

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, October 9, 2003
Administration Building - Room 310

Meeting called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair David J. Morren.

Present: Commissioners Agee, Boelema, Bulkowski, Hiddema, Horton, Koorndyk, Kuipers, Mast, Mayhue, Morgan, Postmus, Rolls, Tanis, VanderMolen, Vaughn, Vonk, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morren – 19.

Absent: None.

Invocation: Commissioner Kuipers introduced Reverend George Heartwell who gave the invocation.
The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Note: All 11 individuals who spoke during Public Comment spoke on Commissioner Voorhees' asking of the Board of Commission to consider a resolution supporting the placement of an amendment to the State Constitution on the ballot defining marriage exclusively as the union between a man and a woman.

1. Mary Bonevelle, 2750 - 7th St. NW, Grand Rapids – (Against) Why is the county considering this when state law bans gay marriage? This is really about sending a message to the gay community, which will prevent individuals from moving here.
2. Andrea Kops, 414 Washington SE, Grand Rapids – (Against) A community activist who feels that many of the upcoming leaders are fiscally conservative but socially liberal. This issue furthers unwanted social conservatism, intolerance and imposition of religious beliefs. This pushes good citizens away.
3. Christine Yared, 2096 Shiloh Point Dr. SE, Kentwood – (Against) A local attorney doesn't understand why the county is not focusing on more important issues such as those that by law it is required to deal with and issues that add value to our community.
4. Alice St. Clair, 3663 Richmond NW, Walker – (Against) She is troubled to see this issue before the County Commission. She supports strong committed relationships, which should be recognized and celebrated.
5. Steve Bohlert, 106 Benjamin NE, Grand Rapids - (Against) A clergyman who believes in separation of church and state. Let's protect family values for all people and provide gay couples with the same rights as heterosexuals.

6. Kim Duursma, 650 Pleasant SE, Grand Rapids – (Against) Representing a teen gay support group asked about separation of church and state.
7. Rev. Nurya Love Parish, 6677 - 12 Mile Rd., Rockford – (Against) This issue is unneeded, immoral and unchristian.
8. Richa, 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids – (Against) People do not choose their sexual orientation or skin color. This is discriminatory.
9. Jeff Smith, 424 Lagrave Ave SE, Grand Rapids – (Against) Echoes previous comments made today. We need to be more tolerant and celebrate our differences.
10. Rev. Doug VanDoren, 1637 Cambridge Dr. SE, Grand Rapids – (Against) This issue is inappropriate and will only fuel hate and discrimination.
11. Steve Grimm, Cannon Township Supervisor, 6878 Belding Rd., Rockford – The real issue is preserving the sanctity of marriage.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

YMCA Update

Ron Nelson, President & CEO of YMCA West Michigan, gave an update on the new David D. Hunting YMCA to be built on Lake Michigan Dr. (between Winter & Summer Avenues). The groundbreaking for this \$26 million dollar project is October 22, 2003. Honorary co-chairs include President & Mrs. Gerald R. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Jay VanAndel and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Gainey. Once completed, the YMCA corporate offices will be relocated to this location.

Grand Rapids / Kent County Convention & Visitor's Bureau Update

Joe Tomaselli, Chair of the Convention & Visitor's Bureau, gave a progress report on the County's \$1 million dollar special marketing fund granted to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The marketing fund was allocated over a three-year period. The Fund enabled the convention bureau to provide much needed additional marketing in order to ensure a successful convention venue and overall tourism program. Steve Wilson, director of the Bureau, gave an update on how the money was spent and future plans. George Helmstedt, Vice President of Sales, reviewed the bookings. A public open house will be held at DeVos Place on December 20, 2003. (A copy of the DeVos Place Pre-opening Marketing Plan's Final Report is on file in the office of the County Clerk.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of September 25, 2003 Meeting
- b) Resolutions:

10-9-03-122 – COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPROPRIATION / COURT SERVICES

WHEREAS, this is a Special Project Fund program that receives the majority of its funding from the Community Corrections Office; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2003 budget for the Community Corrections Grant has an available budget balance of \$4,900 with an unanticipated payroll accrual of \$7,500 still outstanding; and

WHEREAS, \$2,600 is required to cover the remaining expenditures for the FY 2003 budget, bringing the total General Fund contribution to \$79,600; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Circuit Court Services budget in the General Fund to cover the remaining shortfall. This represents a change in the total General Fund appropriation from \$77,000 to \$79,600, and increases the total appropriation from \$295,610 to \$298,210.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners recommends the transfer of \$2,600 originally appropriated to Circuit Court Services in the General Fund to the 2003 Court Services – Community Corrections Grant in the Special Projects Fund.

10-9-03-123 – FY 03 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION / HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, there is an existing Agreement with the Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Network of West Michigan for Substance Abuse Prevention Services; and

WHEREAS, the contract has been amended to include Tobacco Retail Inspections and Tobacco Vendor Education activities; and

WHEREAS, the contract amendment increases the budget for Substance Abuse Prevention Services by \$38,248 for Tobacco Retailer Inspections and \$8,772 for Tobacco Vendor Education, for a total increase of \$47,020; and

WHEREAS, the retailer inspection activities include reimbursing law enforcement agencies to conduct compliance checks for tobacco sales to minors, the reimbursement rate is \$50 per compliance check.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Health Department's request to accept funding from the Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Network of West Michigan, and to appropriate an additional \$47,020 to the 2003 Health Department budget.

Motion by Commissioner Kuipers, supported by Commissioner Tanis, to approve the consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

10-9-03-124 - REORGANIZATION / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, at the request of the Information Technology Director and the County Administrator / Controller, a comprehensive study of the Information Technology Department (KCIT) was initiated to address management and organizational design issues as well as position classification and compensation matters; and

WHEREAS, the study examined: divisions between old and new technology, staff and resource allocation, efficiency of the organizational structure, internal communications, creation of a centralized documentation function, integration of information technology positions from the Friend of the Court Office into KCIT; and

WHEREAS, the organizational structure of KCIT and 47 MPP positions were studied over a 13-month period; and

WHEREAS, the report makes a number of recommendations, including a new organizational structure, the creation of ten new classifications, the deletion of five classifications, the reclassification of 18 positions to different pay ranges, and the addition of two new positions; and

WHEREAS, the results of the audit have been reviewed and approved by the County Administrator and KCIT management; and

WHEREAS, the initial annual net cost of reclassifying all affected positions is \$103,893. When positions reclassified to lower ranges are moved to those ranges in the future, there will be cost savings of \$182,267 which will result in a long-term saving of \$78,374. The additional cost for FY 2003 will be \$4,341.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reorganization of the Information Technology Department and the associated new classifications, reclassifications and reallocations, and classification deletions required for its implementation, detailed as follows:

From	Pay grade	To	Pay grade
Reclassification/Reallocation to Higher Grade			
Customer Service Technician I (1)	20	End-User Support*	22
Information Technology Manager (1)	29	Deputy Director for User Services*	30
Network Administrator (1)	26	Network Engineer*	27
Network Security Administrator (1)	24	Network Security Administrator	25
Personal Computer Manager** (1)	26	Team Leader	27
Programmer Analyst (1)	22	Senior Applications Support	24
Reclassification to Lower Grade			
Customer Service Technician II** (1)	21	Customer Service Technician	20
Database Specialist (1)	24	End-User Support*	22
Geo Info System Coord** (1)	26	GIS Analyst	24
Information Technology Manager** (1)	29	Team Leader	27
Information Technology Manager (1)	29	Operations Analyst*	24
Network Administrator (1)	26	Senior Systems Support	24
Network Administrator (1)	26	End-User Support*	22
Network Manager (1)	27	Senior Systems Support*	24
Systems Administrator (1)	26	End-User Support*	22
Team Leader/Project Manager (1)	27	Customer Service Coordinator	24
Team Leader/Project Manager (1)	27	Senior Applications Support	24
Team Leader/Project Manager (1)	27	Operations Analyst	24
Reclassification without a Change in Pay Grade			
Customer Service Coordinator (1)	22	Telecommunications Coordinator*	22
Customer Service Tech I (1)	20	Customer Service Tech	20
Network Analyst (1)	24	Senior Network Support*	24
Network Support (1)	22	Telecommunications Technician*	22
Personal Computer Specialist (1)	20	Customer Service Technician	20
Programmer Analyst (2)	22	Applications Support	22
Quality Assurance Director** (1)	31	Deputy Director for Technology*	31
Senior Applications Support (1)	24	Database Specialist	24
Systems Analyst (3)	24	Senior Systems Support	24
Systems Analyst (1)	24	Operations Analyst*	24
Systems Analyst (1)	24	Client/Server Programmer*	24
Team Leader/Project Manager (1)	27	Team Leader	27
New Positions			
Documentation Specialist (1)	24	No Recruitment until Board Approval	
Team Leader (1)	27	To be filled internally; no net increase in staffing level	
* denotes new classification			
** denotes classification to be deleted			

Motion by Commissioner Mast, supported by Commissioner Mayhue, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

10-9-03-125 – EASEMENT AGREEMENTS – NORTH KENT SEWER AUTHORITY / PUBLIC WORKS

WHEREAS, the North Kent Sewer Authority and its represented municipalities (Alpine Township, Cannon Township, City of Rockford, Courtland Township, and Plainfield Charter Township) have requested an easement over County property for the purpose of accessing, constructing, replacing, repairing and maintaining a discharge pipeline between their property and the Grand River; and

WHEREAS, said easement will cross over property owned by the County; and

WHEREAS, North Kent Sewer Authority and its represented municipalities will pay the County \$50,000 for the easement; and

WHEREAS, as additional consideration, the Authority and its represented municipalities will indemnify the County against any actions that might be brought by the Authority and municipalities up to the date on which the easement is executed, and actions for operations, maintenance and emergency work conducted under agreed-upon plans occurring up to the System transfer date of November 1, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the grant of two easements to the North Kent Sewer Authority and its represented municipalities for a discharge pipeline across County property, one to be granted to the Authority, and the other to be granted to the Authority's represented municipalities, and authorizes the County Administrator/Controller to negotiate the specific terms and conditions of the easement.

Motion by Commissioner VanderMolen, supported by Commissioner Postmus, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Voorhees, Vonk, Vaughn, VanderMolen, Tanis, Rolls, Postmus, Morgan, Mayhue, Mast, Kuipers, Koorndyk, Horton, Hiddema, Bulkowski, Boelema, Agee, Chair Morren - 19.

Nays: 0.

REPORTS

Justice Task Force

Commissioner Morgan announced that Commissioners received an update and status report of the Justice Task Force recommendations. Also, he thanked Commissioner Boelema for agreeing to chair a focus group on the mentally ill in the jail.

MISCELLANEOUS

Board & Committee Resumes

Commissioner Koorndyk reminded Legislative Committee's Appointments Subcommittee members that they will meet immediately following this meeting to begin the resume review for appointments to County boards and committees.

Chamber of Commerce Appointment

Chair Morren congratulated Commissioner Agee on his recent nomination to the Chamber of Commerce Board.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:55 a.m., Commissioner Kuipers moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, October 23, 2003, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Morgan. Motion carried.

David J. Morren, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk