

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Thursday, September 27, 2001
Administration Building - Room 310*

Meeting called to order at 8:38 a.m. by Chair Steven R. Heacock.

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Buege, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuhn, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, McGuire, Morgan, Morren, Postmus, Sak, Smoke, Vaughn, Vonk, Wahlfield, Chair Heacock – 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Commissioner Boelema introduced Reverend Eldert Zwart, Beverly Reformed Church, who gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of September 13, 2001 Meeting
- b) September 18, 2001 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) Resolutions:

9-27-01-128 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – PROBATION RESIDENTIAL SERVICES /
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

WHEREAS, The County, through the Office of Community Corrections, receives funds from the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) for Probation Residential Services. Kent County OCC currently contracts for these services with Alternative Directions and Pathfinder Resources; and

WHEREAS, the MDOC recently notified Kent County of an additional \$102,000 in funding for probation residential services for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an amendment to the contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections for additional funding for probation residential services and authorizes an amendment to the budget to account for associated revenues and expenditures.

9-27-01-129 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – SUBSTANCE ABUSE / COMMUNITY MENTAL
HEALTH

WHEREAS, Kent CMH serves as the Coordinating Agency for the MINK (Montcalm, Ionia, Newaygo and Kent) Substance Abuse region. PA 2 of 1983 requires that 50 percent of liquor tax revenue received by each of the counties within the region be used for substance abuse programming; and

WHEREAS, liquor tax revenue is distributed on a calendar year basis. Kent County CMH had planned to expend three-fourths of the 2001 revenues in FY01 and one-fourth in FY02. Montcalm, Ionia and Newaygo subsequently requested to expend all of their liquor tax dollars dedicated to prevention programming prior to September 30, 2001, thus exceeding the three-fourths funding included in the FY01 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the Community Mental Health Budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with additional Liquor Tax allocations from Montcalm, Ionia, and Newaygo counties in the FY01 Budget.

9-27-01-130 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – SUBSTANCE ABUSE / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, Kent CMH serves as the Coordinating Agency for the MINK Substance Abuse region, and contracts with the Kent County Health Department to provide prevention services for the agency. Funding for prevention programming comes from Liquor Tax funds allocated by each of the counties, and from State grant funds; and

WHEREAS, the Health Department prepares its budget using a prevention allocation provided by CMH. Throughout the year, this allocation may change due to additional State or individual county liquor tax allocations. When allocation adjustments occur, the Health Department amends its budget to recognize additional revenues and expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an amendment to the Health Department Budget to account for revenues and expenditures associated with an additional allocations from the MINK (Montcalm, Ionia, Newaygo, and Kent) Coordinating Agency for substance abuse prevention programming.

9-27-01-131 – BUDGET AMENDMENT – MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT FUNDS / JOHN BALL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

WHEREAS, the John Ball Zoological Garden received a grant this year from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) in the amount of \$91,200; and

WHEREAS, the grant was not approved for the request originally intended which was to pay for signage for the new chimpanzee exhibit; and

WHEREAS, Zoo Director John Lewis proposes allocating \$37,410 of the grant amount to general zoo operating expenditures and the balance of \$53,790 to the John Ball Zoological Society to reimburse expenditures that are grant eligible.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the appropriation of \$37,410 to General Fund revenue and the payment of \$53,790 to the John Ball Zoological Society from the \$91,200 MCACA grant.

9-27-01-132 – ADDITION OF OUTREACH WORKER POSITION / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Health Department contracts with Gentiva to provide head lice remediation services; and

WHEREAS, Gentiva provides a technician at the rate of \$19.85/hour or \$41,288 annually and the remainder of the contract budget goes to program and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, a full-time County Outreach Worker could perform the duties of the technician at a cost of \$10.96/hour or \$22,797 annually with a fringe benefit cost of \$10,118 for a total cost of \$32,915; and

WHEREAS, the estimated net savings in salary and fringes would be \$8,373 annually; and

WHEREAS, an average of \$152 is spent per family for head lice remediation services. The \$8,373 of savings generated by creating a County Outreach Worker position could be dedicated to services to families rather than to contractual services. An additional 55 families could receive services at the average rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the creation of one full-time Outreach Worker (UAW Range 15) position to perform head lice remediation services that are currently being provided by a renewable three-year grant contractual agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event funding is eliminated or decreased, the position will be eliminated unless continuation funding is approved pursuant to the Fiscal Policy on Grants.

Motion by Commissioner Boelema, supported by Commissioner Sak, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

9-27-01-133 – I.D.E.A. PROGRAM AND FUNDING / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, over the last year, nine employees representing the departments in the County Administration building and the Information Technology department have been working on development of an employee suggestion program in the County; and

WHEREAS, this committee is proposing a program called "I.D.E.A.," an acronym which stands for "Innovation-Determination-Evaluation-Activation;" and

WHEREAS, the program's goals are to encourage County employees to brainstorm constructive ideas for improving internal or external programs and services and to reward them for sharing ideas; and ultimately to increase or enhance the effectiveness of internal and external service delivery in the County; and

WHEREAS, submissions will be evaluated by an inter-departmental review team appointed by the Administrator/Controller and monetary awards will be based on objective criteria and the overall score; and

WHEREAS the maximum award for each suggestion is \$1,000 and projected expenses for the six-month pilot period are \$6,000; and

WHEREAS, the I.D.E.A. team proposes to conduct a pilot of the program for departments in the Administration building and the Information Technology department for six months, or for as long as necessary to evaluate the program thoroughly; and

WHEREAS, if the program is deemed successful, it will be launched throughout the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves a six-month suggestion program pilot for employees in the County Administration building and the Information Technology department.

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

Motion by Commissioner Vonk to table the resolution. Motion was lost for lack of a second.

Motion to adopt resolution carried by voice vote.

9-27-01-134 – SENIOR MILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITY CONTRACT / ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, the County's contract with the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc., (AAAWM) for administration of the senior millage program expires December 31, 2001. AAAWM is willing to continue to administer the millage at the same rate (5 percent of total service funds awarded each year – i.e. tax receipts, earned interest and unspent funds from previous years.); and

WHEREAS, overall, AAAWM has met their contractual obligations with respect to millage administration. The Agency's administration of the Senior Millage funds allows for coordination of funding and funding processes and taps into existing technical expertise on programs and aging concerns; and

WHEREAS, a one-year extension of the contract will allow the County to evaluate some recommended changes to the process to address communication and potential conflict of interest issues, and to determine if the contractual agreement provides the most efficient and cost-effective arrangement for the administration of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an extension to the contract with Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, Inc. for administration of the Senior Millage Funds through December 31, 2002.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

9-27-01-135 – 2002 CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU TOURISM PROMOTION PLAN AND BUDGET / BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners, on September 11, 1997, adopted Resolution 9-11-97-118 identifying priorities for use of Hotel/Motel Tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners, by resolution and contract, provides for a contribution of 20 percent of annual revenues from the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax to the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau, subject to annual review and approval by the County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has, pursuant to the agreement between the County and the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau, received the 2002 proposed budget and Tourism Promotion Plan, which includes the ongoing contribution of 20 percent of annual revenues from the Hotel/Motel Tax in 2002, excluding interest, late fees, and other charges, for the promotion of convention business throughout Kent County; and

WHEREAS, the contribution of 20 percent of annual revenues from the Hotel/Motel Tax to the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau is consistent with the priorities established in Resolution 9-97-11-118.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the proposed 2002 Budget and Tourism Promotion Plan of the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the 2002 contribution of 20 percent of the annual revenues from the Lodging Excise (Hotel/Motel) Tax, excluding interest, late fees, and other charges, and estimated to be \$884,000, to the Grand Rapids/ Kent County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelega, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

9-27-01-136 – LAND EXCHANGE WITH FOREST HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS / PARKS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the opportunity exists to exchange property in a trade that would benefit the objectives of Kent County and the Forest Hills Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, the County would trade 14 acres of land located in the Knapp Valley Forest in exchange for 10 acres of land adjacent to Seidman Park;

WHEREAS, the Parks Department has planned to purchase additional land adjacent to Seidman Park and the subject parcel is heavily wooded with a rolling terrain and meets the criteria in the 1998 Kent County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Areas Master Plan for acquiring land with good natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills Public Schools will pay the County \$130,000 in addition to the 10 acres of land near Seidman Park, an amount determined through an appraisal process and approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, Forest Hills Public Schools has agreed to seven additional conditions for the property the County will transfer to the schools as follows:

- 1) The property can only be used as a school site.
- 2) The property cannot be sold by the schools or it reverts back to Kent
- 3) County Parks.
- 4) The general public will have the right to all outdoor recreation areas on

school property during non-school hours.

5) Forest Hills Schools will construct a 15-20 car parking lot for use by the general public. This parking will be beyond any parking requirements that the school must meet per zoning or site plan approval. This parking lot will be separate from school parking lots, and will be near the common property line.

6) Alcott Street will not be connected to McGurie Court.

7) Approval is based on general adherence to the proposed site plan.

8) Kent County Parks will have access for trail use from Seidman Park to Two Mile Road through Forest Hills Schools Property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes exchange of 14 acres of land in the Knapp Valley Forest for 10 acres of land adjacent to Seidman Park, payment to the County of \$130,000, and the seven additional conditions as listed above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Civil Counsel and County Administrator/Controller be authorized to execute documents necessary to effectuate this transfer.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

9-27-01-137 – 2002 BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Administrator/Controller, with the assistance and cooperation of the Judiciary, Elected Officers, and Department Directors of the County, has developed a recommended budget for 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Kent County Finance and Physical Resources Committee has reviewed the proposed 2002 budget in detail; and

WHEREAS, a budget hearing was held by the Kent County Board of Commissioners on September 13, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2002 Kent County budget attached hereto be adopted in the gross amount of \$372,591,360 for the purposes shown in the budget, contingent on the requirement that, to the extent any individual department and/or fund in the 2002 Budget, as adopted, is dependent on federal and state revenues and those revenues are reduced or eliminated, the involved departments and/or funds shall amend their 2002 Budget revenues and expenditures to reflect the reduced federal and state revenues without an additional appropriation from the General Fund in accordance with Resolution 12-14-95-143; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that *ad valorem* property tax in the amount of 4.2788 mills shall be levied for general operating purposes and, in addition, 0.7973 mills shall be levied for debt service and operation of the Kent County Correctional Facility and the Detention Facility and 0.2469 mills shall be levied for senior services, as more particularly described in the budget attached hereto (a copy of the budget need not be included in the published minutes but shall be on file in the Clerk's Office).

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

9-27-01-138 – REPLACE GRANT FUNDING FOR AN ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY III / PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, in 1989/1990, an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney III was created through funding by Federal Drug Grant #70400-2K90 as part of the Metropolitan Enforcement Team (MET), a multi-jurisdictional drug task force involved in a collaborative effort to increase drug-related arrests in the interest of public safety and health; and

WHEREAS, grant funding for the position expires September 30, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a federal drug grant partially funds the MET and has been in effect since FY 1989. The above-referenced position is being eliminated from grant funding that currently funds 50% of the total salary cost for the position as of October 1, 2001. This position is engaged in the prosecution of drug offenders and the legal forfeiture of drug related assets; and

WHEREAS, reduction of this position will also require external legal counsel to process forfeitures; and

WHEREAS, the Human Resources Department and Administrator's Office have reviewed this request and recommend its approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the 100 percent funding from the Prosecutor's Office 2001 Budget for the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney III position, and approves the transfer of \$47,227 from the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund to the Prosecuting Attorney's 2002 Budget - Salary and Wages.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Kuipers, Koorndyk, Mayhue, Vaughn, Sak, Kuhn, Mast, Smoke, Postmus, Wahlfield, McGuire, Boelema, Hiddema, Morren, Vonk, Horton, Morgan, Buege, Chair Heacock – 19.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Parks Subcommittee

Commissioner Morren reported that the Parks Subcommittee has been meeting regularly and its next meeting is Tuesday, October 2nd.

Community Mental Health Funding Subcommittee

Commissioner Boelema stated that this subcommittee has also been meeting regularly and in the near future will meet with individuals from the State Department of Community Mental Health.

MISCELLANEOUS

Terrorist Attacks

Chair Heacock stated that after the terrorist attacks he has reflected on how fortunate Commissioners are to not only participate in but also directly have a role in government. He told Commissioners how much he appreciates their service. Vice Chair Morren was thanked for his leadership during Chair Heacock's absence during these trying days.

Fifth Third Bank

Commissioner Mayhue thanked Fifth Third Bank for creating a community advisory forum that will be aimed at low and moderate-income people and dealing with the community reinvestment act. He also thanked Commissioner Vaughn and others who helped put together the community advisory forum. This is a great opportunity for community individuals to try and help facilitate a growing bank.

Jury Commission

Commissioner Mayhue asked if the Jury Commission members could be invited to appear before the Legislative Committee to explain what is happening regarding fair representation on juries.

Urban Sprawl

Commissioner Horton thanked Chair Heacock for putting together the Urban Sprawl Subcommittee. He thanked Commissioner Postmus for his leadership on this subcommittee and staff Al Vanderberg and Erika Rosebrook for all of their work.

Senior Meals

Commissioner Vaughn thanked Commissioners for their contributions to the senior meals food pantry drive and announced that the total dollar amount raised was \$2,000.

American Flags

Commissioner Vonk asked if any thought has been given to put flag decals on the Sheriff patrol cars as a sign of patriotism and our support?

Security Task Force

Commissioner Kuhn reported that President Bush has created a homeland security office whose intent is to look at national security both in terms of agencies and health issues. The President of the National Association of Counties ("NACO") is creating a task force to work with that office for two reasons: 1) to remind the federal government that there is a county role in a number of these areas, and 2) to make sure that counties are better prepared for any number of threats including bioterrorism. The President of NACO has asked Commissioner Kuhn to serve on that task force.

American Flag

Commissioner Sak thanked Administrator Delabbio for pursuing his request that a large American flag be purchased and displayed in the near future.

Candlelight Vigil

Commissioner Sak also said that Vice Chair Morren did an excellent job representing the County

at the candlelight vigil.

Pulaski Day Parade

Commissioner Sak announced that the Pulaski Day Parade will be October 6th at 11:00 a.m. on the west side of Grand Rapids.

Courthouse Move

Commissioner Koorndyk thanked the staff and personnel, including the Clerk, that participated in the move to the new courthouse and acknowledged what a difficult task that must have been with all of the extra hours worked.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:22 a.m., Commissioner Boelema moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, October 11, 2001, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk. Motion carried.

Steven R. Heacock, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk