and

WHEREAS, in February 2005, the County agreed to pay an amount equal to the amount paid in the immediate preceding fiscal year increased by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the most recent 12 month period for which such information was available. Based on the terms of the agreement, the amount paid in a fiscal year shall not exceed the lesser of 20% of the Hotel/Motel tax revenues levied and collected in such fiscal year or the amount noted above;

WHEREAS, the County paid the Convention and Visitor's Bureau \$830,947 in FY 2004, the annual increase in the CPI, for 2004, was 2.7%. The maximum amount to be distributed in FY 2005 was calculated at the rate of 20% of monthly Hotel/Motel tax revenues not to exceed \$853,383; and

WHEREAS, the County budgeted \$840,000 prior to the agreement. Fiscal Services is requesting an additional \$13,583 appropriation to cover the remaining FY 2005 expenses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of an additional \$13,583 in the FY 2005 Lodging Excise Tax Fund budget.

Motion by Commissioner Boelema, seconded by Commissioner Agee, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Voorhees, Vaughn, Rolls, Postmus, Morren, Mayhue, Mast, Koorndyk, Klein, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morgan – 15.

Nays: 0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Thanks

Commissioner Voorhees reported that his recent trip to India with Rotarians to give polio immunizations gave him an appreciation for some government services provided in the U.S.

Women Elected Officials

Commissioner Klein compared the gender ratio on the Grand Rapids City Commission (1 woman to 6 men) to the County Commission (1 woman to 18 men) suggesting that both commissions would use more women.

Kroc Foundation Grant

Commissioner Morren said that he is disappointed in the loss of the \$30-million Kroc Foundation grant to the City of Grand Rapids. He would like to see this gift go to the West Michigan area.

Commissioner Mayhue stated that he is disappointed with both the Kroc Foundation grant and the situation in the Grand Rapids Public Schools. With all of Grand Rapids' attractions bringing people to the city we need to heal the school system so that visitors will want to live here.

Commissioner Postmus said that the County needs to be more proactive and focus county vision in the city, also. The Kroc grant should be in Grand Rapids.

Commissioner Boelema commented that we need to look at social issues differently than we have in the past. We have serious problems with the social structure and need to design ways to look at these issues differently.

2005 Facilities Management Report

Commissioner Postmus commended Bob Mihos and the Facilities Management staff for their annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:18 a.m., Commissioner Boelema moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, February 23, 2006, 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