

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: - Bennett – 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Gary Davis, Assistant County Attorney.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the March 24, 2009, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

#### MINUTES

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

#### EMPLOYEE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Chair Parker presented an Employee Achievement Award to Deputy Mike Casey, Sheriff's Department, who was nominated for an award in the category of Performance Beyond the Call of Duty. Deputy Casey thanked the Board for this Award.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES – Salary schedule and grade allocation for a new classification: Senior Real Estate Appraiser

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-102)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a classification/compensation review of a new job classification of Senior Real Estate Appraiser for the Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue Department; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined that no existing classification adequately describes the duties of this position or the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department developed a new job classification, "Senior Real Estate Appraiser"; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a job evaluation study, and internal and external salary reviews; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined that the appropriate salary grade for "Senior Real Estate Appraiser" is Grade 22N on Salary Schedule 27M of the County's compensation plan; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The recommended salary grade is in accordance with the guidelines established by Ramsey County compensation policy (Resolution 95-356) and practices; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following Salary Grade allocation for the job classification of Senior Real Estate Appraiser:

	<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SALARY RANGE</u>
Senior Real Estate Appraiser	22N	27M	\$49,515 to \$73,260 Annually

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Adult Mental Health – East Metro Adult Crisis Stabilization

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-103)

WHEREAS, The East Metro Adult Crisis Stabilization partnership was formed in 2002; and

WHEREAS, It involves two counties – Ramsey and Dakota - plus four health plans, the State of Minnesota, area hospitals and advocates; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the partnership is to provide individualized mental health stabilization services through public-private partnership; and

WHEREAS, One of the outcomes being pursued is a full integration of all east metro psychiatric services, including hospitals, community providers, and county services; and

WHEREAS, The plans for an integrated program on the property adjacent to the new Law Enforcement Center and the final proposal for a Joint Powers Agreement between the counties has made significant progress in the last few months; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Joint Powers Agreement identifies Ramsey County as the fiscal and administrative agent for handling funding provided for this effort, establishes a Board consisting of the Human Services Directors in the two counties, and establishes a Leadership Team to provide advice to the EMACS Board; and

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department recommends approval of this Joint Powers Agreement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the East Metro Adult Crisis Stabilization Collaborative; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the Joint Powers Agreement.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Mental Health Clinic – Funds Earned from the University of Minnesota

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-104)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Mental Health Clinic serves as a clinical training site for psychiatrists and clinical nurse specialists enrolled at the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, For this contribution to this medical education program, the Clinic recently received a check for \$33,642.36 from the University of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, The source of funding is the Prepaid Medical Assistance Medical Education Carve-Out Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department requests that \$8,904.36 be placed in the trust account for the East Metro Adult Crisis Services (EMACS) Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department also requests that \$24,738 be available to enable the Partial Hospitalization Program at the Clinic to serve additional individuals; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the check from the University of Minnesota for the Mental Health Clinic serving as a training site for psychologists and clinical nurse specialists in the amount of \$33,642.36; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the plan to use \$8,904.36 for expenses incurred as the fiscal agent for the East Metro Adult Crisis Services (EMACS) Collaborative and to use \$24,738 as additional revenue in the Human Services Department's budget for 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary budget adjustments.

**COUNTY ATTORNEY – County Attorney Report on 2008 Activity in Criminal Forfeiture Funds**

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-105)

WHEREAS, County Board Resolutions 86-680 and 92-740 require the submission of an annual report to the County Board on the expenditure of County Attorney's Office Criminal Forfeiture funds; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the County Attorney Report on 2008 Activity in Criminal Forfeiture Funds.

**SHERIFF – Reports on Criminal Forfeiture, Motor Vehicle Forfeiture and Gambling Forfeiture Funds**

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-106)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Board Resolutions 86-681, 87-548, 90-406, and 98-488 require the submission of annual reports to the County Board on Criminal Forfeiture, Motor Vehicle Forfeiture and Gambling Forfeiture funds for the Sheriff; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the reports on the Sheriff's Criminal Forfeiture, Motor Vehicle Forfeiture and Gambling Forfeiture funds, for 2008.

**(Continued)**

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Ramsey County Mission, Values Statement, Operating Principles, Goals and Critical Success Indicators

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-107)

WHEREAS, On February 24, 2009, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met as a Budget Committee of the Whole to review the Ramsey County Mission, Values Statement, Operating Principles, Goals and Critical Success Indicators that had been adopted on April 17, 2007, Resolution 2007-155; and

WHEREAS, The Board reaffirmed the Mission, Values Statement, Operating Principles, Goals and Critical Success Indicators that had been adopted on April 17, 2007, which will provide direction for the County Manager and for departments as they develop the 2010-2011 budget; and

WHEREAS, Departments will report performance measures under the Critical Success Indicators in the County budget; and

WHEREAS, This Resolution will replace Resolution 2007-155; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners reaffirms the following Mission, Values Statement and Operating Principles:

Mission Statement

Ramsey County - Working With You to Enhance Our Quality of Life

Values Statement

Ramsey County is community centered and serves the citizens with integrity, honesty, respect, innovation, and responsibility.

Operating Principles

The following principles guide our daily work:

- Service Comes First – ensuring the public's health and safety is our top priority.
- Excellence – carry out the work of the County with professionalism and high standards.
- Valuing Employees – treat employees in our diverse workplace with respect and dignity so they can achieve excellence in their work.
- Fiscal Accountability – practice good stewardship of public funds and maximize resources.
- Communication – seek and encourage citizen input and feedback, and inform and educate citizens about the County's needs and services.
- Responsiveness – understand the urgency of our work and do what it takes to get the job done.
- Collaboration – work together to build strong communities.
- Results Focused – be proactive about community issues with an emphasis on prevention and outcomes.

and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners reaffirms the following Goals and Critical Success Indicators:

Goal: Be a leader in financial and operational management.

Critical Success Indicators:

- All County resources are professionally and effectively managed (finances, capital assets, staff, technology).
- Business support services enable the effective and efficient delivery of high quality county services.
- Information (for internal and external use) is accurate, available, and protected and makes use of technological advances.
- Facilities are functional, safe, and accessible.
- The public is able to access County information and services through a variety of means, including mail, telephone and in person, and also transact business electronically.
- Effective partnerships with public and private systems result in improved benefit to the community.

Goal: Promote multi-modal transit and transportation solutions that effectively serve our citizens.

Critical Success Indicator:

- A variety of safe and effective transportation options benefit the community.

Goal: Prevent crime and improve public safety.

Critical Success Indicators:

- The response to criminal behavior is effective.
- Prevention strategies are effective in reducing criminal behavior.
- The County is prepared for emergencies and responds effectively.
- Vulnerable children and adults are safe.
- Over-representation of people of color in the criminal justice system is reduced.

Goal: Be a leader in responding to the changing demographics in Ramsey County.

Critical Success Indicators:

- Disparities in access and outcomes for diverse populations are reduced.
- Services are culturally sensitive and responsive to diverse populations.
- County services adapt to meet the needs of the aging population.
- Staff reflect the demographics of the working age population of the County.

Goal: Proactively deliver services that improve the quality of life for children and families, and individuals with special needs.

Critical Success Indicators:

- The basic needs (food, shelter, health care) of residents are met.
- Residents with special needs are healthy and safe in the community.

*(Continued)*

- Cultural and recreational services are accessible and available.
- Partnerships increase the number of children who go to school ready to learn
- Ramsey County libraries continue to be accessible and serve all residents of Ramsey County.

Goal: Protect our natural resources and the quality of our environment.

Critical Success Indicators:

- Services that support environmental stewardship are provided for residents and property owners.
- Natural resources are managed to sustain and enhance the environment.
- Policies and practices reflect sound environmental principles.
- The impact of waste on the environment is minimized.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the Workforce Investment Board

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-108)

WHEREAS, There is currently a County vacancy on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) in the category of Business; and

WHEREAS, WIB staff have been recruiting applicants and have received an application from Steve Carlson, Hedback, Arendt, Kohl & Carlson, PLLC; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Steve Carlson, Hedback, Arendt, Kohl & Carlson, PLLC, to the Workforce Investment Board for a term beginning March 24, 2009 and ending on July 31, 2010.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Agreement for Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner Services at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-109)

WHEREAS, The Health Services programs at the Adult Detention Center (“ADC”) provide psychiatric care on-site for adult detainees; and

WHEREAS, It is most cost effective, based in part on utilization, to have a contractual agreement with an outside party to provide psychiatric care; and

WHEREAS, Contracting allows the department to manage the service and be cost effective; and

WHEREAS, During the past two years, Karalee LaBreche has provided services to detainees as a psychiatric nurse practitioner on an as-needed, as-requested basis under an Agreement with the County for a cost not to exceed \$10,000 per year; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Ms. LaBreche has provided services in a professional and satisfactory manner and understands the mission of psychiatric care in a short-term detention facility; and

WHEREAS, The Public Health Department is requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Karalee LaBreche for psychiatric nurse practitioner services at the ADC for the three-year period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011, with the option to renew for up to two additional one-year periods; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with Karalee LaBreche, 700 Quality Lane North, Lakeland, MN 55043, for psychiatric nurse practitioner services at the ADC on an as-needed, as-requested basis, for an initial three-year period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2011, at a rate of \$100 per hour, up to a maximum not to exceed sum of \$9,000 during any one year; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the agreement with Karalee LaBreche, 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 sign an amendment to the agreement for each one-year renewal period, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney's Office.

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY – Central Corridor Final Design Municipal Consent

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

Commissioner Rettman said this is a substantive change from the DEIS, and should require much more intense evaluation. This is a change that will cost the County more money in the long run in getting the trackage we were to originally get to the back of the Union Depot. She would remain consistent with her previous votes on this.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the County's Memorandum reflects action of the City Council. He is aware that some changes had been made to their Memorandum.

Commissioner McDonough said there are two issues – the Municipal Consent for which the County and City are identical, and the City has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) where some language had been added.

Commissioner Ortega asked what that language is.

Chair Parker asked if it is necessary that the two be the same.

Commissioner Ortega said they should reflect each other.

Commissioner Carter appreciated the question, and hoped that in passing the resolution today, the MOU change would be referenced as it was reflected at the City Council's meeting last Wednesday. It would make planning for the project more effective and efficient for our community.

Commissioner McDonough offered the suggestion, if appropriate, to add language that the County supports the City Council's MOU, as revised.

Steve Morris, Regional Railroad Authority, read the additional language in the City's resolution adopting the Municipal Consent: "Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the City of St. Paul, pursuant to MN Statutes, Section 473.3994 does hereby approve the addendum to the preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project submitted by the Metropolitan Council on February 20, 2009; and Be It Further Resolved, That the City of St. Paul requests the Central Corridor LRT Project pursue innovative

*(Continued)*

and creative ways of minimizing the impacts on businesses throughout the corridor so as to help ensure that businesses along the Corridor continue to survive during and after construction; and Be It Finally Resolved, That the City of St. Paul has worked, and will continue to work with the Metropolitan Council and all of the Central Corridor Project Partners to ensure that the project is constructed in a way that best meets the needs and addresses the concerns of all St. Paul residents and businesses.”

Mr. Morris said after adoption of the City’s resolution, they had a MOU, which is a broader statement of principles and purposes.

Commissioner Ortega said he wanted to move to adopt the City’s language to mirror that language. Otherwise, there will be confusion between the two entities. The City went through a lengthy process with hearings and other meetings. He asked what the vote was on the City’s language.

Mr. Morris believed the vote was 4-1.

Commissioner Ortega wanted the County and City to be in sync given all the issues that were raised.

Commissioner Reinhardt suggested striking the “resolved” clause in the County’s Draft Resolution, inserting the City’s “resolved” clauses, and removing the references to City of St. Paul and inserting Ramsey County.

Commissioner Ortega moved to amend the draft resolution with the language offered by Commissioner Reinhardt. Commissioner Reinhardt seconded the motion.

Commissioner Reinhardt clarified that the County is approving the Municipal Consent alignment to provide service on Fourth Street in front of the Depot.

Commissioner Ortega said that would include language from the rest of the City’s MOU.

Mr. Morris requested clarification that the Board is suggesting to take the approval in the County’s language and add the two extra clauses that the City had in its resolution approving Municipal Consent – one is about working with businesses and others.

Commissioner Ortega said the other would be the MOU as the addendum.

Chair Parker said that would be referenced in the County’s resolution.

Commissioner Ortega responded affirmatively.

Mr. Morris said the City took the MOU as a completely separate action in a separate document. It is some pages long, and it has not been discussed with the Board yet.

Commissioner McDonough said it would be appropriate to include language that the County Board supports the City’s MOU with the project office.

Chair Parker said that would be in a “whereas” clause.

Mr. Morris said that is fine.

Dan Soler, Central Corridor Project Office, explained that the context of what the original Municipal Consent and then any amendment to the Municipal Consent was by State statute a procedure that the Board could either approve or disapprove as it regards municipal consent, but it couldn’t be approved or disapproved with or without conditions. Based on that factor, the City Council’s actions were to approve the Municipal Consent with those various “resolved” clauses on a 4-1 vote at their meeting last week. Also, the City Council has worked with the Project Office to develop a separate MOU that identifies a number of issues associated with the project, including some clauses as it relates to the operations and maintenance facility. That document was approved 6-0 at the City Council last week as well. There is no problem if the County Board wanted to approve the Municipal Consent as stated by Commissioner McDonough, with a concurrence with the City’s MOU.

Commissioner Rettman said she has not seen the MOU. She asked that the County Board receive a copy of that MOU, and that it be attached to the documentation.

*(Continued)*

Mr. Soler said that would be provided though it is not a fully executed document at this time, and that it has been approved by the City Council. It needs to go to the Metropolitan Council for final approval.

Mr. Morris said the Board would be provided the documents passed by the City Council.

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 5. Nays – Rettman – 1.  
(2009-110)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is committed to the development of an effective and efficient Union Depot Multimodal Transportation and Transit Hub; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has supported development of a Central Corridor light rail line that provides service to Union Depot under the concourse; and

WHEREAS, Analysis conducted independently by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority staff and consultants and Central Corridor project staff and consultants has identified a 4<sup>th</sup> Street light rail alignment to an operation and maintenance facility at Diamond Products; and

WHEREAS, Analysis conducted independently by Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority staff and consultants and Central Corridor project staff and consultants has determined that the line can be extended via Broadway to a station under the concourse; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority continues its commitment to developing a station under the concourse; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority will use its property in the area as part of its Union Depot development instead of donating it to the Central Corridor project; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners supports the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Saint Paul and the Metropolitan Council; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That Ramsey County, pursuant to MN Statutes, Section 473.3994 hereby approves the addendum to the preliminary design plans for the Central Corridor LRT Project submitted by the Metropolitan Council on February 20, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That Ramsey County requests the Central Corridor LRT Project pursue innovative and creative ways of minimizing the impacts on businesses throughout the corridor so as to help ensure that businesses along the Corridor continue to survive during and after construction; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That Ramsey County has worked, and will continue to work with the Metropolitan Council and all of the Central Corridor Project Partners to ensure that the project is constructed in a way that best meets the needs and addresses the concerns of all Ramsey County residents and businesses.”

COUNTY MANAGER – Ramsey County Action Plan for Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention

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

*(Continued)*

Commissioner McDonough thanked the County Board for supporting the Ramsey County Action Plan for Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention. The engagement of the Department Heads through the County Manager's Office has been overwhelming. This conversation has been helpful for Ramsey County, in particular in working with the State and National plan, positioning the County as a leader in Minnesota. He thanked Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Marsha Kurka, County Manager's Office, for the tremendous amount of work put into this. He asked Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health, to talk about what this means for Ramsey County and all the stakeholders; this is an extremely important issue that has moved forward. He had brought forward the national plan discussed by the Board at a previous meeting, which is now developed and formed; the State plan is being developed. Copies of those will be distributed to the Board as they are completed. A lot of work has been done with the stakeholders. Ten action steps have been put together that counties can do in this area in work throughout the State – Olmsted, Douglas, St. Louis and other counties. The Minnesota Department of Health is working on 87 ways to prevent sexual violence working with the 87 counties and tribal reservations within the State.

Mr. Fulton said there are two pieces to this. Some minor modifications have been made to Ramsey County's Respectful Workplace and Violence Prevention Policy. There was a workgroup led by Greg Mack, Director, Parks and Recreation, composed of Department Heads Mark Oswald, Mary Mahoney, Susan Nemitz, and Gail Blackstone, and the County Board is being asked to reaffirm the County's policy.

The second piece is a workplan that outlines the specific activities and responsibilities for carrying out the Sexual Violence Prevention Program. That workgroup was composed of Grit Youngquist, Jane Berg, Emily Huemann, Marsha Kurka and himself, with input provided from Human Resources, particularly Shirley Pierce, Marjory Singher and Gail Blackstone, in putting together the final document. They have begun to put into writing the vision that Commissioner McDonough articulated for the County in being a model employer in dealing with sexual violence prevention.

Commissioner McDonough recognized Grit Youngquist and Don Gault, who have been working in this area for a long time in Ramsey County. He invited Ms. Huemann to talk about what this means to the community. She has been the "glue" with all the stakeholders. This has been an issue going back for a long time, and there continues to be a struggle. There will be a day when we can get to that tipping point where sexual violence in our community is not tolerated. It is not a part of who we are as a culture.

Ms. Huemann said she can't contain her excitement about this. She has worked in the area of domestic/sexual violence for about 22 years, her entire professional career, and has never seen this kind of momentum going to address sexual violence in a way that isn't just saying how not to be a victim. It is so incredibly meaningful on so many levels to individual communities, our agency, the people we are working with, the parents they work with, the staff, the volunteers – everyone is amazingly excited.

Chair Parker thanked Commissioner McDonough for bringing this forward; his leadership in this area is appreciated. This is an important step and is consistent with what we have done in the past, but it takes us to that next level.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.  
(2009-111)

WHEREAS, On March 11, 2008, via Resolution 2008-100, the Board committed to stopping sexual violence and ensuring a healthy environment for all people in which they can grow and develop free from social and environmental toxins that feed the demand for sexual violence; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Using the Spectrum of Prevention tool as a basis, the Board adopted six goals to develop a comprehensive strategy for preventing sexual violence and directed the County Manager to develop specific action steps for each of the goals and report back to the Board in six months; and

WHEREAS, The Senior Management Team reviewed the draft Action Plan on August 14, 2008, and a Board workshop was held on October 21, 2008, where the draft Action Plan was discussed; and

WHEREAS, One of the steps in the draft Action Plan involves reviewing and updating the Ramsey County Workplace Violence Prevention and Respectful Workplace Policy; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2008-100 directed the County Manager to coordinate sexual violence intervention and prevention efforts with state and national plans; and

WHEREAS, In June 2008, “The National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Exploitation of Children” was launched by the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Public Health approved “The Promise of Primary Prevention, A Five-Year Plan to Prevent Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Minnesota” in December 2008; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Ramsey County Action Plan for Sexual Violence Prevention and Intervention; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the Ramsey County Respectful Workplace and Violence Prevention Policy as revised (formerly known as the Ramsey County Workplace Violence Prevention and Respectful Workplace Policy); and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board directs the County Manager to coordinate Ramsey County’s work on sexual violence prevention and intervention with the State and National plans.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Contract with Earl Ross to provide Project Coordination Services for the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative and disproportionate Minority Confinement Programs

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 5. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2009-112)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Community Corrections Department partners with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to focus on reducing disproportionate minority confinement and creating more effective, community based alternatives to juvenile detention for children who do not pose a significant risk to public safety; and

WHEREAS, The Department is partnering with community based organizations to pilot three alternatives to detention programs designed to reduce the over-reliance of secure detention for youth who do not pose a risk to public safety and/or a risk for not appearing at their next court hearing; and

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Disproportionate Minority Confinement (DMS) programs require a dedicated project coordinator and Community Corrections does not have personnel available for that function; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, These services have been provided for about three (3) years by CultureBrokers, LLC, which no longer wishes to do so; and

WHEREAS, Earl Ross has been performing the duties of the project coordinator as an associate of CultureBrokers, LLC. He wishes to terminate his relationship with CultureBrokers, LLC, and enter into an agreement with Community Corrections to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, The funds in the amount of \$52,497 are available in the existing Annie E. Casey Grant budget for a project coordinator through 2009; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an Agreement with Earl Ross, an individual, 345 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis, MN 55404, in an amount not to exceed \$52,497, for the term April 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, for project coordination services for the JDAI/DMC programs; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary amendments and renewals, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – City of Saint Paul Tax Increment Financing District extension and pooling

Chair Parker said this item was first discussed at the March 3, 2009 County Board Meeting and a Board Workshop was held on March 17, 2009.

Commissioner McDonough introduced the draft resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Rettman read from prepared comments:

- This legislation puts in peril the TIF concept and the purpose of a TIF;
- This legislation is a significant change from the past legislative action by waiving local approval;
- This legislation seeks relief from TIF requirements regarding soil conditions and removal or remediation of hazardous substances within the district;
- This legislation seeks relief from TIF requirements that 90% of the tax increments from the redevelopment district be used to correct the conditions (i.e. removal or renovation of substandard building or acquisition of parcels containing those building) that allowed for the creation of the TIF district;
- This legislation seeks relief from the TIF requirements on the prohibition on the use of tax increments for public park or facilities or social recreation or conference purposes;
- This legislation seeks relief from the TIF requirements on the prohibition on the use of tax increments to be used for improvements that primarily serve a decorative purpose or aesthetic purpose or a function purpose of increased cost;
- This legislation seeks relief from the TIF requirements for a 5-year certification limit on expenditures and 75% of the tax increments must be spent within the district;
- And even the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council recommended expenditures of \$68.6 million with less than 1% targeted for administration---not the 10% of the increment being used for administration.

All of this with no approval from the County Board of the final legislation passed by the legislature. It won't look like a TIF at all. It will be gutted of its moorings and aspirations.

***(Continued)***

Commissioner Rettman continued that the Central Corridor has consistently been billed as a transit project and transit and transportation is one of the things Ramsey County is about.

This action is not just an extension and merging of four TIF districts; it is an action that is asking Ramsey County to forego what was originally promised in original TIFs that the defeasance would be time certain or earlier and the properties returned to a general property tax status. She voted for TIF districts while serving on the City Council.

The Metropolitan Council has responsibility for the project, that is University Avenue and on to the Union Depot, from curb-to-curb, plus mitigation of impacts as a result of the construction and operation of the system. The City of Saint Paul has the responsibility for land use, development and other issues within the corridor but has not levied property tax dollars for corridor improvements. For its part Ramsey County in the project to date has done assembling, planning and investing in the transit hub at the Union Depot and the Post Office Concourse (\$360 million), levying for the County's share of the \$913 million Central Corridor LRT, and in the creation of the Counties Transit Improvement Board 1/4 of one percent sales tax.

This Board has repeated some of the issues critical to the success of the project, including: additional stations; park and rides both in St. Paul and the suburbs; Met Council's responsibility to replace lost parking; and protection for the residents and businesses from gentrification and displacement.

Our support of this legislation with no further approval sets in motion where we are sidelined and have no voice. The County is responsible for so many needed services; passing on this legislation further erodes our ability to have the defeasance dollars as an option to our continued provision of services.

In the very least, she requested that a 'resolved' clause be added that would retain local approval as provided in MN Statutes 469.1782 and 645.021 and qualified expenses language is restored.

Finally, TIF legislation has been controversial for years---but has been used by many because the rules are clear and just. Her concern for this language is for the TIF tool of the future. Additionally, she believes that the Board should not support this legislation but offer that if the County is held harmless in the legislation we would support a generic TIF extension

Commissioner McDonough said he supports this TIF. It is a tool, and he supports the City's proposal to use this tool to address issues that are a priority for the City and for the County. Commissioner Rettman is right – the County's involvement in Central Corridor has always been the transit piece - how we move people within our community and the support of moving people through our community on light rail in the Central Corridor. Economic development, planning, zoning, all those types of issues that go along with that is the City's role. This Board has always supported and recognized the potential for the development of transit in this Corridor, particularly light rail transit, down University Avenue and through Minneapolis as much more than a vehicle to move people efficiently. It is directly connected to the health and well-being of our community that in the end benefits the School District, the County, the City, and all the residents in the quality of life we have, the investment that occurs because of that. He agreed with Commissioner Rettman that there are a lot of things unique from the way TIF has been used in the past, but that doesn't mean it is good or bad. The approach taken by the City is very creative, and he supports it.

Commissioner McDonough said some of these things need to be sorted out at the legislature. To be sorted out in a meaningful way, the City needs the support of their local partners, the County and the School Board. The City will be given that support up-front as they move forward in trying to get legislation that will allow them to make these kinds of investments in this Corridor that will make our community healthy for a long time to come. Addressing Commissioner Rettman's comment about the approval piece, Commissioner McDonough said the County is not giving up approval – the City is

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asking for approval up-front so that when they go to the Legislature, it is already there, and it is helpful for the County's delegation to know that they have full support from their partners within the County. As they try to get this legislation passed, as questions are raised about the creative use of this tool, there is an understanding that there is the support from all the partners from within the community – that support up-front is critical.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that point was explained to the Board at the Workshop, and she is fine with that. The vote to be taken today is that approval. The County has a letter that explains what the City is going to do; it has to be in-line with state law. Part of the law regarding TIF says they have to have local approval, and the City is asking for that approval up-front. It is not going to look any different if they came back to the Board a second time. Her concern and others raised at the Workshop have been addressed in the letter provided by the City.

Commissioner Reinhardt offered an amendment to the draft resolution to add a "whereas" clause stating that the City of St. Paul addressed concerns raised by Ramsey County in a letter dated March 19, 2009. That way, rather than listing each of the concerns in the resolution – defeasing the TIF district early with the intention of doing so as soon as they can; the parking concerns, etc. – by referencing the letter, we have encompassed all those concerns and made them a part of the official resolution.

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Commissioner Carter said the reasons for support clearly meets the but-for reasoning and purpose of the TIF – but-for this, it might be difficult, in fact, for the entire Central Corridor project to proceed as in requesting this TIF what the City has done looks as though it includes for development for parking mitigations, the streetscape issues, the opportunity that these things have some solution. It does not preclude that we continue to work on other opportunities to fund and to engage support for these opportunities, but it makes certain that at least, we will have a tool to ensure that they are addressed. In great appreciation for the work that has been done to move these forward, and in recognition of the urgency of doing so, in order to satisfy many great concerns that exist around this project, she will support this resolution today.

Commissioner Ortega said he is not a fan of TIF, but at this point, given the economic environment, and with the fiscal issues the City has, there are very few tools left in their toolbox. This is about the betterments that make economic sense to do now rather than later in terms of being more cost-effective and more efficient, and the fact that this would create even more jobs at a critical time. He will support this with some reservations about TIF. He doesn't see that the City has any other options, and they need to come up with some creative ways to make this happen. It would be sad if University Avenue were not enhanced, if it doesn't become the boulevard that it could be between the two cities. The time to do this is now, and is why he will support this. He asked what Commissioner Rettman meant by local approval.

Commissioner Rettman said Commissioner McDonough also referenced her comment. What happens at the Legislature may not be the same as what the City is passing, and anything could be passed under this legislative approval being given. Normally something would come back after the legislation has been created for local approval, not at the beginning.

Commissioner Ortega said that is about procedure; he thought the reference was to something else.

Commissioner Rettman said it is a significant change. Chris Samuel, Property Records and Revenue Department, had stated at the Board Workshop, and included in his March 19 memorandum, that there have been exceptions. She said there have not been exceptions, so this is a significant change. The County would not see it again, and would have to rely on good will. The County is being looked at as a checkbook. The County is also the keeper of the taxpayers' checkbook. If the County is

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the only one writing the check and the City gets to make all the decisions, then the County is sidelined, and that is why she wanted the local approval to be brought back to the County and school district.

Commissioner Ortega said that would depend on what happens at the State Legislature. They might say it would have to come back to the County. He looks at this more as a piece of legislation that could come from another county or another city asking for support in legislation. He did not see this necessarily precluding, depending on what happens at the State Legislature. People in his delegation are going to be asking him personally what he thinks about this, and he will let them know what the County Board's concerns are.

Commissioner Rettman said when she sat on the City Council, one of the TIFs being discussed, had not addressed prevailing wage, and she made sure prevailing wage was included. One of the promises made to people then was it would be returned to the tax rolls. She is trying to make sure the devil is in the details and that we have a broad expanse here saying we approve and yet the things we hold most dear should not be marginalized.

Commissioner Ortega said one of the driving forces for his decision is that this project creates jobs, and the more improvements put in now is more cost-effective, and creates more jobs, and it saves taxpayers money in the long run. He wished there was another financial tool, but doesn't see one.

Chair Parker said she would support this. There has been good discussion, and she appreciates the involvement from the City at this early stage. This is appropriate and she appreciated the opportunity to have this kind of a dialogue early-on in the process. She appreciates the commitment by the City to continue the discussions about how people who don't live close to the line will have access to it, whether that is people coming from suburban Ramsey County or places too far to walk in the City. This is important, and she appreciated that the City acknowledged the willingness to continue that discussion with the County. This is consistent with our priorities and for what is best for the County long-term in terms of improving the tax base. This will be a long-term benefit to all the residents of Ramsey County.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 5. Nays – Rettman - 1.  
(2009-113)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has reviewed a number of proposals and initiatives for inclusion as support items in their 2009 State legislative package; and

WHEREAS, Concerns raised by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners have been addressed in a memorandum from the City of Saint Paul dated March 19, 2009; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the City of Saint Paul's legislative proposal that would extend the four TIF Districts along the Central Corridor to the year 2029, and allow the pooling of those funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes submission of this item to members of the Ramsey County State Legislative Delegation, and authorizes County representatives to work with the Legislature and other interested parties to seek the necessary legislation to enact this proposal.

#### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said the situation at the Capitol is very fluid. Hearings will continue the next couple weeks because the bill deadlines are approaching. There are three very different proposals, one from the Governor, one from the House and one from the Senate. Spending reductions in all three is one thing they are close on. The Governor's is \$1.6 billion, the House is \$1.6

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billion and the Senate is \$2.4 billion; they diverge in how they make the cuts. The Governor and the Senate are more precise about proposed cuts; the Senate has done a 7% across the board. Staff are trying to analyze all three proposals. The proposals all rely on stimulus dollars to help balance the budget, which is pretty much agreed on at \$1.8 billion. There are some shifts in education that the proposals have relied on, though they vary in the amounts of the shifts. The Governor does an 80/20 shift amounting to \$1.3 billion – 80/20 meaning 20% is shifted, 80% is still with the County. This is a recognition shift for how the school districts are expected to do some short-term borrowing. The payment is delayed that the State sends out to them. Right now it is 90/10 and this changes the mix to 80/20. The House is at 73/27. The shift is not known yet for the Senate.

Another change is local government aid (LGA). The Governor unallotted and makes substantial cuts again in that area. The Senate basically restores the aid without any increases. The House does something very different. Representative Marquart proposed a bill that would allow counties to do a sales tax of a ½-cent, subject to a reverse referendum of 300 voters or 5% of the population, whichever is less. Right now the request doesn't include the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, but all other cities in those counties would get their outstanding bonds paid for so that their borrowing would be wiped out and paid for by this money. Under this proposal Ramsey County would get roughly \$15 million if the bill stayed as it is, but this bill was just rolled out. That bill is only on the House side so the Governor and Senate would have to concur on everything.

Commissioner Ortega said that Senator Bakk would likely nix this with his main argument being that the sales tax doesn't raise enough money outside the major cities to help.

Mr. Riley said this would eliminate the sales tax that is out there, except for those three cities. All the rest of the State that have local option sales tax when cities were granted that – this wipes those away so that it would be a uniform sales tax throughout the State if counties chose to do that.

Commissioner Ortega said he understands that. His issue is that some of the folks up north don't believe that would raise enough revenue for them. They don't have the base for a sales tax to raise the revenue and that is where it dies.

Mr. Riley said Senator Bakk has ruled out the sales tax as one of the revenue raisers. That is his opinion right now. All these things will play off each other.

Commissioner Reinhardt said we have the CTIB (Counties Transit Improvement Board) sales tax. Mr. Riley said those would stay in place in the metro area.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if this would just be in the suburban areas. Mr. Riley responded negatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if the County would take the City of St. Paul's sales tax. Mr. Riley responded affirmatively. He understands that it would cover the whole County so we would add a ½-cent over and above everything else.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if this would be an opt-in. Mr. Riley responded affirmatively, subject to a reverse referendum.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that with the CTIB, we took a big hit, but it was the right thing to do. However, this says to the Legislature that they don't have to do their job. Talk about inconsistency across the State, this is a ridiculous way to try to address this issue.

Mr. Riley said this looks a lot like the LGA Trust Fund about 15 years ago when all the counties were asked to opt-in and raise the sales tax Statewide. They then realized how much money it raised, and set ceilings for those payments. The State captured the rest of the money back. They'd asked the counties to raise the tax in the first place, eventually ending up taking the tax away completely, keeping some of the aid in place, and chipped away at the aid. They don't have a good track record in this arena, and that is why there is a lot of apprehension around this.

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Commissioner McDonough said this is new, and this County Board hasn't had a conversation or even Statewide with other counties whether to support this. This is basically relieving the State of its responsibility in figuring out how to work together to fund services that are important to people in the State. It is his understanding that there would still be some form of County Program Aid (CPA), and that formula would be dramatically changed to help the counties that don't generate the sales tax revenue. Not that this is going to go anywhere with the many hurdles to get over, but Representative Marquart recognized the disparity throughout the State on the sales tax revenue.

Commissioner Ortega said he has heard that if the County doesn't opt-in, there might be penalties. While it is true that outside the metro area counties who pass a sales tax would keep its local aid because they don't raise enough revenue, that's fine. But for Ramsey County, if we don't opt-in because we don't think it is a good deal, we may be penalized on our local aid so it is a double-whammy. It puts us in a corner. The sales tax, if laid on top of the City's, and with the gas tax – people may shop somewhere else.

Mr. Riley said the way it is being painted for us right now, this would be a \$15 million windfall for Ramsey County if the County enacted it, and that is not true. They would immediately delve into that funding and then spread it Statewide to help the other counties. It is the same way they did it with that local government trust fund – they made it such a disincentive if you didn't join that it was almost impossible for all the counties not to take a positive approach to it. This has a long way to go, and he'd raised it to show ways they may balance this.

Commissioner Rettman said she would like to see a fiscal analysis on how this would impact Ramsey County. It looked like if the County didn't do this, this is how much you would be capped at. She doesn't know if that would include the other dollars the County gets through entitlement and other things. This may be a discussion at some of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) meetings.

Mr. Riley said staff will be analyzing this.

Commissioner Reinhardt said before a lot of time is spent on analysis, given everything that is going on up at the Capitol, figure out if this has legs. It doesn't sound like it does.

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, had asked staff to look at this and to track it and see if it goes anywhere. There is a lot of conversation about how to raise additional revenues. The real way to raise the necessary amount of revenue has to do with income tax changes. That is a dicey conversation to have, but that is where the big money is at this point. This has to be watched from all those perspectives. The County Manager has said we need to see how this plays with the cities' issues and what it might mean in terms of the County's aid. Staff will keep the Board apprised but will not do extensive work unless it looks like it is real.

Regarding bonding proposals, Mr. Riley said the Governor has allowed for about \$120 million in debt service for bonds, which would by far be the smallest amount of the three. The House just came out with their proposal for a target of about \$200 million. The Senate has \$327 million in bonding with some debt service above that. Staff have been told by the House that at least initially, they are not looking at any local projects in their bill. They will be looking at HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement) funding for the University of Minnesota, and the State college system. Central Corridor is one of the highest priorities put forward and may be included. It is not clear what else might be in there, but it is hoped to get high speed rail in there, but some of the other transit projects we now have in the Senate bill would be at-risk at this point under the low amount given. That will all change in negotiations, and staff does not know how it will shake out.

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, said Friday is the first bill deadline and all the policy bills must move through one body by then to still be alive. Next Friday is the second committee deadline, with two days after that to process for the third committee deadline, because of the spring

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break. Things are still moving in circles in most areas, so just the trends and items of importance to counties would be highlighted now.

In the area of Corrections, there is a proposal from the Governor for short-term offenders, to completely take that over, allocating \$8.2 million to do that. This is a top priority for counties because it is a high cost for which we are currently reimbursed at \$9 a day. When the Department of Corrections takes this over, they would get more than that so there is the recognition that it costs more than that. This appears to have some legs, and may be something that will be a concession recognizing that there is so much pressure on the counties.

Other things being discussed in the area of Corrections are increasing some of the filing fees, adding on surcharges for things like parking tickets, speeding tickets, moving violations, etc., decreasing the mandatory sentence jail time for a number of offenses. One example in the Senate is DWI felony, moving it from four offenses to five offenses. That would not be popular, but would save some money. The Senate is looking at about \$130 million to be cut out of Corrections and Public Safety. The Governor is looking at about \$21 million in that area, and the House at about \$66 million. Because Ramsey County carries quite a bit of responsibility in Corrections, that will be watched closely. There are a lot of things in play. Another thing in that arena is CHIPS, the Public Defenders representation of the various parties that get pulled into those deliberations. The compromise that has been reached with the Public Defenders and counties that seems to be moving forward will be that the Public Defender will represent custodial and non-custodial parents only, not other parties that might be involved, and that the county will pay \$60 per hour for the non-custodial parents' representation. Nobody is happy with it.

Another area is in Human Services with the system redesign of the fifteen counties. Ramsey, Hennepin, Anoka, and Dakota counties are large enough under that proposal not to merge with other counties, but there would be some changes we would be pushed toward for more cooperative and joint powers initiatives, working with other counties to cost-share, etc. Commissioner McDonough testified at yesterday's hearing on this bill in the Senate. The bill was tabled after heated discussion on a 6-5 vote.

Commissioner McDonough said when the Governor came out with his proposal for fifteen counties tying some of the incentives to County Program Aid there were a lot of things people didn't like about the bill. There was no basis for the fifteen recognizing that would be extremely difficult – there are 50 counties with populations under 5,000, meaning some of these would be 20 county joint powers boards, making it quite cumbersome, and the timeline was two years. That was of concern to AMC (Association of Minnesota Counties). To counties in particular, even though Ramsey County still could be a stand-alone, the Governor's proposal didn't fit well with AMC's redesign about how we fund this and move toward outcomes and performances, etc. AMC started conversations with the Governor's office and Cal Ludemann, Commissioner, Department of Human Services (DHS), who were receptive in looking at proposed changes to restructure this in a way that would work, and at the same time, having conversations with MACSSA (Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators), the affiliate of AMC of the human services directors, about coming forward with a proposal that has some substantive change in how we deliver the services but more of a partnership in how we get to that change and working together with all the partners.

Commissioner McDonough said he is encouraged because the Governor and Department have been open and receptive in the work done with MACSSA. Last Friday at AMC's board meeting, some proposals were presented that had been worked upon, and the board agreed that those make sense. The Senate hearing yesterday was difficult. There was support to give counties and the administration more time to come up with a proposal that could be supported by all the parties. As well, something was going on in the Senate committee about the roles and who wanted to be involved in that. The

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indication seems to be that the support from the original proposal made sense and that we could get to a place fairly quickly for a proposal that would be supported by the administration, AMC and by MACSSA. That would be helpful in moving forward on the legislative side because there are legislators that are supportive of coming together with an agreement. Our position has always been that without the partnership and participation in redesigning how delivery of services is done, in this case, human services. That is one of the biggest mandates ever done the way they presented this in saying this is how it is going to be without any conversation.

Commissioner McDonough said he gives the Governor's office and the department credit for their willingness to engage in conversation, and a lot of credit to MACSSA human service directors in their willingness to offer substantive and meaningful change in the delivery of service and working with AMC on something that could be supported together.

Commissioner Ortega asked what exactly happened to table this at the Senate committee. What were the issues?

Commissioner McDonough said Senator Rest wanted it moved to her committee; there was some disagreement in Senator Marty's committee heard yesterday where it was felt it a policy issue; there was talk about whether it should go to the Tax Committee because of some sort of fiscal note that might be attached to it; and in the end, there was just frustration among all the committee members about who was going to take ownership of helping shepherd this through and in which committee. Senator Lynch tabled this, and had always been very supportive of counties and what we are doing. We are not sure where this puts us. We have had conversations with Representative Solberg who is carrying this in the House. Part of this was the timing issue because of the committee hearing last night, and we weren't able to present an alternative solution to the bill that was there so there was nothing for anybody to look at because there hasn't been that final agreement. The House may hear this on Wednesday, and there is the thought that we might have that final agreement by then to get the House moving forward and then go back to the Senate to figure out where this goes in the Senate. It was more a tug and pull about where this goes, not necessarily the issue about coming together on an agreement on how the bill would look.

Commissioner Carter added that this has not caught MACSSA or AMC off-guard, and she appreciates that the MACSSA directors have been coming together in putting real meat on a proposal that would provide a more viable opportunity for counties to find partnerships and to enter into partnerships together in a logical way. AMC and the Commissioners will be very glad to see a proposal that provides some options and different ways of configuring partnerships to accomplish what the Governor is seeking to better deliver services in better ways in more cost-effective ways, and also focuses on the partnerships that counties are already engaged in. She had brought to the table at the AMC meeting last week a huge tabletop example of partnerships that the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce had done that focuses on the many partnerships that Ramsey County, the City and School District have been involved in. It shows that counties want to partner logically, cost-effectively, and to deliver better services. The redesign itself is what is pushing this forward and making it possible for us to respond. She looks forward to a review of the Governor's proposal and the opportunity for that to come to the table.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it was a good discussion at the AMC meeting. There are times you can go to the Legislature and just say "no" – this is not one of those times. MACSSA and AMC have been working on this. The results are high-quality service, maintaining the infrastructure, the safety net we need, and doing it at the best possible, lowest cost. Often it means working with others, as evidenced by the Chamber of Commerce grid they'd put together a couple years ago. We need to do this right for the right blend so we are saving money and providing the services for the long-term.

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Commissioner Ortega agreed that the discussion at the AMC meeting was good, with a lot of buy-in. He asked if this did not go forward because it wasn't approved yet. The response was affirmative. He said a lot of people are doing a lot of work. The County Board and AMC should be open that if this opens the door to look forward to how to reconfigure this, and that it doesn't have to be one or the other – that should be the end result. If there is going to be a turf war, we need to be creative in using this as an instrument that might open the doors. We all want quality, effectiveness, efficient service, and an instrument is needed on how to get there. We need to keep an eye on how to move forward, even if it is not concrete right now; possibly have a commission to look at the whole thing, but not to settle for pieces that ends up being more band aids.

Chair Parker said even though the Governor basically said the larger counties like Ramsey County are not included in this, it is important that we be included in the discussions, especially if Washington County is being forced to partner. We have voluntarily had wonderful relationships with Washington County, and she hoped that would be a natural one that Ramsey County would look at. It would be beneficial to both counties to do that.

Ms. Speiker said staff have realized that some permutation of this bill is going to be discussed through the remainder of the legislative session. Departments that do the kinds of services that might be under a broad human service umbrella including Public Health, Corrections and Workforce Solutions, have been asked to provide a list of all those activities that they currently have partnerships with counties around them. The piece the Chamber of Commerce did only looks within the geographic area of Ramsey County. In talking with Commissioners Reinhardt and Carter about what would be helpful to them as they are testifying and talking with people at the Legislature, it is to be able to talk about the kinds of things we already have in place, and maybe some of the prospective things we are trying to do like this joint mental health center with other counties.

Another important thing to remember about what the social service directors have brought forward is that so often it is difficult to create joint ventures and partnerships because the rules, reporting requirements, and the paperwork mandates for the kinds of programs we have, make it cumbersome and difficult. Their proposal envisions creating an arrangement with the State Department of Human Services that would allow getting rid of that stuff and focus, as is being done with the County's budget, on what it is the County wants to deliver, what are the outcomes, and then measure to get those outcomes. In many ways, the social service directors think they could save a great deal of money, and get that redesign that AMC has been trying to bring forward around how to get rid of some of these process mandates that don't go toward adding anything in terms of service value. As the discussion proceeds, those are important parts of the conversation that will be interesting to have continued in the discussion that could include Ramsey County.

Mr. Riley said this initial proposal overlooks that DHS is part of the solution too, and it makes it look like counties are the problem where we need to fix and make some savings. It didn't include DHS, where this new proposal, hopefully, will be all-encompassing and reform the whole system.

Speaking of mergers and collaborative efforts, Chair Parker said she heard on the radio this morning that Representative Karen Clark has a bill to merge three counties in the St. Cloud area.

Ms. Speiker said the lead-off article cited the area as a single county giving it the name of "Lake Wobegon".

Chair Parker asked if this would have a hearing or be thrown out.

Mr. Riley said he thought it would be thrown out like all the others. At the committee he and Commissioner Reinhardt attended last night, there was a proposal that there should be fifty counties based on the watersheds around the State so they should all be reconfigured and that would be a better delivery system.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the second part of that proposal was that it would be the same way the Legislature would be set up – everything was based on watersheds.

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Mr. Riley said there would be fifty Senators and 100 House members so it quickly died at that point.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the bill that was being discussed was the Department of the Environment – getting rid of the Department of Natural Resources, Pollution Control Agency, the Board of Water and Soil Resources – everything based on watershed districts.

Ms. Speiker provided information on the Recovery Fund at the Legislature and said staff are watching the hearings and participating in them. Representative Kalin and Senator Anderson have a bill that looks at dispensing and disbursing how the County would use the energy and environment fund, which will make bill deadline. Right now it doesn't have carve-outs in it. It is a broad bill that talks about how the money would be distributed through the State agency that has responsibility for it. However, there are a number of individual bills that are for specific projects around the State. For projects she has heard of, most, except for the City of St. Paul and the Port Authority, are in out-state Minnesota, and all have to do with interesting kinds of technology ideas. She did not know what would happen with those as the final bill is rolled out because the bill that Representative Kalin and Senator Anderson have do not have carve-outs for projects. They envision that the State Department would go through a competitive process.

To match what is going on at the Capitol, the County has a work team that has had two meetings. That team is comprised of Zack Hansen, Environmental Health; Jolly Mangine, Property Management; and Jim Zenter, Workforce Solutions; with Denise Beigbeder and Mary Lou Egan, Community Economic Development. The team is looking at projects and what kind of grant applications might be out there. This area of the bill would encompass energy, some green jobs, and the environment. The Board will be kept apprised as that moves forward. There are other kinds of hearings going on at the Capitol about other parts of the stimulus money, and those are being watched. This right now is one of the most interesting bills to the County because it is a very big part of the bill.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the other pool of funds with a lot of activity and bills surrounding it is the Clean Water Amendment money. The Clean Water Council's recommendations have been put into bill form. A lot of bills are just stretching what this sales tax money could be used for. Legislators are pulling sometimes \$5 million, a small amount when looking at the total, possibly one of the reasons they are giving for taking this, which is environmental purpose. We will have to be very careful because they are desperate and going for any pool of funds they can find. For her this was a public trust. They voted to tax themselves to this extent, and in general, government needs to be able to show we are good stewards of that, and using it for what it was meant. The recommendations were well thought out, long before the money was available, the amendment passed, and now there is some funding. It could be eaten up quickly.

Commissioner Reinhardt sat in on the hearing on e-waste. That bill will go to the floor in the Senate; there is one hearing in the House tonight that may or may not happen, and would go to the floor there as well. A compromise was reached that will help counties especially, in recycling infrastructure that sprang up as a result of the 2007 legislation. We were too successful. With the credits being in the bill, to carry over with a limit of carry-over for three years, the manufacturers had enough credits to last them through another two years. The infrastructure would obviously go away. It was in everyone's best interest to come up with a compromise to use national sales data. The retailers love that -- they don't have to worry about recapture for internet sales, as far as the obligation for recycling. The limitation on using the credits was taken away because they've already paid for them, but a cap was placed at 25% per year. The effective date is July 1 so that it is consistent with the program year. There was agreement and the reason it was passed to the Senate floor.

Commissioner Reinhardt said while in that hearing, a bill was brought forward by Hennepin County regarding their solid waste funds, wanting to use those funds for something other than just solid

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waste, but still in the environmental field. They asked what Ramsey County does. They wondered if other counties that have these funds would want to be part of this. She had responded “no”. When Ramsey County feels it can lower that county environmental charge that is what we do. We are not looking to make money on this, just to meet our needs.

Mr. Riley said that bill was sent to the Finance Committee. After that hearing, he had talked with a couple lobbyists that work for the haulers, and felt that bill might run into some problems when getting to the Finance Committee because the trust is violated when we told them that we would not use that money for anything else. When asked last week if Ramsey County wanted to be part of the bill, we’d told them “no” at that time.

Chair Parker asked Ms. Speiker to provide an update about a meeting with two other counties about the east metro stimulus response.

Ms. Speiker said they are meeting tomorrow with Representative McCollum and staff. After that meeting, she may call them together again for an April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Part of the reason for the meeting is to talk about the goals, agenda, and what the expected outcome would be from that meeting. We have our memo ready to go out to Ramsey County Department Heads about how we are going to create the work group. Some of the work group has internally already been meeting. She will be talking with Molly O’Rourke (Washington County) because she would not be attending the meeting tomorrow. Also attending that meeting will be the staff person from Dakota County and Representative McCollum’s staff, and the Commissioners will be apprised of what is going on. Chair Parker met with the chairs of the Dakota and Washington county boards to talk about that next meeting and what things they would want to bring forward. Melissa was hired by Representative McCollum to be responsible for information dissemination, especially in electronic and paper form to the people who signed up for specific groups. Discussion will be held on how to interface information with Melissa’s information. Part of the goal of this legislation is real transparency. Because the grant applications and the notification of grants are starting, we are getting that information. There has to be the opportunity to inform people on a daily basis.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the AMC Board of Directors meets that day and suggested that April 10<sup>th</sup> would be a better date.

Ms. Speiker said April 17<sup>th</sup> was based on Representative McCollum’s schedule and when she would be in town. The conflict with the AMC meeting will be discussed.

Commissioner Reinhardt said meeting on a Saturday if that would meet her schedule would be preferable.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the guidelines for the dollars are out yet.

Ms. Speiker said County Manager Kleinschmidt is in the midst of discussions with the City of St. Paul on some of the public safety money that is out. The guidelines are out in some areas, and Ms. Egan and Ms. Beigbeder will be bringing something forward for action. Some awards are being made, and in the CDBG area, we have received notification of grant awards. The Departments are looking on the website for information from both the State and Federal governments to make sure nothing is missed.

Chair Parker said when she met with the chairs of the other east metro counties, they shared our concern that we want to be respectful of Congresswoman McCollum and her interests in making sure the communication is working, and that we feel we play a role and are willing to accept that role as she has access in terms of helping to coordinate information. The thought was that after the meeting to let everyone who was at the meeting know what has been happening, how to get involved, and how to get more information.

Commissioner McDonough said he testified last week at the hearing on the STOs (short term offenders). The Governor’s budget proposal was taking the STOs back, and that is what the County’s

***(Continued)***

position has always been. Whoever would have thought that the Governor would propose taking them all back? AMC, in working with the Sheriffs Association, came up with a proposal that would alleviate some of the financial pieces, and part of that proposal was for the State to take the STOs back, but there was some language and agreements about earned release and some impacts to the county corrections departments, but dramatically less than the STO financial impact. AMC and the Sheriffs Association showed leadership at that point in time, recognizing that the reality of the State fully taking back the STOs was probably not going to happen, and yet stepped up to offer a solution that could potentially be beneficial to everybody. After that, the Governor had said he'd take them all back. When he testified last week in support of the Governor, with a bill in the House and Senate to take them back, with funding provided from the Governor, there was a lot of conversation about whether we should let the other bill die. In the end, they didn't. They kept it in play, just in case. Commissioner McDonough's position has been that we have to be steadfast in supporting the full takeover of STOs and not to compromise, and the full takeover is the only one we would support.

Chair Parker said "take-back' is a better term.

Commissioner McDonough agreed. At the committee meeting the chair had asked if there would be a potential impact to the counties because they would be taking all the STOs back and our jails may not be as full as needed to pay operating costs, and the response was at the reimbursement rate of \$9 a day that would not be a problem when it is costing \$50-85 a day to house these offenders.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it was great to see that in the Governor's budget, and the recognition that they should never have been put back on to the counties, but they were. Some credit needs to go to Department of Corrections Commissioner Joan Fabian. The experience and knowledge on the entire system she learned when with Ramsey County helped inform the Governor, and helped him with his recommendations.

Ms. Brewington on the human services system redesign, the 15 counties, said one of the important elements that has come back to the fore is that this was introduced in the midst of budget proposals, and through the work of the counties, we are separating it out so that it is not seen as a way of fixing the budget because it is not at this point; it is a long term look into the future and how to make things more efficient and to put into place a better system at the regional level and that it is not something that is used as a guide for balancing the budget.

One final trend Ms. Brewington mentioned was the MOE (maintenance of effort) and the mandates. There are several bills, lots of discussion, and it is looking very different in the House and Senate in the way it is being discussed. One area with some traction is the mental health MOE, which is one of the biggest. It carries with it a lot of importance, not only to the counties and the State, but there is a strong advocacy group involved in this also. The counties have worked with those advocates and come up with some compromise language that gives the counties some flexibility in handling the mental health maintenance of effort as we go forward. That is about a \$10 million price tag for Ramsey County alone on that MOE. In the bill passed last night, there was an amendment attached on a DHS bill Senator Berglin is carrying, which would give the counties some flexibility when they see a significant decrease in State or Federal funding in the human service area so we could do some decreases and shifts without compromising the services provided. We are making some progress in that area. As with so much talked about today, there is so much on the table and it is very difficult to say where things are going to end up.

#### BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Parker said she was asked to give a presentation about the state of shared services between Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul. Connie Catlin and Marsha Kurka, County Manager's Office, updated the information that had been put together by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce

*(Continued)*

last year, ending up in a 10-page document, which will be distributed to the Commissioners. This is the way Ramsey County does business; we do everything in partnership with others.

Commissioner Reinhardt pointed out that the County has a lot of joint ventures with other communities within Ramsey County.

Chair Parker said the request was only for the City of St. Paul.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Chamber of Commerce's report was countywide with a number of examples across the County.

Chair Parker said the presentation was made to former Ramsey County Commissioner Ruby Hunt and a group she meets with.

## OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt:

- Reported that the Rush Line Corridor Task Force met last week where approval was given to move forward with a Request For Proposals to establish bus service between Columbus Township, Forest Lake, and the White Bear Lake area, to the Union Depot in St. Paul to begin later this summer. A lot of what will happen is dependent on the transit taxing district.
- She attended the State rail planning forum. Handouts from that meeting will be distributed to all the Commissioners. A series of meetings of the policy group and the technical group will be held. This rail plan will mean a great deal to Ramsey County.

Commissioner Rettman:

- Reported on the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) meeting, with a report from the State on some of the dollars coming from the stimulus fund.
- She attended the Counties Transit Improvement Board meeting with Commissioners McDonough, Parker and Reinhardt.
- The *Water's Off* event was held at which the Plumbers from Local 34 volunteer time to work with disabled, senior citizens and low income people, identified by CAPRW. This helps in not wasting water, and protects the aquifers.

Commissioner Carter:

- The JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) Steering Committee met and welcomed Michael Belton, the new director, Juvenile Division, working under Carol Roberts, Director, Community Corrections.
- She met with the Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative, which is designing its retreat to plan a continuing work of that collaborative, now committed in working more with Ramsey County Human Services and Children's Mental Health.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board