

KENT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday, June 28, 2007
Administration Building - Room 310

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

Present: Commissioners Boelema, Bulkowski, Dillon, Hennessy, Hiddema, Klein, Mast, Mayhue, Morren, Parrish, Tanis, Vander Molen, Vaughn, Voorhees, Wahlfield, Chair Morgan - 16.

Absent: Agee, Rolls, Vonk - 3 (Excused).

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Commissioner Paul Mayhue, District 16, Grand Rapids – The mental health parity issue is bottled up in the state legislature. Mental health parity advocates strive to make mental health issues covered by insurance the same as medical health issues are. Currently, those with mental health issues pay higher co-payments and deductibles than those with medical illnesses. He announced a desire to put together a bipartisan group to support mental health parity.
2. Clean Water Coalition representatives, Kim Spring & Rachel Hood, discussed a joint project entitled “Clean Kent County.” The purpose of the project is to address failing septic systems and create solutions. Organizations involved in the project include: Clean Water Fund, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Michigan Environmental Council, along with involvement from the Grand Valley Water Resource Institute and other key professionals with vast knowledge of the science. Michigan is the only state that does not have a statewide sanitary code for counties. Studies show that approximately one million gallons per day of contaminated water leak out of failing septic systems in Kent alone. The project components to address this issue are: 1) Education - homeowners must be educated on maintenance of their system; 2) input from stakeholders, elected officials and experts on solutions to existing problems; and, 3) develop and implement solutions. The Coalition will issue a report on July 17, 2007, and invites Commissioners to meet with them either before or after.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

GFOA 2007 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Bob White, Fiscal Services Director, presented Chair Morgan with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association, for the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget. Kent County has received this award for the past five years.

Michigan Association of Counties

Tim McGuire, Executive Director of MAC, acknowledged that Kent County has always been very active in MAC, including helping the association develop its policy and conveying that policy to the legislature. MAC’s next conference will be August 19-21, 2007, in Kent County.

A matter of grave concern to counties is the legislature's suggestion that sentencing guideline laws be changed. He distributed a document on this subject explaining how the changes could affect counties. MAC is opposed because this may increase counties' economic burden. He also distributed the most recent MAC Legislative Update.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a) Approval of the Minutes of June 14, 2007 Meeting
- b) June 19, 2007 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
(Reports of Claims and Allowances)
- c) West Michigan Sports Commission – Board Chair Appointments
- d) Resolutions:

6-28-07-66 – FIRE PREVENTION FUND FY 2007 BUDGET AMENDMENT / FISCAL SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Fire Prevention Fund was established in 1942. The Fire Commission is permitted by MCLA 46.301 to oversee the purchase of fire apparatus and equipment for 17 participating townships on a rotating basis. The law permitting such activity limits the County's contribution to 50% of the cost of such equipment with the local units required to contribute the remaining 50%; and

WHEREAS, upon purchase, the fire apparatus and equipment becomes a capital asset of the County for a 20-year term. At the end of 20 years, the asset is transferred to the local unit; and

WHEREAS, in the past the local units have purchased accessories for their fire apparatus directly from the vendor; and

WHEREAS, according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) the accessories added to the fire apparatus are considered part of the County's capital asset and therefore need to be purchased directly by the County with the County being fully reimbursed by the local unit; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2007 budget for the Fire Prevention Fund, as adopted, does not include funding for accessories previously purchased directly by the local units; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$52,218 appropriation from estimated revenues is required to purchase additional accessories for the fire apparatus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$52,218 from estimated revenues to the FY 2007 Fire Prevention Fund.

6-28-07-67 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH AREA COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AND AUTHORIZE CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

WHEREAS, this is the second year Community Development has proposed using ACSET for the provision of weatherization services; and

WHEREAS, the contract, if approved, will provide for a home weatherization program as well as minor home repairs; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Area Community Service Employment and Training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-68 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, HUD requires entities seeking funds for homelessness activities to prepare a Continuum of Care strategy detailing the needs and proposed responses to those needs as the basis of any funding application; and

WHEREAS, since December 1, 1999, a staff position at The Salvation Army has been responsible for providing the coordination and consultation needed to develop and write the Continuum of Care strategy; and

WHEREAS, this process involves more than 70 support service agencies, shelter providers and interested local government agencies; and

WHEREAS, because the problems associated with homelessness would most likely increase in severity if funding from HUD was curtailed or lost, the Kent County Department of Human Services (KCDHS) agreed to act in a fiduciary capacity to collect the funds needed to cost-share a staff position at The Salvation Army to develop and write the Continuum of Care strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has annually approved funding for this position since December 1, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approve the Community Development Department's request to enter into a contract with the Kent County Department of Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-69 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, this would be the fourteenth year that the Community Development Department has utilized the services of Disability Advocates of Kent County and its predecessor; and

WHEREAS, this non-profit agency will develop and maintain a list of handicap-accessible properties, provide accessibility modification designs to participating residential properties, and assist participants in obtaining resources to fund accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and
WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Disability Advocates of Kent County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-70 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, the County is committed to fair housing in its service area; and

WHEREAS, Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids' (FHC) mission is to promote equal housing opportunity throughout the Grand Rapids metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, this is the twenty-fourth year that the Community Development department will use the services of FHC; and

WHEREAS, FHC is the sole provider of fair housing services in Kent County; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners enter into a contract with Fair Housing Center of Greater Grand Rapids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-71 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH HOME REPAIR SERVICES OF KENT COUNTY, INC. AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department has used the services of Home Repair Services of Kent County, Inc., (HRS) for the provision of an Emergency Minor Home Repair Service Program for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has recognized HRS, a not-for-profit agency, as a sole provider of these services; and WHEREAS, the new contract, if approved, will continue the Emergency Home Repair (\$50,000), Builder's Abundance (\$10,000), Accessibility Modifications (\$24,000) programs, and Volunteer Coordination (\$4,000), and Foreclosure Intervention (\$12,000); and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Home Repair Services of Kent County, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-72 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM, INC. AND
AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Community Development Department has used the services of Senior Meals Program, Inc., since 1993; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract provides funding for home-delivered meals to diabetic seniors and disabled persons residing in the 32 CDBG-participating communities within Kent County; and

WHEREAS, approximately 8,000 meals would be provided under this proposed contract at a cost not to exceed \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Senior Meals Program, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-73 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH YWCA WEST CENTRAL MICHIGAN AND
AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Kent County Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance of HOME Investment Partnership Program funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of the Annual Action Plan for FY2005-06 and FY2006-07; and

WHEREAS, the proposed contract, if approved, will be carried out in cooperation with the Michigan State Housing Development Authority with additional funding provided by a grant from Steelcase Corporation (\$150,000); and

WHEREAS, the contract provides funding for acquisition and rehabilitation of two residential duplexes to make available affordable housing for victims of domestic violence within Kent County, which is consistent with the grant requirements; and

WHEREAS, the contract provides that the units will remain as affordable rental units, as defined by HUD, for the term of 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with YWCA West Central Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

6-28-07-74 – APPROVAL OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL – BIG BROWER LAKE /
DRAIN COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Inland Lake Level Act of 1961 mandates that all dams and outlet structures within the County's jurisdiction be regularly inspected and maintained. In the case of Big Brower Lake, this included cleaning and removing obstructions from an outlet structure, and

brush from an outlet channel which allows high water to flow from the lake; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner has incurred a cost of \$2,400 for this activity; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Inland Lake Level Act of 1961, the cost shall be levied against the properties in the established special assessment district; and

WHEREAS, the Drain Commissioner held a public hearing on the assessment roll on June 19, 2007. Hearing all objections and public input regarding changes to the roll, the Drain Commissioner has approved and confirmed the roll.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with MCL §324.30714(3) the County Board of Commissioners approves the cost of the project and the special assessment roll, and authorizes the Drain Commissioner to levy the cost to the properties in the established special assessment district.

6-28-07-75 – MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS GRANT /
JOHN BALL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

WHEREAS, the John Ball Zoological Garden receives funding annually from Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA); and

WHEREAS, for FY 2007, MCACA awarded the John Ball Zoological Garden \$27,700; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding will be used for ongoing programs to enhance the visitor experiences and visitor education programs, expansion of promotional and marketing efforts, providing permanent and seasonal zoo graphics, and use of Michigan artists in zoo programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the appropriation of an additional \$27,700 from estimated revenues to the FY 2007 John Ball Zoological Garden budget in the General Fund.

(Commissioner Bulkowski requested that resolution 6-28-07-69 be removed from the consent agenda.)

Motion by Commissioner Hennessy, seconded by Commissioner Klein, to approve the remaining consent agenda items.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Parrish, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Morren, Mast, Vander Molen
Hennessy, Bulkowski, Mayhue, Vaughn, Dillon, Klein, Chair Morgan – 16.

Nays: 0.

6-28-07-69 – APPROVE CONTRACT WITH DISABILITY ADVOCATES OF KENT
COUNTY AND AUTHORIZE BOARD CHAIR TO SIGN /
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, this would be the fourteenth year that the Community Development Department has utilized the services of Disability Advocates of Kent County and its predecessor; and

WHEREAS, this non-profit agency will develop and maintain a list of handicap-accessible properties, provide accessibility modification designs to participating residential properties, and assist participants in obtaining resources to fund accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Corporate Counsel has reviewed and approved the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the contract period is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners contract with Disability Advocates of Kent County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Kent County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Hennessy, seconded by Commissioner Vander Molen, that the resolution be adopted.

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Tanis, Hiddema, Boelema, Voorhees, Morren, Mast, Vander Molen, Hennessy, Mayhue, Vaughn, Dillon, Klein, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: 0.

Abstain: Parrish, Bulkowski – 2.

RESOLUTIONS

6-28-07-76 – COLDWATER / THORNAPPLE RIVERS – CONFLUENCE PARKLAND ACQUISITION AND FUNDING APPROPRIATION / PARKS

WHEREAS, this land is at the confluence of the Coldwater and Thornapple Rivers. It provides direct access to both rivers with a total of 13,800 feet of river frontage; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners approved a grant application to the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for this acquisition on March 10, 2005. The grant application was approved by the State, and on August 24, 2006, the Board of Commissioners approved the Project Agreement for this acquisition; and

WHEREAS, the DNR Trust Fund Grant will cover 74% of the \$1,200,000 purchase price and Caledonia Township will contribute \$100,000 over four years toward the required local match; and

WHEREAS, purchase of this land is consistent with the goals of the 2003 Kent County Parks Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price is supported by the DNR appraisal process; and

WHEREAS, funds for the purchase are available in the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners Board authorizes the purchase of approximately 91 acres of land (PPN 41-23-35-400-015) at the confluence of the Coldwater River and the Thornapple River; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board appropriates \$888,000 in state grant funds and \$100,000 from Caledonia Township to the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund to cover a portion of the purchase price.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Parrish, Tanis, Boelema, Voorhees, Morren, Mast, Vander Molen, Hennessy, Bulkowski, Vaughn, Dillon, Klein, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: Hiddema, Mayhue - 2.

6-28-07-77 – FALLASBURG PARK – LAND ACQUISITION / PARKS

WHEREAS, since 2000, the County has been actively seeking to expand Fallasburg Park to the south by acquiring additional land along Covered Bridge Road. The wooded parcels in this area feature rolling hills, some of which provide potential vistas overlooking the Flat River and the covered bridge; and

WHEREAS, four other parcels have been acquired in this area in recent years, totaling 35 acres; and

WHEREAS, this purchase is consistent with the goals of the 2003 Kent County Parks Recreation and Natural Areas Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price of \$140,000 is supported by an appraisal; and

WHEREAS, funds for the purchase are available in the Parks Acquisition and Development Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the purchase approximately 19 acres of land (41-16-24-301-001, 41-16-23-400-006, and 41-16-24-100-004) adjacent to Fallasburg Park for \$140,000 plus closing costs.

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

Motion carried:

Yeas: Wahlfield, Parrish, Tanis, Boelema, Voorhees, Morren, Mast, Vander Molen, Hennessy, Bulkowski, Vaughn, Dillon, Klein, Chair Morgan – 14.

Nays: Hiddema, Mayhue - 2.

REPORTS

There were no reports.

MISCELLANEOUS

There were no miscellaneous comments.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:10 a.m., Commissioner Hennessy moved to adjourn, subject to the call of the Chair, and to Thursday, July 12, 2007, Room 310, County Administration Building, at 8:30 a.m., for an Official Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Vander Molen. Motion carried.

Roger C. Morgan, Chair

Mary Hollinrake, County Clerk