

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: - None. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, 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 March 17, 2009, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Metropolitan Medical Response System Regional Planner

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-098)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County supports efforts to improve the emergency preparedness of Ramsey County residents; and

WHEREAS, Public Health is a core member of the Metropolitan Medical Response System, an integration of the metro health and medical systems into a coordinated initial response to a large scale health/medical event caused by any hazard; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Medical Response System has need for a Program Analyst to coordinate the development and implementation of the program in accordance with its Charter; and

WHEREAS, Public Health shall hire and direct the work of a Program Analyst, a regional position accountable to the Metropolitan Medical Response System; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes an increase of 1.0 FTE Program Analyst, starred position, in the Public Health complement, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept \$320,000 in funding from City of Minneapolis for the Program Analyst position and related expenses, and authorizes the County Manager to execute a contract with City of Minneapolis, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept amended contract funds as they become available; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary adjustments to the 2009 Public Health Budget to fund this position and related operating costs.

PUBLIC WORKS – New Minnesota Department of Transportation Partnership Contract for Technical Services

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-099)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) has initiated a Blanket Partnership Contract program for providing technical services to local agencies; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County uses Mn/DOT testing services for many of the materials used on construction projects as these testing and technical services are in most cases required by specifications to be performed by certified personnel with certified equipment; and

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT provides these services at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, as well as many other agencies, has utilized Mn/DOT for many years to provide the service; and

WHEREAS, On October 21, 2003, via Resolution 2003-328, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a Partnership Contract between Mn/DOT and Ramsey County for material testing and technical services; and

WHEREAS, The Contract expired November 5, 2008, five years after its effective date; and

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT has prepared a new Partnership Contract, Mn/DOT Agreement No. 94116, which will expire five years from its effective date, to continue these services; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the State of Minnesota and County of Ramsey Master Partnership Contract, Mn/DOT Agreement No. 94116; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute said Agreement on behalf of Ramsey County.

PUBLIC WORKS – Agreement with Board of Water Commissioners to the City of St. Paul

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

Commissioner Rettman asked if there is any downside in delegating this authority, where the County Board would not have any oversight.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, responded that she knows of no downside to this agreement, and that it would aid in progressing projects more quickly. There are no risks in this agreement in the sense of County oversight.

Commissioner Rettman said the County already has a cost sharing policy with municipalities and others. Where does this agreement fit in with that?

(Continued)

Ms. Kleinschmidt said it is her understanding that there is not a change in the policy around the cost share.

Ken Haider, Director, Public Works, said the cost participation policy remains intact. The intention of this agreement is to provide a mechanism for the Water Utility to pay the County. The Public Works Department has researched this and found that the County has never paid the City, even though this gives the ability to do that; this is the County receiving money.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-100)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Public Works and the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul desire that the Board of Water Commissioners perform water system repair work in conjunction with County paving projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Typically this work would be performed by the County's contractor and funded by the Board of Water Commissioners via cooperative agreements between the County and the Board of Water Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, In most cases this work would be incorporated into the construction contract as a bid item at the time the contract is let. Other times the work is added in the form of a supplemental agreement to the construction contract; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Public Works Department is requesting that the County Engineer be authorized to approve and execute Cooperative Cost Share Understandings on behalf of Ramsey County as outlined in the Agreement between Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County to expedite the coordination of water system repair work with County paving projects; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works Department will continue to utilize the authorities given through the Administrative Code and as authorized by County Board Resolutions when executing contract documents and necessary budget adjustments; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Agreement between Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County authorizing the County Engineer to approve and execute Cooperative Cost Share Understandings on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement between Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chief Clerk to amend Section 4.63.40 of the Ramsey County Administrative Code to include this delegation.

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY – Central Corridor Final Design Municipal Consent

Commissioner Ortega said the City of St. Paul is in the midst of discussions with the Lower Town community. At the Central Corridor Management Committee meeting last Wednesday, there was some progress, but he did not know the status at this time.

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Commissioner Ortega moved to lay this item over until after the City Council acts, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Commissioners could address any questions to staff at Met Council; some of whom were present at the meeting today.

Roll Call to lay over: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said the Senate passed its version of the bonding bill in which there were a number of Ramsey County projects, specifically Central Corridor at \$8.45 million; Lower Afton Trail at \$450,000; Union Depot at \$2 million; Robert Street Corridor, a Dakota County initiative that Ramsey County is in support of at \$500,000; Rush Line at \$500,000; and High Speed Rail at \$5 million. The Senate's total bill was \$367 million. The House is taking up issues all this week and may come out next week with its bill. County staff are working with them to make sure Ramsey County's items are included.

Gillette Hospital is in the bonding bill for \$10 million. Ramsey County owns the property, with a condominium-type agreement with Gillette. A similar situation occurred with Gillette a number of years ago. Gillette is asking the State for \$10 million and would like Ramsey County's support, but they haven't yet provided the background information to forward to the Board prior to the Board's making a decision. All 87 counties send kids to Gillette every year. Gillette wants to expand within the hospital confines. Mr. Riley and Commissioner McDonough toured the facility last week. When the information is received, it will be distributed to the Commissioners.

Chair Parker asked if the Board would be involved in any way other than support.

Mr. Riley responded negatively. The County would not do anything legislatively; we are not being asked to testify. They have done everything on their own, but would like the County's support.

Commissioner McDonough said if the Board is willing to support this now, he would make the motion in support of this.

Commissioner Ortega said he represents the County Board on the Regions Hospital Board where this has been discussed. The County would not have any liability at stake in any way. This is part of the County's facility, it is a statewide institution, and he would not see a problem in moving ahead to endorse this now.

Commissioner Rettman said this is the first she has heard of this and doesn't know anything about it.

Mr. Riley explained that all the facilities are being expanded. The expansion last year was a big benefit to them. They get increased patient load even from Wisconsin and are on the cutting edge of many things.

Commissioner Ortega said Regions Hospital has been expanding, creating certain opportunities within the facility. At the same time, there is a need, and there are also opportunities with the expansion to Gillette in terms of the entire facility. These are different institutions in the facility, on property owned by Ramsey County.

Commissioner McDonough said a big part of this is to increase trauma care. Regions is a Level 1 trauma center but Children's does all the pediatric trauma care. A lot of upgrades are associated to that. Not all the \$10 million would go to that.

Mr. Riley said the expansion at Regions gave Gillette the opportunity to take over some of the area Regions might vacate and they have said they need the area.

Chair Parker said the Board is only being asked to be in support of this. She asked if the Board is comfortable in moving forward in that support. She is comfortable having already had Commissioner Ortega and Commissioner McDonough involved in the discussion.

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Commissioner Reinhardt said she is also comfortable with this. They have always kept the County in the loop well in advance on everything they are doing. Not having the written materials in front of her doesn't change that as it might with some other entities. With the first deadline coming up so quickly, it would be good if this could be done today.

Chair Parker asked if this was included in the Senate bill. Mr. Riley responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman said the Board has had support items come through the Legislative Committee. Clearly we did not know this was coming forward so it is a surprise. The Board has a fiduciary responsibility since the County is the owner of the property; there are certain covenants that were created with Regions and Gillette long ago. Part of the Board's oversight is that it is clear about what we are supposed to be doing, even in support of the items.

Mr. Riley said the County is involved in this because we are the property owners. When the State bonds for something they ensure that a portion has to be repaid at some point. Gillette, formerly located by Lake Phalen, used to be a State hospital. When they relocated, they became a private non-profit, now subletting from Regions. They will have to work out how they get the bonding money. A condominium-type agreement will have to be worked out; it is very tricky how it is done. Last time they had to get cash for it. If they have to do that again, it will be their issue.

Commissioner Ortega said the motion could be amended to be contingent. We have to look at the final product. The County has agreements with Regions and with Gillette, and they have worked in the past. This is just for support, contingent on limited liability to the County or something similar.

Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office, said he is not sure exactly how to phrase it, but the last time around when they were seeking this pot of money, they ended up getting a grant. He did not remember all the legal issues that came up, but it became impossible to get around.

Commissioner Ortega said we could support a grant and possibly the same thing will happen; if it is going to pass, it will pass.

Ms. Speiker said last time they had to go back to change it and they got a cash amount, because it wasn't seen as a qualifying expenditure for State bond funds.

Commissioner Bennett recalled this being very controversial. Our lease was with Regions, and they are a sub-lease of theirs, and he recalled that being a part of the problem.

Mr. Lookingbill said the issues all relate to restrictions the State puts on bonds.

Mr. Riley said he had asked that specific question when meeting with them, and they felt they could work through the legal issue on it. It is in their court if they expect to work through this to get State funding.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the Board does not act today, could an analysis be done by the County Manager or Budgeting & Accounting Office with a recommendation, to return to the County Board next week.

Commissioner McDonough and Commissioner Ortega replied that they are fine with that and this could wait until next week.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if the bill deadline has been met. Mr. Riley responded affirmatively. The House bonding bill hasn't been decided yet. Gillette is asking for Ramsey County support. They are in the Senate bonding bill. Technically, even if they didn't make it into the House, if they have a conference committee, they are at least on one side and could argue their point.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked when the House bonding bill is supposed to be done. Mr. Riley said they are having hearings this week and next week, and he expected the bill would possibly be out late next week. Next Tuesday should be fine.

Commissioner McDonough withdrew his motion.

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Mr. Riley said the other issue is that the Governor is supposed to come out today with his supplemental budget. Copies will be distributed to the Commissioners when they are available.

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, said many of the committees are having hearings. At this point on, the federal stimulus dollars – what to look for, are they grants or to be distributed through some kind of formula with some cautions that is two-year, one-time funding -- for Corrections, there was some talk about the Burn grants coming down. The \$21 million dollars will mostly be competitive grants to be distributed, and some Violence Against Women at \$2.3 million for the State to distribute; Crime Victims, \$1.2 million. There was some discussion about what it could be used for and the parameters, and setting that out for local governments and governmental units, and advocacy groups, the non-profits that may put in proposals for some of the competitive grants.

Commissioner Ortega said Senator Ann Rest came out with a bill regarding the tax bill, which is a critical issue. He is trying to grapple with the Legislature – we could have committees and all the policy discussions – that is great, but the bottom line is for this next biennium, he wants to know what is happening in the tax committee, what is happening with the budget, otherwise, these are great academic exercises at these committees – there is no product at the end of the day. It is important, but it will come back in two years. How much all of this would move would depend on the budget. He is trying to get a handle on where we are at the State with those issues. Is it totally focused on the stimulus bill – now he is seeing where we are going to match the dollar coming in from Washington, or is it really saying what is it we are going to do and where is the money coming from State – that is the bottom-line?

Mr. Riley, regarding the big picture budget taxes, said the Senate already tipped its hand where they are going. They are looking at setting about half to be in cuts of the deficit, and the other half in revenue-raisers. They hope to raise a little over \$2 billion by changing some tax structure on the higher income individuals. They are not going to go with the sales tax. The House came out yesterday with revenue enhancers to be revenue-neutral because they plan on closing all the smaller tax loopholes and give-backs to wealthier taxpayers that have primarily benefitted wealthier taxpayers and plan to redistribute those more to the middle class. It would not raise revenue, although they made the statement if they needed to change the makeup, they could increase revenue for the State. Representative Lenczewski, Chair of the House Tax Committee, came up with this proposal, and it is her bill. She just started to have hearings and held a press conference yesterday.

Commissioner McDonough pointed out an important piece for Ramsey County. Senate reductions are just a 7% across the board reduction; there is no prioritizing, there is nothing that is protected. That is at odds with a lot of positions taken as counties that there needs to be some prioritizing and figuring out what something is doing, what it was intended to do and what is not. That is at odds where the House has indicated they want to go with cutting on that side looking more at prioritizing and trying to figure out, possibly by eliminating something, versus just a 7% cut straight across the board.

Commissioner Reinhardt understood the reason they did that was because in the past there have always been those things that have been untouched, which means you get double or triple in other areas. Clearly, they are going to have to prioritize as they finish up this process, but they wanted the message to be out that there aren't any sacred cows. She is not terribly worried about that because realistically, they have to prioritize.

Mr. Riley said that is correct. That helps the County in one regard. It is a smaller cut to our aid and to cities' aid, but on the other hand, the Governor wasn't touching public safety, which is a big part of what we do, and they make fairly deep cuts in human services.

Ms. Brewington said those cuts in human services are less than originally proposed by the Governor at 15%, so it is about half.

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Mr. Riley said the Governor's budget was predicated on a lot of one-time spending to make it through the next biennium, versus now in his amended budget, he is going to look at the following biennium as well. It will be very telling what the Governor comes up with for balancing the budget over the two bienniums.

Ms. Brewington responding to Commissioner Ortega's comments, said it does sound like we are getting caught up in the minutia and going back over things that are more policy-driven. Typically, we get in this holding pattern right before they get their target. The Senate has stated their position in the direction they are going to move with the 7% across the board cuts. The House has soft targets with a lot of discussion going on with what is coming in those committees. Once the Governor releases his second budget based on this last forecast, we should start to see some movement because people will know how much money they are working with in each of the committees. Everyone is frustrated in waiting for things to start moving as we get to the real issue. Policy doesn't really have any guts until putting money into it and moving it along.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the Governor had any bonding included.

Mr. Riley said the Governor has not indicated that he is going to support bonding yet, but there are a couple things that need bonding – some levy work that needs to be done along the St. Croix; Central Corridor with the State's \$8.5 million obligation. It is hoped the Governor does that this year because it affects the amount put into the project by Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

Commissioner Rettman asked if there is any indication what the Governor would include in his new budget. Mr. Riley responded negatively. If he stays under that 3% being discussed, it would be about \$120 million, a relatively small amount of bonding.

Commissioner McDonough said there are added complications to that \$8 billion state share to get to the final 10%. We had special legislation last year that allows Hennepin and Ramsey to make up larger than 10% contribution to cover the full 50% local match, but that was only a one-year exemption. We have to go back to our 10% commitment this year, predicated on the \$8 million coming from the State this year. If they don't come through with that, we have a problem. Legislation doesn't allow us to spend more than 10%, but there was that one-year exemption to cover that small gap.

Commissioner Ortega said then we will have a gap.

Commissioner McDonough said then the State or Met Council would have to come up with dollars other than bonding dollars to cover it, or potentially, the other solution would be to extend that exemption for one more year. Something would have to happen to meet the federal requirement because of the commitment to meet the 50% local match.

Mr. Riley said by doing that it increased our standings with the feds for getting the full grant for Central Corridor.

Commissioner Rettman asked if there have been any discussions on trying to hold full funding obligations for the Courts. Staff did not acknowledge any discussions.

Commissioner Ortega said he would be happy if they just kept their word on what has already been agreed to.

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said an assessment is being put together about what the Governor's budget might mean in terms of local property tax increases, because that has been a big piece of the discussion about no new taxes, but in fact, the taxes are something that tends to go up at the local level. The estimate at this point is somewhere short of \$1 billion of the deficit that would be shifted to local units of government. Staff will be looking at the Governor's budget to see whether or not that tracks through for the County.

Regarding the federal appropriations process and what staff is doing in terms of the Recovery Act, there have been a lot of hearings at the Capitol because the State will be the fiscal agent and the pass-through source for a lot of money that will go through local units of government and to non-profits.

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The County's federal appropriation requests already approved to move forward have now gone to Representative McCollum and Senator Klobuchar. Some of our requests for highway and transit items have also gone to Representative Oberstar, per his request. These are being made available to every legislator where it seems to fit their appropriations requests. They have not received requests from all legislators yet, but will probably submit more of those already approved by the County Board.

In terms of the Federal Recovery Act, staff met last Thursday with the Senior Management Team. Dakota and Washington Counties have assigned a lead staff person to work with us. The County Manager is putting written material together for the Board for what is being proposed to begin to apply for grants, to read the bills. Department Heads have already begun to read the sections of the Act that pertain to their target areas. For example, Property Management, and the Environmental Section of Public Health have been looking at the energy area. Staff have spoken with possible partners to put work teams together, and the Commissioners will be kept apprised of that. While the State is trying to decide what to do about the stimulus money and how it would plug the holes and fit with the budget, staff are also trying to figure it out. Department Heads have the names of the contact people at each State agency, and been in touch with the State resource people to learn about when grant applications will be available, and when things are due to be received.

Commissioner Carter asked staff to expand, in general, on how the County might be in danger of some of these dollars which should be available to local governments being used to backfill the State's budget. Would that be by way of things they would typically fund, that they have reserved, federal dollars, and hold to allocate by way of grants or in formula instead of State dollars.

Ms. Speiker said the Federal Recovery Act includes language about not using the funds to backfill and supplant at the State level. In looking at the grant opportunities, there is also some non-supplantation language in a number of those kinds of places. Some of the money coming to the State is specifically to help them with their budget problems, which she called general aid. All the states are getting a certain amount of that, but she didn't recall how much Minnesota was supposed to get. About \$1.3-1.5 billion just for general aid is part of the money that made the shortfall smaller. County departments are looking at the money that would come to them in formula, and paying attention to whether the State might be inclined to take any of that money. The State will get the opportunity to have some administrative costs out of the funds they would send to local units of government, but she doesn't see that as supplanting.

Commissioner Carter said when we talk about them looking to what they can use, it is about parceling out the different categories of dollars they would be receiving, not using dollars that should come to local governments in ways other than parceling them out by formula or make them available by grants.

Ms. Speiker concurred. Staff have not seen anything specific that would indicate that they are trying to take the money in a way that they are not able to. We need to pay attention to some of the grants that may be available, for instance for public health and those kinds of monies would come to us on a formula basis. CDBG has already received an award notification; there are already a number of things coming out.

Mr. Riley recalled that the State had identified \$4.2 billion, but only about \$1.7 billion could help the deficit. There is a substantial amount that is going to increase certain areas of funding. If the State went after the High Speed Rail money at \$500 million, it is included in the number they identified. There is other money that they haven't yet identified in that bigger number.

Ms. Speiker said those might be competitive grants. Some of these grants won't be competitive just to the State, they are competitively nationally, and they are not reflected in the Governor's budget.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she and Mike Rogers, Regional Railroad Authority, attended a very good four-hour forum in Cambridge with Congressman Oberstar, talking about multi-modal

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transit/transportation on everything from roads and bridges, transit and trails, and Active Living. Coming out of that for the transportation portion of the Recovery Act money, Congressman Oberstar put in a 180-day, “a shovel-in-the ground” for projects, or the money would be lost. For those states that don’t use all the money in the prescribed manner, it will come back into the kitty for redistribution. She spoke on Rush Line, and during the presentation, said that if the Northern Lights Express decided to come to the Union Depot in St. Paul that they would be welcomed with open arms. With Amtrak and High Speed Rail coming to the Union Depot in St. Paul, it makes sense. Northern Lights Express commented at the presentation that they would be happy to come to the Union Depot in St. Paul. When coming into Minneapolis they would be able to use Central Corridor to get to the Union Depot in St. Paul. We need make sure that what is good for what would be brought into the metro area, works both ways. We keep hearing about the \$8 billion, which is nationwide, with \$500 million here, it may change the picture, but not in the long term, not as far as what we need to do for high speed rail and the Union Depot, and the commitment with Amtrak. She was pleased that Congressman Oberstar wanted Rush Line there to talk about it as part of the overall package. Congressman Oberstar was complimented on something he has always wanted for the train coming from Duluth. The differences between the federal rail and federal transit money were pointed out; ways can be found for that to be complimentary and not in competition.

Commissioner Ortega referred to Ms. Speiker’s comments about the work groups being formed. He has spoken with Property Management and Public Health. The City has already identified some pots of money. The stimulus package is a one-shot deal, but looking at the future and the trends, a lot of this will be in creation of green jobs with green technology, where those dollars may continue. But, the County’s infrastructure is not organized in a way to interact on a long-term basis because we don’t have a focus point. He has asked staff for information on how to do this. Right now we are in an emergency mode, but then it is over. We need to keep seizing the opportunities as they come. In some of these areas, they are going to keep coming because of where we are heading.

Commissioner Ortega said that another discussion or a Workshop will be needed on how to set ourselves – whether it is sites in Ramsey County where jobs could be brought in – what are those jobs. The Light Rail will be built, and it’s over. It will take two or three years to build it, but where do we start bringing in the kinds of jobs in the manufacturing or assembling of something like lithium batteries that will stay in the community on-going. Right now we are just reacting to the stimulus package, which won’t be available next year.

Commissioner Rettman said in terms of the stimulus money, the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW), thought they would be the recipient of weatherization money. CAPRW has always had a relationship with unions for programs like *Heat’s On*, and *Water’s Off*. There is some concern that there are many other groups requesting the money as it comes into the State, and the State will make the determination. She asked staff to keep the Commissioners apprised of that, and whether the County Board should take a stance on it. In the meeting with Congresswoman McCollum, Commissioner Rettman had referenced the child care dollars. There have been some implications in terms of Head Start, and with the County’s child care providers, and the level of qualification to provide that. She requested that the Board be apprised of that both in Human Services and child care relationships.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rettman:

- Said the Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan was presented at a recent Ramsey County League of Local Governments meeting, and a PowerPoint presentation is to be made to the County Board. All municipalities in Ramsey County and the County Board will be asked to comment on the plan within a 160-day comment period.

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Commissioner Carter:

- Reported that at the last meeting of the Family Housing Fund Board of Directors, a \$50,000 commitment was renewed to Ramsey County to fund a part of the Heading Home Coordinator salary.

Commissioner Reinhardt:

- Reported that a lot of time is being spent testifying at the Legislature. The waste paint bill is moving forward; and the waste electronics bill will be coming up for a first hearing on Thursday morning. We were so successful with that that many of the manufacturers have enough credits for three years. If we don't do something to alleviate that, the infrastructure will be gone. There are some minor tweaks in the waste electronics legislation, and hopefully, the manufacturers will come on-board, one they brought, which is to change the requirement on how much they need to recycle on the national sales data rather than having the retailers reporting. We could then capture the sales from the Internet as well. This would increase their requirement to recycle. The other tweak would be that they could only use 15% of the credits each year, and to recycle more. There had been a cap or sunset on the credits of three years, which was unfair. They paid for them and should be able to use them. The credits went out until they were used up, which should help to appease them.

ADJOURNMENT

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RE: Labor Negotiations

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. in Room 220 Court House, with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: Bennett - 1.

Also present were: Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager; Gail Blackstone, Director of Human Resources; Marcy Cordes, Labor Relations Manager; Darwin Lookingbill, Civil Division Chief; Jean Gramling, Human Resources Manager.

RE: LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

The Executive Session was called to order at 10:15 a.m. to discuss labor negotiations. No motions were made.

This Executive Session was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

The Executive Session was called to order at 12:05 p.m. with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 7. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager; Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office; Stephen Baker, County Assessor; and Steve Nelson, Property Records and Revenue.

Re: Maplewood Mall Tax Litigation Matters/Macy's Department Store

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-101)

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners approves the budget amendment proposed in this Executive Session in accordance with the policy set out in Resolution 2005-238.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board