

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega (late), Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: - None. Also present were Terry Speiker, Acting County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the Agenda of the February 17, 2009, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Bennett moved approval of the Minutes of the February 10, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes — Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Group Residential Housing Services at Juel Fairbanks Chemical Dependency Services Inc.

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-066)

WHEREAS, In response to a Solicitation of Proposals, Juel Fairbanks has submitted a proposal for five Group Residential Housing (GRH) beds at 1754 Blair Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, targeted to homeless American Indian women with chemical dependency and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, This service would be a less expensive, “step down” service for women currently housed in more expensive residential treatment and supplemental service rate GRH beds; and

WHEREAS, The home would serve as a gradual transition from the more intensive residential treatment services for women who still require housing assistance and may attend less expensive outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, The service is designed to serve as a transition for women as they gain increasing stability on the way to living in their own homes; and

WHEREAS, The Chemical Dependency Service Team recommends this as an important addition to the service system; and

WHEREAS, It is expected that this effort will both improve the success of chemical dependency treatment efforts and save residential service dollars for both the County and state; and

WHEREAS, The Group Residential Housing program is state funded; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the agreement with Juel Fairbanks for five Group Residential Housing (GRH) beds at 1754 Blair Avenue, St. Paul, MN, to serve homeless American Indian women with chemical dependency and mental illness, for the period February 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the agreement.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Bennett – Appointment to the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-067)

WHEREAS, A vacancy exists on the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee from District 1; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment Process, press releases have been distributed seeking applicants; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Bennett has reviewed the applications and has made a recommendation; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of J. Keith Warner, 4173 Thornhill Lane, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127, to represent District 1 on the Ramsey County Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee, for a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending August 30, 2009.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Citizens Advisory Council – Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council officer appointments

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-068)

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 2 of the bylaws that govern the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council states that officers shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners and shall serve for a period of one year, with a maximum of four consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Council invited nominations for officers and recommends that Kay Wittgenstein be appointed to serve as Chair through February 2010; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Kay Wittgenstein, St. Paul/Ramsey County Public Health, 555 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101, to serve as Chair of the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council, effective February 17, 2009 through February 2010; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board hereby appoints Barb Doherty, Minnesota Network on Abuse in Later Life, P.O. Box 4565, Saint Paul, MN 55104, to serve as Vice-Chair of the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council, effective February 17, 2009 through February 2010.

*(Continued)*

PUBLIC WORKS – Highway 96/US Highway 10 – Future Amendments to Agreement PW2008-18

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-069)

WHEREAS, On September 9, 2008, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved Professional Services Agreement PW2008-18 (“Agreement”) with Bonestroo, Inc. (“Consultant”), in the amount of \$218,813.04, to provide Concept Development, Environmental Assessment (EA), and Preliminary Engineering (PE) services for construction of a grade separation at the intersection of Highway 96/US Highway 10 and related highway improvements (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, Construction funding for this project includes \$7M in federal funds; and

WHEREAS, The scope of work in the Agreement is well founded, and was based, in part, on reasonable assumptions with respect to specific work tasks and requirements, with the preferred alternative unknown until completion of the Concept Development phase, when County staff will be in a position to make appropriate refinements and modifications to the original work scope; and

WHEREAS, These revisions will help ensure that the Consultant’s documentation is comprehensive and adequately meets overall Project goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, Completion of the Consultant’s work in accordance with the Project schedule and, where possible, accelerating Project completion, is a key step toward advancing this project to construction; and

WHEREAS, Timely preparation and execution of modifications to the Project work plan can help maintain the Project schedule; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide the flexibility to address changes in Project needs and to maintain the Project schedule, the Public Works Department is requesting the County Board to authorize the County Manager to approve and sign amendments to the Agreement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and sign Amendments to Agreement PW2008-18, up to a total of \$100,000, with Bonestroo, Inc., 2335 Highway 36 West, Roseville, Minnesota 55113-3819, for the Highway 96/US Highway 10-related roadway improvements, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve the necessary budget adjustments, up to \$100,000, increasing estimated revenues and appropriations for each amendment; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a temporary cash loan, up to \$100,000, from the County General Fund to the Road and Bridge CIP fund until receipt of participating funds.

*(Continued)*

PUBLIC WORKS – Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange – Future Amendments to Agreement PW2008-19

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-070)

WHEREAS, On November 18, 2008, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved Professional Services Agreement PW2008-19 (“Agreement”) with SEH, Inc. (“Consultant”), in the amount of \$338,306, to provide Concept Development, Environmental Assessment (EA), and Preliminary Engineering (PE) services for reconstruction of the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange and related roadway improvements (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, This work is funded by a \$2,000,000 State grant from the 2008 Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, The scope of work in the Agreement is well founded, and was based, in part, on reasonable assumptions with respect to specific work tasks and requirements, with the preferred alternative unknown until completion of the Concept Development phase, when County staff will be in a position to make appropriate refinements and modifications to the original work scope; and

WHEREAS, These revisions will help ensure that the Consultant’s documentation is comprehensive and adequately meets overall Project goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, Completion of the Consultant’s work in accordance with the Project schedule and, where possible, accelerating Project completion, is a key step toward creating a clear picture of needed interchange/highway improvements and providing a well supported cost estimate which can be used as a basis to secure construction funding; and

WHEREAS, Timely preparation and execution of modifications to the Project work plan can help maintain the Project schedule; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide the flexibility to address changes in Project needs and to maintain the Project schedule, the Public Works Department is requesting the County Board to authorize the County Manager to approve and sign amendments to the Agreement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and sign Amendments to Agreement PW2008-19 with SEH, Inc., 3535 Vadnais Center Drive, St. Paul, Minnesota 55110-5196, for the Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange and related roadway improvements, up to a total of \$100,000, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve the necessary budget adjustments, up to \$100,000, increasing estimated revenues and appropriations for each amendment; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a temporary cash loan, up to \$100,000, from the County General Fund to the Road and Bridge CIP fund until receipt of participating funds.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Terms of collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 320 (Correctional Officer 3) for years 2009, 2010, and 2011

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-071)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the Teamsters Local 320 (Correctional Officer 3) engaged in collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations resulted in a tentative agreement on terms and conditions of employment for 2009, 2010 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Teamsters Local 320 (Correctional Officer 3) bargaining unit has ratified the agreement reached in negotiations; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the implementation of a three year agreement on terms and conditions of employment for the Teamsters Local 320 (Correctional Officer 3), effective January 1, 2009, for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 as follows:

WAGES

- 3% increase effective 1/1/09
- 2% increase effective 1/1/10
- 1.99% increase effective 3/1/11

All general salary increases will be effective the first full pay period following the effective date.

INSURANCE

MEDICAL INSURANCE

For the year 2009, employees shall continue to contribute \$21.00 per month for single coverage. For the year 2010, employees shall contribute \$26.00 per month for single coverage. For the year 2011, employees shall contribute \$31.00 per month for single coverage. The County and employees will share the premium increase in family coverage each year on the following basis:

- 2009 - 100% County/0% employee
- 2010 - 80% County/20% employee
- 2011 - 75% County/25% employee

Changes will be effective on January 1 of each year, except that for 2011, the County will pay the entire increase in premium for family medical coverage until March 1, 2011.

DENTAL INSURANCE

For the year 2009, employees will receive the full 5.6% premium decrease. For the year 2010, the employee will pay the total premium increase. For the year 2011, the County and the employee will split the increase or decrease in premium 50/50 for single or family coverage. All premium rates are effective January 1 of each year.

(Continued)

RETIREE INSURANCE

Early Retiree Contributions for Employees Retiring in 2009, 2010, 2011 – The County will continue to make the same contribution to medical insurance premiums for early retirees as for active employees, for employees retiring during the term of this contract. County contributions are subject to the years of service requirements previously established by the County Board.

Regular Retiree Minimum Payment For Employees Retiring During the Term of the Contract:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Single	\$30/mo	\$35/mo	\$35/mo
Family	\$70/mo	\$80/mo	\$80/mo

All changes effective January 1 each year of contract.

HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN

Effective the first full pay period in 2011, for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 1/1/06 and for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 7/1/92 who opted into the HCSP:

- The County will contribute \$520 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee’s 5 year anniversary date.
- The County will contribute \$624 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee’s 10 year anniversary date.
- The County will contribute \$728 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee’s 15 year anniversary date.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Effective the first full pay period following ratification of the agreement by the County Board, the employer shall provide a matching contribution of up to \$10.00 per month, per contributing employee. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/10, the employer will increase its matching contribution to deferred compensation to \$15.00 per month, per contributing employee. All contributions will be pro-rated for part-time employees.

EDUCATION FUND

Effective 1/1/10, increase education fund from \$500 to \$550 per year, per employee; change accumulation period from two years to three years; and increase maximum accumulation from \$1,000 to \$1,500 total.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

The annual clothing allowance will increase from the 2008 allowance of \$680, in each of the three years of the agreement, as follows: 2009 - \$690; 2010 - \$700; 2011 - \$710.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

The agreement reached also includes minor modifications and clarifications of other terms and conditions.

and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager, as representatives of the County, to approve and sign the agreement incorporating these terms.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Terms of collective bargaining agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 49, for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-072)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 49 engaged in collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations resulted in a tentative agreement on terms and conditions of employment for 2009, 2010 and 2011; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the implementation of a three year agreement on terms and conditions of employment for the International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 49, effective January 1, 2009, for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 as follows:

WAGES

3% increase effective 1/1/09

2% increase effective 1/1/10

1.99% increase effective 3/1/11

(All general salary increases will be effective the first full pay period following the effective date.)

Effective 1/1/11, the additional rate for employees operating a power shovel or crawler hoe shall increase from \$.50 to \$.75 for each hour worked, over the Heavy Equipment Operator 2 hourly rate.

Effective 1/1/11, the additional rate for employees driving a tractor trailer combination shall increase from \$.50 to \$.75 for each hour worked, over the Heavy Equipment Operator 1 hourly rate.

DIFFERENTIAL PAY

Effective 1/1/09 the weekend shift differential will increase from \$.25 to \$.40 per hour for Saturday, and from \$.30 to \$.45 per hour for Sunday.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Single coverage Employee Pays	\$21/mo	\$26/mo	\$31/mo
Split of Premium Increase For Family	100% employer 0% employee	80% employer 20% employee	75% employer 25% employee

Changes will be effective on January 1 of each year, except that for 2011, the County will pay the entire increase in premium for family medical coverage until March 1, 2011.

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DENTAL INSURANCE

For the year 2009, employees will receive the full 5.6% premium decrease. For the year 2010, the employee will pay the total premium increase. For the year 2011, the County and the employee will split the increase or decrease in premium 50/50 for single or family coverage. All premium rates are effective January 1 of each year.

RETIREE INSURANCE

Early Retiree Contributions for Employees Retiring in 2009, 2010, 2011 – The County will continue to make the same contribution to medical insurance premiums for early retirees as for active employees, for employees retiring during the term of this contract. County contributions are subject to the years of service requirements previously established by the County Board.

Regular Retiree Minimum Payment For Employees Retiring During the Term of the Contract:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Single	\$30/mo	\$35/mo	\$35/mo
Family	\$70/mo	\$80/mo	\$80/mo

All changes effective January 1 each year of contract.

HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN

Effective the first full pay period in 2011, for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 1/1/06 and for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 7/1/92 who opted into the HCSP:

- The County will contribute \$520 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 5 year anniversary date.
- The County will contribute \$624 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 10 year anniversary date.
- The County will contribute \$728 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 15 year anniversary date.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Effective 7/1/09, Ramsey County will increase its matching contribution to deferred compensation from \$15.00 per month to \$20.00 per month, per contributing employee (pro-rated for part-time employees).

EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

Effective 1/1/09, increase employee education allowance from \$1,000 to \$1,300 per year for tuition and required books.

TOOL ALLOWANCE

Effective 1/1/09, increase Heavy Equipment Mechanic and Equipment Service Worker annual tool allowance from \$300 to \$350, and effective 1/1/11, increase to \$400 annually.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The agreement reached provides for miscellaneous language changes to the Recognition, Work Schedules and Sick Leave articles; and the addition of a new article: General Provisions, relating to union bulletin boards and personnel files.

*(Continued)*

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with the International Union of Operating Engineers - Local 49 and authorizes the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager, as representatives of the County, to approve and sign the agreement incorporating these terms.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – Contract for Qualitative Evaluation of the Anukey Partnership

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-073)

WHEREAS, In 2002, Ramsey County evaluated existing programs by race and ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, The findings showed significant employment outcome disparities for American Indian MFIP participants; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, in response to the racial disparities found in the MFIP employment services outcomes, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved funding for community based planning with key leaders in the American Indian Community to make recommendations on how to work effectively with this population; and

WHEREAS, In October 2003, Ramsey County partnered with the American Indian Policy Center (“AIPC”) to begin the community planning process in designing a service delivery model that would work for the American Indian population; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, as a result of this community planning process, the AIPC and the American Indian community recommended that Ramsey County contract with the American Indian Family Center (“AIFC”) to serve as the lead/coordinating agency to connect American Indian community-based services to the MFIP service system. The County concurred with the recommendation; and

WHEREAS, With the assistance of the AIFC, a culturally specific service model was established to focus on building trust of government, and reducing the racial disparities in MFIP outcomes; and

WHEREAS, This unique initiative, initially established by Ramsey County’s Community Human Services and Workforce Solutions in partnership with the AIPC, the AIFC, and the American Indian community, is now known as the Anukey (Ojibwe for “work”) Partnership (“Partnership”); and

WHEREAS, Now in its fifth year of operation, the Partnership is recommending the addition of a qualitative component to the ongoing quantitative evaluation that is being conducted by the Community Human Services’ Office of Performance Measure and Evaluation; and

WHEREAS, The recommended qualitative evaluation (“Evaluation”) will help provide a more thorough understanding of the role that the Partnership plays in the lives of American Indians on MFIP, their families, and the American Indian community as a whole; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The collection and interpretation of the rich and nuanced information gathered when using qualitative data collection methods is enhanced when the person or persons conducting the evaluation are knowledgeable of both the cultural community and the institutional setting of the program being evaluated; and

WHEREAS, It is critical that the qualitative evaluation of the Partnership is based on honest input from the American Indian Community; the Partnership agreed that this requires the involvement of a trusted member of the American Indian Community, who is an experienced evaluator and who is also familiar with the Partnership; and

WHEREAS, For the reasons stated above, the Partnership members are recommending that the County enter into an agreement with John Poupart, President of the American Indian Policy Center (“AIPC”), to plan and implement the Evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poupart’s past experience includes work as an Administrator at the Minnesota Department of Corrections and Ombudsman for Corrections. He was educated at Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government. He is recognized and respected by American Indian community members and leaders for his long history of consulting and collaborating with the government sector to address social issues of American Indians; and

WHEREAS, As president of the AIPC, John Poupart has conducted evaluations for several non-profit agencies that serve American Indians in the Twin Cities metro area, and collaborated with the University of Minnesota, Epidemiology and Community Health Division and the Council on Crime and Justice’s Racial Disparities Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Poupart and a research assistant will conduct talking circles and interviews with MFIP participants and other key stakeholders. In addition, he will subcontract with a senior research scientist from the Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics, who will be responsible for data analysis and consultation; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with the AIPC to complete the Evaluation; and

WHEREAS, A County Board workshop is scheduled for May 12, 2009, to provide an update on the Partnership, as well as the results of the quantitative and qualitative evaluations; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with the American Indian Policy Center, 1463 Hewitt Avenue, Saint Paul 55104, in the sum of \$14,950, for a qualitative evaluation of the Anukey Partnership; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute the agreement with the American Indian Policy Center, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute any amendments to the agreement with the American Indian Policy Center for time extensions, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make any budget adjustments.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly report of contracts and final payments and grant submissions that were approved during the month of December 2008

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-074)

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 3.40.37 authorizes the County Manager to approve contracts, within certain limits; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.50a requires a monthly report on all contracts and final payments approved by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.39d requires the County Manager to report grant submissions, amendments, renewals, and acceptances along with the monthly contract report; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report of Contracts and Final Payments and Grants for the month of December 2008.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to Grants Evaluation and Ranking System Committee (GEARS)

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough.

Commissioner Rettman said she has been serving as an alternate on this Committee, and requested that she continue in this role.

A friendly amendment was accepted that the draft resolution be amended to add Commissioner Rettman as the alternate on the GEARS Committee.

Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-075)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is working with other metropolitan counties to implement the Minnesota Transportation Bill; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Powers Agreement between the counties that chose to participate established the Grants Evaluation and Ranking System (GEARS) committee; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners must appoint one commissioner to the GEARS committee; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Commissioner Toni Carter as representative, and Commissioner Janice Rettman as alternate, to represent Ramsey County on the Grant Evaluation and Ranking System (GEARS) committee.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – (Waive the) Second Reading of the Proposed 2009 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-076)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter states that every proposed Ordinance shall receive two readings: first, at the time it is presented, and second, at the time of the Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, The full reading of the proposed Ordinance may be waived if a copy of the proposed Ordinance is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction; and

WHEREAS, The first reading of the proposed 2009 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance was waived on January 27, 2009, when the item was first presented; and

WHEREAS, The second reading of the proposed Ordinance may also be waived because the County Board received a full copy of the Ordinance prior to its introduction; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby waives the second reading of the proposed 2009 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – (Waive the) Second Reading of the Proposed 2009 Library Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Commissioner Bennett introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-077)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter states that every proposed Ordinance shall receive two readings: first, at the time it is presented, and second, at the time of the Public Hearing; and

WHEREAS, The full reading of the proposed Ordinance may be waived if a copy of the proposed Ordinance is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction; and

WHEREAS, The first reading of the proposed 2009 Library Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance was waived on January 27, 2009, when the item was first presented; and

WHEREAS, The second reading of the proposed Ordinance may also be waived because the County Board received a full copy of the Ordinance prior to its introduction; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby waives the second reading of the proposed 2009 Library Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance.

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COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Public Hearing on the Proposed 2009 Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Chair Parker opened the Public Hearing and called three times seeking public testimony. Hearing no requests to address the Commissioners, Chair Parker declared the Public Hearing closed.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Public Hearing on the Proposed 2009 Library Capital Improvement Program Bond Ordinance

Chair Parker opened the Public Hearing and called three times seeking public testimony. Hearing no requests to address the Commissioners, Chair Parker declared the Public Hearing closed.

(Commissioner Ortega arrived at this point of the meeting.)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said Ramsey County had a number of hearings on bonding requests put forward. Central Corridor had hearings in both houses; Rush Line in the Senate; High Speed Rail in both houses; and the Union Depot would have a hearing today. I-94 has yet to be heard.

Over the next couple of weeks, hearings on the Governor's proposed budget will take place around the State and in the metro area.

Commissioner Bennett said there is news that the State could receive \$4 billion as part of the stimulus package, which would directly affect the Governor's budget. Would a new budget be prepared, and if so, would the Governor wait until they hear how the stimulus package would fit in?

Mr. Riley said that they will wait until the February forecast is out, which is due March 3. After that, the Governor has a short period of time to amend his previous budget. He will do so according to the State's stimulus package.

Commissioner Bennett asked if hearings would be held on the budget as it stands now. Mr. Riley responded affirmatively.

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said departments have been asked to provide an assessment for the Board about what all of these changes might mean as a result of the stimulus package and the Governor's budget. It is expected that once the next State revenue forecast comes out, they will then have had the opportunity to assess the stimulus package and will probably fold those comments and ideas in. Staff met with Department Heads last Thursday to talk about how to begin to assess what we think will be a real budget because they believe the budget will change substantially. There is approximately \$300-\$500 million that might change in terms of what the Governor needs to do for health care reductions, based on the stimulus package. There is also a lot of other money in there to be accounted for. The Governor already had about \$1 million in his original proposal based on the stimulus package. Now they have to try to put that together with what may be another \$1.5 billion for additional shortfalls. Staff is working on how to get that information into the County Board's budget discussions as well as staff's internal process.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the County will receive stimulus money for highways and roads as part of the \$4 billion.

Ms. Speiker said last Friday, Tim Mayasich, Director, Regional Railroad Authority, met with some of his colleagues to talk about how that projected money would come into the State and the dollar amounts. The \$4 billion does include infrastructure projects. Thursday, staff are meeting with Bill Harper, to begin to discuss how his office and Representative McCollum's office sees that money coming forward, and to talk about how that might work with us.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Bennett said he assumes this is money that has been signed but not appropriated yet, and that there might be changes there, too. Ms. Speiker said she did not have the answer to that.

Commissioner Bennett said if it has to go back through for the appropriations portion, a lot can change.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the question about the appropriations side of this is a good question. She believes targeted case management will be included in the bill through June. The targeted case management is mostly for children in need of protection, and for people with mental and developmental disabilities and for seniors. Her understanding of why this is just an extension is because that will be dealt with in the appropriations process rather than ultimately in the stimulus because it is not bricks and mortar. It is basically a repeal of that portion of the Deficit Reduction Act passed in 2005. She wanted to make sure that nothing had changed because that is millions to Ramsey County, if in fact, the rules had been enacted in March.

Mr. Riley said that is correct. It is extended only until June so that still has to be dealt with long-term. After June, we are back in the same situation, and our federal lobbyists are being directed to work on that. The stimulus money is already appropriated, and once the President signs the bill today, after seven days, the money will begin to go “out the door”. This money is appropriated in the stimulus package.

Commissioner Bennett said if that money is out the door, and as we have heard, in 90 days they want to get the money into action -- that puts it into the last six months of the federal biennium budget ending in October; the State's budget ends in July -- most of that money could be spent this year, and that would not help the Governor's next two-year budget.

Mr. Riley said there is a little misunderstanding on how the money would go out the door. He understands now that some of the transit money might have a longer period of time to spend – up to the year 2010 before it all has to be spent. They understand that some transit projects often take longer to appropriate money. It is not certain yet whether there are different timelines in this bill for different things because the State has to determine what those projects are as well.

Commissioner Bennett said he is thinking of money for roads and if they start the contracts and award them now, that fits into the State.

Mr. Riley said the State has identified where they get the money out the door, but, for the \$4 billion coming to the State, a lot of it won't help the State's bottom line because transportation dollars are a separate pot of money. It will help the State in the long-run because other projects are being taken off their table that they were appropriating money for but it isn't counted as part of the State's deficit, so the best case scenario, it might peel off two billion off the deficit, but it may not be that much.

Commissioner Bennett said that if they start spending it now on past projects, it won't help next year's two-year State budget. It is correct that it will help our infrastructure for projects promised us in 2004, which are now out to 2030.

Mr. Riley said he could not speak for Public Works, but he has heard that a lot of the projects aren't in our area and are in the stimulus bill, but it won't free-up our projects because they'll move up.

Commissioner Bennett said last week, for this \$299 million in the stimulus package for the metro area, the east metro gets \$59 million, and the west metro area gets \$229 million.

Commissioner Rettman referenced a newspaper article that the east metro would benefit greatly even though the majority may go to the west metro area – several of our projects would be moved up, and they have been identified both in MN/Dot and the State, so in that way it does assist us. She asked staff to round up the information because there are mixed messages out there. She is okay if the stimulus moves up our projects and we are not backed-off again by other projects. She would like that information provided to all the Commissioners.

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Mr. Riley said he and Ms. Speiker are working on that information.

Ms. Speiker said Tim Mayasich, Regional Railroad Authority, and Ken Haider, Public Works, have been working on a preliminary listing, which just needs to be formalized.

Commissioner Rettman said three different people might have three different lists. There are projects that have been waiting for a long time. The stimulus money coming this way may need to be adjusted.

Mr. Riley said staff hopes to create a list for all the projects, as much as can be figured out for what the stimulus does, and to analyze what the Governor's proposals do to the County.

Commissioner Rettman said she and Commissioner Ortega attended the Joint Property Tax Study meeting on Friday, where discussion was held that we need to wait for the Governor's rendition of the budget because of the misunderstanding on the available information. It will dramatically change, especially in light of human services and health service programs. A commitment was made to get the information for everyone in regard to the final budget immediately in order to act.

Commissioner Ortega said the discussion was that in order to close the \$5-6 billion State deficit, and if there was no revenue raised, the cuts would be drastic. With the stimulus package, is there a sense of how much revenue – the administration has various options to raise revenues, including sales tax on clothing, etc., which are very regressive to many of us, and yet there are cuts to business, etc. – will that help in this situation? Is there anything in the grapevine from the State? We need to be able to take a position and advocate for whether might be revenues, what kind of revenues.

Mr. Riley said Finance Commissioner Tom Hanson is the point person for the Governor. He has been working with all the federal legislators trying to ascertain what the number is that the State can count on to help close their budget hole. Until staff has seen that analysis, they won't know what that is. Everything staff has looked at doesn't indicate that it changes much from what the Governor had first proposed. There may be a little more revenue, but it may not be a large amount. The Governor is going to have to change his budget proposal just because of the stimulus, especially after whatever the new forecast is to be.

Commissioner Ortega said regardless of the stimulus money, raising revenues is an option. Otherwise, we would have huge cuts. Mr. Riley said the alternate is that the Governor would have to propose deeper and more broad-based cuts.

Commissioner Ortega said that would go into health and human services. Mr. Riley said it might possibly be more local government aid cuts proposed by the Governor. That doesn't mean the legislature would agree with that, but it will certainly be on the table.

Commissioner Ortega said Ramsey County will need to keep an eye on the revenue options; there have been 10-14 options mentioned. It may not impact the county government budgets, but sales tax on clothing and food would have a huge impact on poor people and middle class people versus some other option.

Mr. Riley agreed. The Governor has stated that he won't raise revenue but with the new realities, he may have to consider that. The Governor also stated that if he does propose any revenue-raisers that they would be off-set by revenue cuts in other areas. He has already proposed a corporate income tax cut, but did not propose any revenue-raisers in lieu of that. If a sales tax is proposed, the Governor would want an equal cut. An article over the weekend spoke of the Governor's study commission, which recommended the sales tax be increased and corporate tax be cut, though he says he is vehemently opposed to sales tax increases.

Commissioner McDonough said there is a potential \$4 billion out of the stimulus package coming in. The transportation dollars were discussed as not necessarily helping the budget but certainly helping in other areas. A lot of those stimulus dollars have a MOE (Memorandum of Understanding) attached that the Governor already proposed cutting in health care and in human

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services. Those have to be restored cuts to get the federal dollars so it doesn't actually help the budget as much as you would think -- \$4 billion coming would help the \$4 billion deficit because in a lot of the areas, the Governor has to restore some of his proposed cuts just to get the stimulus dollars. Mr. Riley said that is correct.

Commissioner Ortega said it is a wash.

Commissioner McDonough said it creates some problems in other parts of the budget because the Governor is restoring some of the proposed cuts to get the federal dollars and then he either has to go to a revenue source or make those cuts somewhere else.

Ms. Speiker said the Legislators were hoping to hear from county government as they've heard from the cities about the reductions that have already been made. One of the things staff are doing is sharing with the members of the Ramsey County Delegation the materials shared on Friday with all the County staff in a letter from County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt, which talks about what the County is already doing to try to deal with the reduction in County Program Aid, the only thing right now for the County that is firm. The intent was to have people understand the types of administrative choices that have been made. That will be shared with the Legislators along with the material already shared with them on the effects on food, shelter and jobs that have happened in Ramsey County, just as a result of the economy. These changes create pain for the people living within the County.

Mr. Riley said Commissioner Carter testified at a hearing yesterday on Building Lives.

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, said with the stimulus plan, as far as the health care and some of the language that would not allow supplantation, or carries an MOE, we can't contract eligibility from where it is but we can change the benefits; in other words, what is covered under the plan. Single adults don't come in under Medicaid so that coverage can be dropped. It is not as "rigid" or onerous for the State as far as having to maintain spending as it looked like at first blush. However, how that plays out in the House and Senate, and what they choose to do with that is another thing. That is where some of the battles will be over health care. Another big thing for counties is the child support cuts. Those are restored -- \$8 million a year statewide, which because of the way it was matched, left a \$16 million hole for counties. It appears that that provides funding from October 2008 through October 2010. Targeted case management is another area of funding that the counties have used extensively to provide services for child welfare and adult mental health, etc., extends the moratorium in the stimulus package to about June 2009. It was set to expire in March. With that extension, it gives time to work out some language on targeted case management in some of the other appropriation bills that will be processed.

Commissioner McDonough recalled that for the child protection money, we had to increase our local dollars by \$750,000 in the County Attorney's budget to continue to receive the federal dollars. Would that be a direct affect on us if that is restored? Ms. Brewington said she would have to find out.

Ms. Brewington said an item Ramsey County had put forward was the concern about continuing health care for dislocated workers. Possible ideas included subsidizing the COBRA payments, which can be quite high, especially for families on unemployment. Something contained in the stimulus plan is that 65% of the premium could be paid by some funding that is provided for a bridge to help people with their COBRA premiums while they are unemployed.

Commissioner Bennett said it was his understanding that it was an extension of the length of time individuals could have COBRA. Is this a subsidy to help them afford COBRA? Ms. Brewington said she had just read about that.

Commissioner Bennett said one of the complaints has been that it is too expensive so the extension would be no good if you can't buy it.

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Commissioner Rettman referred to Commissioner McDonough's question, and said the answer should also include whether we can replenish the \$750,000 and what does that do for the base for 2010/2011. Ms. Brewington acknowledged that as part of the information to be provided.

Commissioner Rettman said she wanted to make sure we are talking about the same thing. The stimulus is only good for a couple years. As we are talking about these things, there needs to be some structural reality factored in so we are not anticipating that the stimulus is going to be a forever thing – it is one-time and to be done quickly. There will still be things to be fixed.

Mr. Riley said even with the State's shortfall, there is probably going to be half-cuts/half-revenue enhances in the best case scenario. We have to structurally anticipate that we will have to make some changes here to meet the final product. We would obviously fight that all the way to try to restore everything, but the reality is there will likely be some half and half or somewhere in that neighborhood.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the reality is that Ramsey County saw the handwriting on the wall last June and began making changes here already. Ramsey County is probably in better shape than some other counties because we do look forward and try to anticipate what is going to happen so the outcome is not so dramatic. We have talked many times about the stimulus package and the appropriations, and have been very clear that they are not one and the same. Even the targeted case management – they put the extension in but that doesn't have money associated with it; it doesn't do anything but give us the extension to deal with it in the appropriations process. We have a lot of work to do.

The stimulus package was never meant to be for ongoing operations, and this Board has not looked at it that way. How will it affect the State budget, how will it ultimately affect us, and what needs to be done at the State level, at the federal level for stimulus, and at the federal level for appropriations, which is where the largest amount of work is for the County? Looking at the services that need to be provided, the basic infrastructure, especially when talking about public health, public safety infrastructure in place – how do we make sure to provide the best services – look at collaborations, at different ways of doing our work, but still maintain that safety net. That is what we are expected to do – so how do we do that in the most cost-effective way possible. This Board is talking about how to make sure we continue that process in Ramsey County. It is not something new to us; that is the way we run our operation. In talking about the stimulus package, it must not be confused with the appropriations and the work we need to do.

Commissioner Bennett said we have to be careful which year of whose budget this stimulus money is going to go into. Ramsey County is just starting on the two-year budget for 2010/2011. The State's two-year budget starts July 2009, and the federal budget runs October to October. If all that stimulus money is used up between now and October for the feds and the State gets some of it, how do they use it?

Commissioner Ortega said as Commissioner Reinhardt explained, the stimulus is not to be part of the budget. The hope is that the money is gone in 30 days.

Commissioner Bennett said that doesn't help Ramsey County's budget.

Commissioner Ortega said that is why they are two separate things.

Chair Parker said that is the way the State will be handling it. Met Council Chair Peter Bell has said he was hoping to use that stimulus money to fill the hole in his operating deficit for transit. She thanked staff for all the work they have been doing on behalf of Ramsey County.

## OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt:

- Things will continue being busy at the Capitol as the deadlines come closer. She testified on Rush Line at the Senate, where Commissioner McDonough was also present on High Speed Rail.

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- She participated in an interview with MPR (Minnesota Public Radio) on the recycling of electronic waste. She visited Asset Recovery in St. Paul and went through their entire operation. Once materials are collected, we need to make sure the waste is processed and recycled correctly. Minnesota has the infrastructure to do this.
- Reported on a meeting of the St. Paul Children's Collaborative where they discussed funding for the three collaborative efforts we are committed to. They are talking about systems change, and are on the right path, but it is not easy when talking about true systems change.

Commissioner Rettman:

- Talked about the groundwater protection plan that Tom Petersen, Ramsey Conservation District, and others had put together. The summary of the report is out now, and the entire report is available. The report will be presented at the Ramsey County League of Local Governments meeting on Thursday, February 26. There are some monetary implications, but this is mainly dealing with protection of the aquifers. All the governmental entities will receive a summary of the report to take any stance they wish to.

Commissioner Bennett:

- Reported on the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (MESB) meeting, where Kathleen Gaylord from Dakota County was sworn in as the new president; he chairs the MESB Finance Committee.
- Anyone wishing to attend the FEMA meeting on Friday, March 6, needs to notify the committee administrator of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Justice and Public Safety Committee. This will be held at the NACo headquarters.
- He will be attending the advisory meeting for the regional director of FEMA on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Chicago.

Commissioner Carter:

- Said items are moving forward at the Capitol. Last week during the Legislative Update, there was a lot of discussion about the health and human services impact, which continued today. She testified before Senator Berglin's Committee and Health and Human Services last week. That and other testimony provided through AMC and MICA could be provided. There were over 100 people testifying over a period of a couple days. Hopefully, that will mean that much in the Governor's recommendation will change. The legislature will have quite a bit to say.
- Building Lives testimony at the Capitol yesterday went well.
- Attended the bylaws and membership committee meeting and the policy council meeting of the CAPRW (Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties).
- Reported she and Commissioner Ortega attended the Central Corridor Management Committee meeting. The key concern and discussion were "betterments" for the St. Paul portion of the line – what the street design looks like, what kind of pavement, what kind of identifying markers, etc., are put in. There is a request, and there appears to be consensus that the Met Council look at describing some of the "betterments" as potential project additions, specifically looking at the contingency and when it might become available and how some of those items might be built in as items to be funded by contingency, as well as the priority for additional stations on University Avenue.
- In addition to testimony at the Capitol, there was a rally regarding the Second Chance Act and the use of the Act to provide for re-entry for adults and juvenile offenders. Commissioner McDonough had spoken at the End Violence Against Women rally also held on the Capitol steps.

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- Talked about the three projects that have been funded through the Children’s Collaborative. This is a systems change effort, involving not only these projects grant funded by the Children’s Collaborative, but a close relationship between the Children’s Collaborative Board and the projects in the community to ensure that the work that is being done meets the need seen in conjunction not only with those projects but also the entire community coming together.
- Following the Board Workshop on Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative presented by Community Corrections last week, there was a gathering to recognize the committee chair, who along with the Department, had so much to do with the progress heard there.

**BOARD CHAIR UPDATE**

Chair Parker:

- Reported that Joe Mansky, Ramsey County Elections Manager, will speak on election reform and events of the past election results at 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 23, at an open meeting of the New Brighton League of Women Voters, at New Brighton City Hall.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Parker declared the meeting adjourned.

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board