

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega (late), Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: - 0. Also present were David Twa, 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 Bennett moved approval of the Agenda of the May 6, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rettman. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Bennett moved approval of the Minutes of the April 22, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Rettman asked when the Opus item would return to the Board.

David Twa, County Manager, said they are working out some language on the agreement and it is hoped that it would be on the Board agenda of May 13, 2008.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

#### PRESENTATION of the *Changing Lives Award* from United Arts

Dan Adolphson, Director, United Arts, presented Ramsey County with a *Changing Lives Award*, which recognizes excellence within workplace charitable contribution campaigns in both the public and private sectors. United Arts appreciates the support of the Board and employees of Ramsey County helping with their mission of changing lives through the arts. 2007 was one of their best campaign years, and were \$39,000 over their goal.

[Commissioner Ortega arrived at this point in the meeting.]

#### PUBLIC WORKS – Agreement for Railroad Crossing Surface on Eagle Avenue in White Bear Township

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-156)

WHEREAS, The Soo Line Railroad Company, in cooperation with Ramsey County, is proposing the installation of a new concrete grade crossing surface on Eagle Avenue at the Soo Line Railroad crossing in White Bear Township; and

WHEREAS, The agreement prepared by the Soo Line Railroad Company identifies cost participation of each agency for the project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the agreement between Ramsey County Public Works and Soo Line Railroad Company for the installation of a concrete grade crossing surface on Eagle Avenue at the Soo Line Railroad, in White Bear Township; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the seven (7) page agreement is made part of this resolution by reference and is on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the following budget adjustment to accomplish this work:

TRANSFER FROM APPROPRIATION

2008	11101	550401	00000	442305	Road Construction	\$19,053.
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TRANSFER TO/INCREASE APPROPRIATION

2008	11101	550880	00000	424625	Eagle Ave RR Xing	P033271	\$19,053.
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BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the Personnel Review Board

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-157)

WHEREAS, One vacancy exists on the Personnel Review Board; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment process, a press release was distributed seeking applicants for this Board, and six applications were received; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Sarah Reindl to the Personnel Review Board for a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending August 1, 2010.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program for Fall 2008

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-158)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a Cooperative Deer Management Plan for Ramsey County parks and open space properties on December 14, 1999; and

WHEREAS, The cities of St. Paul, Maplewood, New Brighton, Vadnais Heights and Shoreview, and White Bear Township, are participants in the Cooperative Deer Management Plan that involves deer removals on Ramsey County properties; and

WHEREAS, On April 8, 2008, the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the proposed Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program for Fall 2008 and recommended approval of the program; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program for the Fall of 2008, including the following sites: Otter Lake and Tamarack Units of Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park, Pig's Eye Lake and Battle Creek Units of Battle Creek Regional Park, Long Lake Regional Park, Snail Lake Regional Park, Vadnais Lake Regional Park, Poplar Lake County Park, Fish Creek Open Space and Turtle Creek Open Space.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Amendment to the Agreement with 180 Degrees

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-159)

WHEREAS, The Juvenile Division has utilized the Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) services provided by 180 Degrees for many years; and

WHEREAS, The implementation of the Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI), as part of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), has required the expanded use of Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM); and

WHEREAS, With the expectation of an increased number of juveniles eligible for home monitoring and the addition of Global Positioning System, the original not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000 will no longer be sufficient for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Amendment to the Agreement with 180 Degrees, 236 Clifton Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 for 2008 and \$50,000 for 2009 for Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) services; add Global Positioning System monitoring at a cost of \$15/day per juvenile; extend the term through December 31, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to execute the Amendment to the Agreement and any necessary additional amendments to the Agreement, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to make any necessary budget adjustments, provided the funds are within the Department's approved budget.

DISTRICT COURT/COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Approve professional service agreement with District Court, and to add 0.5 FTE to Community Corrections complement to carry out the provision of those services

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-160)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Public Safety has provided grant funding to the Second Judicial District for the DWI Court Project for the Period of January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Second Judicial District does not have the capacity to provide intensive supervision and case management services for the DWI Court, and desires to contract with Community Corrections for these services; and

WHEREAS, Community Corrections will be reimbursed for actual costs incurred in an amount not to exceed forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000); and

WHEREAS, Community Corrections is requesting the addition of 0.5 FTE (Community Corrections Aide), which would be a starred position that is eliminated when the grant funds for the DWI Court end. No County match is required for this addition; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes an agreement with the Second Judicial District to provide case management services for the period April 15, 2008 through June 30, 2009, for the DWI Court, in an amount not to exceed \$45,000; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the addition of 0.5 FTE (Community Corrections Aide) to the adult staff complement of the Community Corrections Department, to be a starred position, which will be eliminated when the grant funds for the DWI Court end; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary amendments to the Agreements, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

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

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Translation and Interpreting Services

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-161)

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department spends \$413,000 annually on interpreter services; and

WHEREAS, This is an important part of the effort to provide high quality services to all residents of Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Both to ensure we are using interpreters in the most effective way and to ensure we are getting maximum value for the money, the Department is recommending we enter into a contract with the College of Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota for a series of 20 workshops on effectively working with interpreters; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 700 staff from financial assistance services, adult services and family and children's services will attend; and

WHEREAS, While the training is customized to the specific services provided within the Community Human Services Department, the general instruction from the workshops will be made available to other County departments; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The University of Minnesota is the only local entity that provides this training;  
and

WHEREAS, Funding will be from a grant received from UCare Minnesota; Now, Therefore,  
Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation to contract with the Program in Translation and Interpreting, College of Continuing Education, University of Minnesota, 101 Westbrook Hall, 77 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, for workshops on effectively working with interpreters, for the period March 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the agreement, following review and approval by the County Attorney and Budgeting and Accounting offices; and Be It Further

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

SHERIFF – Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for the provision of four 2-Finger Identification Units

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-162)

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota, through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, CrimNet and Criminal Justice Information System Section, is distributing to local law enforcement agencies 2-Finger Identification Units; and

WHEREAS, The State will provide the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office with four of these 2-Finger Identification Units known as IBIS RDT4s (Identification Based Information System Remote Data Terminals for use in aiding in the identification of persons through the evaluation of fingerprints; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has a fully executed and active Criminal Justice Data Network Agreement of file with the State; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has adopted a policy on acceptable use of 2-Finger Identification Units; and

WHEREAS, During the term of Joint Powers Agreement, March 1, 2008, through September 30, 2010, the State will allow the County to use the 2-Finger Identification equipment and will pay the costs for software, maintenance and training; and

WHEREAS, At the expiration of the Agreement, the County will be able to keep and continue using the equipment, but will then be responsible for any ongoing costs; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Department recommends approval of the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County for the period from March 1, 2008 through September 30, 2010, for the provision of four 2-Finger Identification Units, and the payment of software, maintenance and training; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve any future Joint Powers Agreements and Amendments to the Joint Powers Agreements for upgraded equipment from the State of Minnesota.

REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY – Set public hearing date, time and location for Ramsey County public hearing on Central Corridor Preliminary Design Plans

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-163)

WHEREAS, Preliminary engineering is underway for the Central Corridor light rail line; and

WHEREAS, Continued public involvement is critically important to the project; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority will hold a public hearing on preliminary design plans on May 29, 2008; and

WHEREAS, State law calls for a public hearing on the plans to be held by Ramsey County; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Central Corridor Preliminary Design Plans from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on June 5, 2008, at Lao Family Center, 320 University Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That comments will be received until 4:30 p.m. on June 12, 2008.

PUBLIC WORKS – 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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

Commissioner Rettman asked if the bridge on Wheelock Parkway is a County or City bridge.

Ken Haider, Director, Public Works, said that bridge is a City bridge. It has a sufficiency rating of 5 and has a load rating. The City is working on it and is attempting to put together funding for it.

Commissioner Ortega referred to the maintenance schedule and asked which part of Payne Avenue is a County road.

*(Continued)*

Mr. Haider said that Payne, from East 7<sup>th</sup> to Edgerton is a County road; north of Edgerton it is a city road. The city has a project from Edgerton to the Phalen Corridor area; they are trying to begin the project yet this year.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the County would dovetail with the city on this project.

Mr. Haider said it is proposed in the TIP to do a maintenance project from Edgerton to East 7<sup>th</sup>, which would be a mill and overlay where the pavement would be perpetuated. Nothing would be done with the sidewalks or lighting. Some additional funding is expected through the new transportation bill. The amount will not be known until 2009. If new funding will be available in future years, a solicitation process would be opened to cities whereby they would suggest local improvement projects, such as Payne Avenue and Randolph; the City of White Bear Lake has asked for assistance on Bald Eagle Boulevard, and other cities have asked for signals and other improvements. The County would rate those projects and insert them into the TIP for future years.

Commissioner Ortega requested clarification that the County does not know how much money to expect from this Bill.

Mr. Haider said he does not have a good feel for how much funding could be expected. This year, the MVET will kick in for Ramsey County. According to projects, the County was to receive approximately \$300,000 more state aid this year; actually, \$500,000 less was received. He doesn't believe the County should make offers to take on additional projects when the funds are not available.

Commissioner Ortega asked when the County should have an idea on funding.

Mr. Haider said the preliminary information is received from the state in October. At that time, there will be a much better idea of how much funding would be received in 2009, which is the first year of the gas tax revenue and formula. If an increase were seen at that time, it would provide hope that in future years we would be able to solicit local projects. He believes the current money should be kept separate and the new money would go into these local projects.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the cities would be asked to submit their priorities.

Mr. Haider said the Board has established a ranking system; the Department has been unable to use that system because there has not been any extra money.

Commissioner McDonough referred to the maintenance schedule and requested clarification that they are all mill and overlays. He asked if the cities know that work is planned so if they wanted to do extra work, such as sidewalks and lighting, it could be done at the same time.

Mr. Haider said it is more complex than that; for example, on Payne Avenue, there is existing sidewalk and typically if the County embarks on a county state aid project, the existing improvements would be replaced in-kind, regardless of their condition. In the case of Payne Avenue, the neighborhood has a much grander plan than just a plain sidewalk. They would like to have landscaping and trees installed. That would be a partnership between the County and City. There would be some participation on behalf of the County to do some of that sidewalk work. Overall, the mill and overlay projects do not contemplate changing the curve lines or doing any other work. There have been some concerns expressed that if this mill and overlay is done, it precludes a future improvement. The mill and overlay is not that expensive that in a few years, they would not be adverse to tearing it up and doing an entire street improvement.

Commissioner Reinhardt referred to Bald Eagle Avenue from Ninth Street to Bald Eagle Boulevard. The City of White Bear Lake completely re-did Bald Eagle Avenue; their concern with a mill and overlay is that it changes the height of the road. They are concerned about the run-off. She asked if this has been discussed with the City of White Bear Lake and White Bear Township.

Mr. Haider said extended conversations have taken place with the City; the City is urging the County to do a complete reconstruction, but the money is not available. Some of their concern is

*(Continued)*

relative to how it blocks the drainage. The County is proposing a mill and overlay. In most cases, what is milled off the road is replaced with new asphalt. There is really no change in the elevation of the roadway surface. The drainage that exists in that area is relatively poor. That will not be improved with a mill and overlay project. The drainage concern is well founded, but the funding is not available to change that situation.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that work was done on that roadway through the Metropolitan Council. She thought that part of the agreement was that they would pay for the road reconstruction because it was ripped up because of their work.

Mr. Haider said the sewer division of the Metropolitan Council (MCES) paid for the project; their theory was to do this work by directional borings. They did not dig holes to put in all the pipes; they had them staked through the ground and thereby minimized how much damage they did to the roadway. There were a couple of places on Bald Eagle, particularly north of the railroad track, where they dug a large hole and made a lot of disruption. There was an agreement that MCES would give the County \$50,000 as a result of that damage. That money was to be put toward the mill and overlay. \$50,000 is not enough money to do a full reconstruction project, so it would be put toward supplementing the maintenance that would have been done there.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that wherever the County can get funding from sources outside the normal funding sources, it should be pursued. If it costs more than \$50,000, why did we not receive more than \$50,000 to do the road? She understands that the City of White Bear Lake received a good portion, or all money needed, because of that project. She believes the County should pursue all the funds that we can. She would like to find out more information on this particular project and its funding.

Mr. Haider said a very generous offer was received from MCES. There are other locations they are still working on.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that if the City ended up getting an entire reconstruction on a good portion of that road, they got a better deal.

Chair Parker referred to page seven in the document, the unfunded construction project list. There is a proposed signal at County Road H and Silver Lake Road, in the cities of Mounds View and New Brighton. This is a safety issue with a nearby school. She asked if that project could be moved up. The project is estimated to cost \$150,000 and is listed behind a couple of larger projects. If additional funding would become available, would that smaller project be moved up on the list?

Mr. Haider said that if there is additional funding next year, he believes the unfunded projects would be put into the mix. Relative to some of the larger projects on the unfunded list, he doesn't believe it is fair for those large projects to compete with some smaller, local projects. He would suggest that the large projects become independent projects that would have their own funding mechanisms and be handled on an individual basis, rather than taking over the entire prioritization process. If additional funding is received, the smaller local projects could be moved up the list.

Chair Parker requested clarification that the order of unfunded projects would not need to be adhered to.

Mr. Haider said they are not listed in any particular order.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the \$150,000 listed for that project is the cost to the County only.

Mr. Haider said both roads are County roads so the County would pay for the entire project. There might be some limited participation from the cities.

Chair Parker asked if it would be possible that funds would be available for this project yet this year.

*(Continued)*

Mr. Haider responded negatively. He added that they have investigated other possible sources of funding.

Commissioner Ortega suggested that when additional funding is known, a workshop or other meeting should be held to discuss projects throughout the County and how those dollars would be spent.

Commissioner Bennett referred to Snelling Avenue from Roselawn to Highway 36, and asked if a third lane in each direction was proposed in that area.

Mr. Haider responded affirmatively; that is a MN/DOT project.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7.  
Nays – 0. (2008-164)

WHEREAS, Federal, state, and local funds have been made available to the counties for the improvement of county roads and bridge facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is desirous of establishing a program which utilizes these funds to the best interest of its residents; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopts the 2008-2012 Public Works Transportation Improvement Program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to prepare plans and agreements in accordance with the TIP, to prepare consultant engineering contracts up to \$100,000.00, to prepare right of way acquisition consultant contracts up to \$100,000 to acquire temporary and permanent easements, and to advertise for bids; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute consultant engineering contracts up to \$100,000, right of way acquisition consultant contracts to \$100,000, and to approve and execute construction contracts utilizing County State Aid, Federal and participating funding associated with the construction projects in the 2008-2012 Public Works Transportation Improvement Program subject to County Attorney and Budgeting & Accounting approval; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the necessary budget adjustments utilizing County State Aid, Federal and participating funds to fund consultant engineering contracts (up to \$100,000), right of way acquisition consultant contracts (up to \$100,000) and construction contracts associated with the projects listed in the 2008-2012 Public Works Transportation Improvement Program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute appropriate budget adjustments funding force account maintenance projects and the purchase of easements utilizing County State Aid Highway and participating funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes temporary cash loans from the County General Fund to the Road and Bridge CIP fund for project costs of projects listed in the 2008-2012 Public Works Transportation Improvement Program pending receipt of Federal, County State Aid Highway Construction funds and participating funds; and Be It Further

***(Continued)***

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes temporary cash loans from the County General Fund to the 2008 CIP Bond Fund for road maintenance project expenditures occurring before bond proceeds are received; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer and County Attorney to acquire temporary and permanent easements by negotiation or condemnation; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve negotiated settlements for up to \$10,000 over the appraised value per parcel for temporary and permanent easements; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute acquisition documents for right of way acquisition; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve cooperative agreements with cities and counties for their participation in projects listed in the 2008-2012 Public Works Transportation Improvement Program.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Diversity and Racial Disparities

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

Commissioner Rettman requested clarification that only approximately \$8,000 of this cost would come from the County budget; the rest of the funds would be raised.

Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services, said the balance of that money has already been raised and is in hand. Levy dollars in the amount of \$8,000 will be used; \$32,000+ is from foundations.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked the meaning of “authentic” dialogues.

Mr. Martin said that term means realistic, practical, transparent, and having conversations about the real issues going on, not coating them in terms that are not real.

Commissioner McDonough asked how the outcomes would be monitored.

Mr. Martin said reactions would be gathered from participants to see how they value what they are getting from the training. However, the real answer is whether or not we start to reduce the disparities in the services. The ultimate outcome is to serve all the communities equally well. That is not the case right now, which is part of the reason it is proposed.

Chair Parker asked if departmental services are measured by racial group to see if there are differences in rates of satisfaction.

Mr. Martin said they do not measure satisfaction, as there is not staffing and resources to do consumer surveys. What they do measure is who is actually participating and what the outcomes are for those individuals within the different systems, such as MFIP, involvement in the child protection system, juvenile work, chemical dependency, etc. First of all, participation is measured, and within some of those areas, there are enough resources to be able to examine the outcomes for services rendered.

Commissioner Ortega asked if this review committee is just for the RFP process, and not looking at the outcomes.

Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Ortega asked if staff reviews outcomes.

*(Continued)*

Mr. Martin said a leadership team leads this work within the department, which includes him, managers, supervisors and line staff, to look at the outcomes. There are service teams within each service area where experts, from across the department, are brought together to look at the entire service system and how effective it is. Each of those groups has been charged to look at how well the diverse communities are being served.

Commissioner Ortega asked if that team has already been chosen.

Mr. Martin said the service teams, where the real outcome work is done, are ongoing teams and are already established. The one referred to in the documentation is a one-time team.

Commissioner Ortega requested clarification that it will be made up of staff from the different disciplines to look at outcomes.

Mr. Martin said the primary look at outcomes will be at multiple committees, called service teams.

Commissioner Ortega asked if those service teams would be diverse and representative of the population within Ramsey County.

Mr. Martin said the service teams are representative, but he doesn't have other information with him.

Commissioner Ortega asked Mr. Martin to provide the Commissioners with the make-up of those service teams.

Mr. Martin said that would be done.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7.  
Nays – 0. (2008-165)

WHEREAS, As part of its Initiative to reduce disparities in the outcomes for the clients it serves, the Human Services Department sought a consultant or organization to develop and implement authentic dialogues between staff around the issues of race and the impact of race on services delivered; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Ramsey County Ending Racial Disparities Project in children's services identified conducting authentic dialogues as one of its strategies to increase staff awareness around the issues of racial disparities in the child protection and out of home placement systems; and

WHEREAS, The focus of the contract with Full Circle Community Institute is to train a cohort of up to 25 facilitators who will be available to conduct authentic dialogues within their own and other organizations involved with the Ramsey County Ending Racial Disparities Project and the CHS Anti-Racism Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Funding from foundation grants and the Human Services Department training budget will finance this effort; and

WHEREAS, Training participants include individuals from Human Services, Ramsey County Attorney's Office, Ramsey County Sheriff's Department, Second Judicial Court District, and the Saint Paul Police Department; and

WHEREAS, At the end of the contract period, there will be a cadre of trained facilitators, and CHS and the Ramsey County Ending Racial Disparities Project will have the capacity to train additional facilitators; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Full Circle Community Institute was selected to provide this service as the result of a Request for Proposals issued October 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Nine proposals were received; and

WHEREAS, A Committee consisting of community members and staff from the CHS Anti-Racism Leadership Team reviewed the proposals, selected three finalists who provided a demonstration of an authentic dialogue, and recommended the selection of Full Circle Community Institute to provide the service; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves entering into a contract with Full Circle Institute, 5878 State Road 70, Webster, Wisconsin 54893, to train 25 facilitators in authentic dialogues, for the period March 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$42,800; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the contract, following review and approval by the County Attorney and Budgeting and Accounting offices; and Be It Further

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

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Children’s Mental Health

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

Commissioner Rettman referred to Resolution 97-310, which included Board-established notification requirements. The documentation states that the Board-established requirements would be a part of the process in choosing a location. She asked if use of the process would be suggested language or “for sure” language.

Mr. Martin believes that would be labeled as an expectation; he does not recall a situation where they have not had that done. He said they would expect involvement and notification of the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Rettman requested clarification that the department would make that a requirement of the agreement that would be signed.

Mr. Martin said it would be expected that the vendors talk with the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Rettman asked if that would be done before any agreements for the houses are executed.

Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Chair Parker recalled that when that discussion took place, the reason why the language in the 1997 resolution could not be “to require”, was that if it is a permitted use, and if there is no reason why they should have more difficulty than anyone else purchasing a home in that neighborhood, all the County could do is encourage them to work with the neighborhoods, not require them to do so.

Commissioner Rettman said she wants to make sure that it is done, not suggested.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she knows that through previous discussions, it will be done.

Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the 1997 resolution language was chosen after careful consideration with the County Attorney’s Office and putting constitutional issues into play as well.

*(Continued)*

The Board has the assurance that it will be done. She recalls talking with providers; they recognized that it was in their best interest to do it as well. She believes everyone involved is committed to making sure this is done.

Mr. Martin agreed with Commissioner Reinhardt in that it is in the best interest of the vendor to do that; if they don't, they will be in big trouble with the neighborhood. When vendors have worked with the community, it works well.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 7.  
Nays – 0. (2008-166)

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department has completed the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the development of corporate foster care facilities to serve children with severe emotional disturbance (SED); and

WHEREAS, This effort is intended to develop local capacity to serve children currently being sent out of state; and

WHEREAS, Having the service capacity locally will keep the children closer to family and is intended to lead to better outcomes; and

WHEREAS, The funding for this program will be from three sources – Medical Assistance through the CADI waiver, the Room and Board rate which is local funding, and a supplementary Difficulty of Care payment which is also local dollars; and

WHEREAS, The annual local costs for children's mental health placements is \$6 million. This new development will be managed within the existing budget of the Department; and

WHEREAS, Two homes with a capacity of four residents each will be developed initially, one for girls and one for boys; and

WHEREAS, Based on demand, additional homes may be developed; and

WHEREAS, The review panel is unanimously recommending that Meridian Services be selected to develop the first two homes and that REM Minnesota be selected for developing 1-2 additional homes if needed; and

WHEREAS, If the Board approves, Meridian will begin looking for specific homes; and

WHEREAS, The vendors will work closely with Department staff in evaluating various sites; and

WHEREAS, The Board-established notification requirements for neighborhoods, district councils and cities will be part of this process; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the recommendation of Meridian Services, 9400 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427, to develop and operate the first two foster care homes for children with severe emotional disturbance (SED); and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board approves the recommendation of REM Minnesota, 6600 France Ave. South, #500, Edina, MN 55435, to develop and operate up to two additional foster care homes for children with severe emotional disturbance (SED); and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the initial five-year agreements and to make any necessary budget adjustments.

SHERIFF – Lease of Space at Selby Commons for the Youth Literacy Plus Program

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

Commissioner Rettman suggested removing the last proposed resolved clause that would authorize the County Manager to approve any subsequent lease extensions. The reason why she would like that removed is that we are not sure if the grant funds and/or forfeiture funds would still be available for subsequent leases, so it should go through the budget process. She asked if the maker of the motion would be willing to remove that clause.

Commissioner Carter said that if a new source of funds were required, it would need to come back through the Board process. If the source of funds remained the same would it need to come through the Board process?

County Manager Dave Twa, said it could be done either way. If the Board would like any extensions to come back, that could be done.

Commissioner Bennett asked if Property Management negotiated this lease.

Mr. Twa believes the Sheriff's Department negotiated this lease.

Commissioner Bennett said he believed all leases were going through Property Management; is there a reason why this one did not go through that process?

Sheriff Bob Fletcher said he does not know what took place in 2005 when the original lease was put into place. It would not be unusual for the Sheriff's Department to bring a lease renewal to the Board for approval without going through Property Management. That Department may have been involved in 2005, but he does not recall.

Commissioner Bennett said the Board has been trying to put everything dealing with leases, buildings, etc. with the Property Management Department. He asked the County Manager to make certain that happens and that all departments are doing so.

Commissioner Carter recalls those conversations. However, this lease has been in place for a while.

Commissioner Bennett asked if this lease was renegotiated.

Sheriff Fletcher said there is a normal market increase.

Commissioner Bennett said it should then be reviewed. He would like that included within the resolution.

Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office, said that could be done. That was accepted as a friendly amendment.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that regarding the approval of any subsequent lease extensions, there are two ways it could be dealt with: 1) strike the last resolved clause so that any extension would return to the Board; or 2) add a clause to the resolution that renewal would be contingent upon continued Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and forfeiture funds, so that it would only be renegotiated if these funds are available to cover the cost.

Commissioner Carter accepted a friendly amendment to add a clause that renewal could be contingent upon continued availability of JABG and forfeiture funds.

Sheriff Fletcher provided background on the funding; the JABG grant is a major part of this.

*(Continued)*

One of the reasons he is here today to ask for permission to use forfeiture funds is that a couple of years ago, the County decided that the truancy program was a high priority, and the department agreed. As federal grants have shrunk that has been one cause of the shrinking pool of funds. The second reason is that the Sheriff's Department agreed with the County Attorney that they need to have an attorney funded to help with the truancy program. Therefore, a large portion of the JABG grant was locked up for the County Attorney's Office. It used to be a three-way split between Sheriff, County Attorney and Corrections. As the entire pot of money has shrunk, each office has a smaller portion of funds. As these funds continue to shrink, it may be necessary to re-evaluate the priorities between doing prevention programs in the community versus the truancy program.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Board is trying to give the Sheriff the option of continuing the lease based on the funds that are identified within the resolution.

Sheriff Fletcher said he provided the history because the JABG funds may continue to shrink.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she is trying to make it easier to continue rather than to have it come back in six months.

Commissioner Reinhardt clarified that the maker of the motion accepted a friendly amendment to add a resolved clause 'contingent on sufficient JABG funds and the Sheriff's forfeiture account'.

Commissioner Rettman asked how Commissioner Bennett's request that Property Management be involved, factor into the amendment.

Commissioner Carter heard that Commissioner Bennett's amendment would be to request the Property Management Department to review this lease.

Commissioner Bennett said his amendment referred to all properties going through the Property Management Department.

Chair Parker requested clarification from Commissioner Bennett that his request would not be specific to this lease request, but rather a general direction to the County Manager. This is perhaps the first one that has come up with the Sheriff; perhaps they were not aware that the Board has been working toward making all properties under the Property Management Department.

Commissioner Rettman asked if this supercedes going through the process of all leases; this would not be consistent with how the other leases are handled.

Commissioner Reinhardt said her reasoning, with the Property Management review, that ultimately that department would have to make a recommendation to the County Manager that that would be in place, because it authorizes the County Manager to approve any subsequent lease extensions with the additional resolved clause that it would require Property Management review and recommendation to the County Manager.

Commissioner Rettman asked the Sheriff if there are other leases besides this one.

Sheriff Fletcher responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman asked that information be provided on all the leases, including a list of the leases, how they have been executed, etc.

Sheriff Fletcher said the provision for the County Manager to approve the lease extensions implies that he has the right to go to the Property Management Department and ask for a recommendation, but doesn't know if he has had to do that with any lease in the County. A separate issue is whether they are reviewed by that department or negotiated by that department. Further discussion would be needed – does the Board want the Property Management Department to negotiate every lease or just review every lease.

Commissioner Carter believes that would be covered in the process of review when the Department brings forth the master list on a periodic basis. She believes the Board can rely on Property Management to make those suggestions.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Ortega suggested that we need to make sure that the Property Management Department signs off. There are already sign-off sheets for department heads; in order for a lease to go forward, the Property Manager would have to sign off. He already works with every department head; it should be left to his judgment. Commissioner Ortega's concern is that if a lease is negotiated with one particular landlord, there may be other leases with that particular owner or management company, and there may be subtleties within those negotiations, and the leases should not be done piecemeal. He believes that is what Commissioner Bennett is trying to bring forward. He believes it should be a team approach, whoever negotiates the lease, and that it should not be a simple review by Property Management, but that Department should be included in the negotiation process. The Property Manager should not just get a negotiated lease to review; he should be included from the very beginning and help assess the situation and make the best deal for the County.

Chair Parker asked the Sheriff what his involvement has been with the Property Manager.

Sheriff Fletcher said there has been a great relationship, and that in most cases he has been directly involved in the negotiation process. This particular lease may have been reviewed by the Property Management Department back in 2005. On occasion, the Sheriff's Department may pick space and begin those negotiations with the owner. It is not extremely complicated to get a fair market value for lease space.

Commissioner Rettman's concern continues to be in terms of getting everything under Property Management. This lease is tied to forfeiture money; the Sheriff's Office does a good job of bringing in forfeiture money, but it is not an unending pot of money. She will be consistent with her voting in terms of not doing the total abdication to the County Manager.

Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2008-167)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has been administering a Youth "Literacy Plus" Program out of leased office space at Selby Commons since July 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Youth "Literacy Plus" is a crime prevention program, targeting the most at-risk children in our community through literacy development, mentoring, youth athletics, curfew and truancy enforcement and runaway intervention; and

WHEREAS, Funding for the leased space at Selby Commons for the operation of the "Literacy Plus" Program has been available through Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funds; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office wishes to extend the lease agreement for 2008, however JABG grant funds alone are not sufficient to cover the annual cost of the lease extension; and

WHEREAS, Forfeiture funds are available that could supplement the grant funds to fully cover the cost of the lease extension for 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Offices requests approval of the lease extension with Selby Commons Limited Partnership for program space for the Literacy Plus Program, for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the lease extension between Ramsey County and Selby Commons Limited Partnership, 400 Selby Avenue, Suite C, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104, for the lease of space for the Literacy Plus Program at 905 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, in the total amount of \$20,160; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the lease extension; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve any subsequent lease extensions, contingent upon continued Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) and forfeiture funds, and contingent upon review of the lease by Property Management.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – 2008 Capital Improvement Program Bonds

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

Commissioner Reinhardt said her motion included the amended Terms of Proposal as provided by Springsted Inc.

Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (The Terms of Proposal are on file with the Chief Clerk.) (2008-168)

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATED SALE OF \$6,100,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BONDS, SERIES 2008A

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Ramsey County, Minnesota, as follows:

Finding; Amount and Purpose. It is hereby found, determined and declared that Ramsey County, Minnesota (the "County"), should issue its \$6,100,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan Bonds, Series 2008A, to defray the expense of acquiring and constructing various capital improvements authorized in the County's Capital Improvement Plan under the County's home rule charter.

Meeting. This Board of Commissioners shall meet on the date and at the time and place specified in the form of Terms of Proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A for the purpose of awarding the sale of the Bonds.

Competitive Negotiated Sale. The County has retained Springsted Incorporated as an independent financial advisor, and the Board of Commissioners hereby determines to sell the Bonds by private negotiation, by way of a competitive sale in response to Terms of Proposal for the Bonds which are not published in any newspaper or journal.

Terms of Proposal. The terms and conditions of the Bonds and the sale thereof are fully set forth in the "Terms of Proposal" attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part hereof.

Official Statement. The County Manager and other officers or employees of the County are hereby authorized to participate with Springsted Incorporated in the preparation of an official statement for the Bonds.

*(Continued)*

COUNTY MANAGER – The Housing Endowment Fund and “Supporting Housing Priorities”

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman said she tried to find a way to support the resolution and the discussion going on, and wrestled with it. There is no one on this Board who doesn't support dealing with housing issues. She offered and moved an amendment to add the following three resolved clauses to the resolution, beginning with line 36 of the resolution.

“RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to meet with each Commissioner to ascertain the areas of housing priorities in their specific area they represent, prior to directing the County Departments; RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to have Board workshops on each of these subjects – Homeless Youth, Foreclosure Gaps, Veterans' Housing and Heading Home; RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to provide an in depth fiscal analysis of all federal, state and local dollars which are currently being used by Ramsey County to support housing priorities.”

Commissioner McDonough seconded the amendment.

Chair Parker asked if that would be an acceptable friendly amendment.

Commissioner Carter believes that the proposed amendment is a bit prescriptive; however, she does appreciate the details. Commissioners already meet with the County Manager to cover concerns and issues. The second resolved specifies four areas that she believes are already the plan to end homelessness, as it relates to unaccompanied youth, veterans, foreclosure concerns, and the Heading Home plan, which includes exit plans for these and others. The in depth analysis is also needed so that as the plans are put together, we are understanding of all of the different resources that can be used to assist in providing for ending homelessness. She does not object to any of this being done; it is just so prescriptive in the manner in which it happens that she believes there might be other options.

Commissioner Rettman said that she heard Commissioner Ortega talk about not just homelessness, but housing priorities. This body has already directed the County Manager to put together the foreclosure issue and bring it back. This amendment would ask that that should be done before directing staff. We have had a small amount of information on the youth issue; we have never address the veteran issues. None of these are necessarily homeless; they are housing priorities. It was very specific supporting housing priorities. That is why she said veteran housing, because the more she learns about that, it may not have anything to do with being homeless. She was trying to take what we had already done and make sure those workshops are done before he starts having something come in. The last resolved in the proposed resolution has the County Manager directing the departments to do the assessment; she believes the Commissioners know that assessment and we need to get our priorities there.

Chair Parker asked if the amendment would be acceptable.

Commissioner Carter said she feels it is too prescriptive. There is information coming to the Board; rather than having that information in a resolved clause, the Board would be able to entertain that information and direct further action as appropriate.

Commissioner Reinhardt believes that one of the issues is that we would be adding three resolved clauses of what we would expect to happen anyway. She believes that all three clauses are fine – the County Manager will talk with each Commissioner about this, as it is part of his job; we were already planning to have workshops to get closer to these issues; and another part of the County Manager's job is to look at different revenue sources. The problem may be that by adding them into this resolution, it insinuates that we wouldn't be doing them anyway, and that is not the

*(Continued)*

case. As long as it is clear that looking at other revenue sources, clearly defining the issues, and having communication with the Board of Commissioners on this very important issue, is something that is done anyway. She doesn't believe it would hurt to have them in the resolution, because this is what we would plan to do.

Commissioner McDonough usually doesn't like to be prescriptive and prefers to stay at the policy level, but he recognizes that this moved forward on a 4-3 vote after a great deal of conversation. Clearly, there is not full agreement on this Board on how to move forward in this area. He believes there is a lot of policy that will come forward on how to use these dollars. It is not just a management decision that would come forward with recommendations. He believes it is important that these conversations happen with the Commissioners about the policy and the proposals of these dollars. There are a lot of strings that could be attached to the proposals that would come forward with a very small amount of dollars. He thinks that what he heard from Commissioner Carter is that she agrees with Commissioner Rettman; he believes that he heard Commissioner Reinhardt also agrees. He seconded the motion to amend because he agrees those things probably would occur without the resolution; he doesn't see harm in putting them into the resolution to ensure those things happen and make certain that policy discussion happens with the County Manager before he comes forward with recommendations.

Commissioner Ortega said he tried to be as broad as possible; he believes the amendment narrows it and doesn't make it as broad. It would leave it up to our interpretation as to how to spend these dollars. All these activities would take place anyway. The reason why last week's discussion was so lengthy was that there were resolutions that were interpreted very narrowly from different perspectives. He could go either way because he knows the intent of the Board is to move forward. He is also fine with the resolution as it is. He would leave it up to the maker of the motion.

David Twa, County Manager, said he understands the intention; however, he has a couple of concerns. This is not going to be a rush to judgment; this will be a work in progress that will take a lot of time and effort. On the other hand, the language that says that 'before directing departments' there would be a lot of work that will have to go on within this, so his concern is that Commissioners might come back and say the he should not have spoken with departments about this. His sensitivity is, yes, it would certainly be his intention to do this, but before coming back to the Board with any recommendations everything would be discussed and put together. He is concerned about exactly how the language because he would not want it to impede upon his ability to work with the departments and bring forth these things. The other piece is that it is not likely to come back all in one piece. There are probably pieces that could move forward relatively quickly. Some grants may be available that would be brought back as part of the Heading Home Ramsey proposal, for example. On the veterans issue, he has had several discussions about how we may end up reorganizing the way we deliver the services in that department. That may come back totally separate from this issue of housing, but would certainly have an impact. His concern is that he wants to move this forward in an appropriate and good fashion, but on the other hand, he doesn't want to run into problems where there could be criticism.

Commissioner Bennett said that is where he is coming from. This would end the Housing Endowment Fund and put the money into the general fund to be broadly looked at for some future endeavors. He is getting the impression that Commissioner Rettman is already starting to define that new direction and new name. He thought it would be broader and wide open, and not yet defining anything.

Commissioner Rettman said the only thing she had before directing county departments was that the County Manager meet with Commissioners individually. A workshop on Heading Home has already been scheduled; she was just trying to make certain that the other topics would be heard in

*(Continued)*

workshops – foreclosure gaps, the homeless youth is very specific on a plan that is being worked on, we have not had a workshop on veteran housing. It was not narrowing, but said “the County Board directs the County Manager to meet with each of the Commissioners to ascertain the areas of housing priorities in the specific areas represented by the Commissioner, prior to directing the departments.

Commissioner Bennett said he sees this as more defining than broadly open and hoped this would let everything be on the table. He and other Commissioners meet with the County Manager at least once a month, and those discussions could come up then.

Chair Parker pointed out that there is an amendment and a second on the floor.

Commissioner McDonough said he seconded Commissioner Rettman’s amendment because she is trying to find a way to vote for this. He did not support this in the Workshop and did not know if he could withdraw his second, but he would not support it. He had stated in the Workshop that this was bad policy from the beginning. This money should go into the general fund and come through the budget process. The County has a lot of budget issues in a lot of different departments, with the threat of levy limits, and the Legislators are still in session. There are many areas where cuts will have to be made, and this would be taking \$2.1 million and carving it out for this. He would not support this no matter how it moves forward unless the \$2 million is put in the general fund to go through the budget process to compete with all the other needs of the County.

Commissioner Rettman said she had the purest intent to get the Board united on supporting housing priorities. She has worked in housing for years, and is passionate about it. Each Commissioner had a different view for how this should be shaped, and knows his/her own area. The Board has held Workshops on supportive housing and similar issues; she was trying to get the Commissioners on the same page, not to be prescriptive. She was concerned that Heading Home would get all the money, which would leave no money to deal with the other issues. Then, we would not go through a budget process. If it went through a budget process, that would be different. She was trying to deal with what was before the Board. She was also trying to deal with the veterans in this area.

Chair Parker asked if Commissioner McDonough was withdrawing his second.

Commissioner McDonough said he didn’t think he could.

Commissioner Carter said she appreciates this has been a difficult issue. The concerns raised by all Commissioners are genuine. She appreciated the suggestions raised by Commissioner Rettman and the concern raised by County Manager Twa. She suggested a friendly amendment in the first Resolved offered by Commissioner Rettman. Instead of: “before directing departments”, to say: “as we speak to those needs within areas as they are identified within the areas the Commissioners represent”. She asked if that would be acceptable.

Chair Parker, for clarification, asked if that refers to the meetings?

Commissioner Rettman responded affirmatively, on meeting with Commissioners.

Commissioner Carter said she could accept those clauses within the context of the resolution. She asked Commissioner Rettman if that would allow her to vote for the resolution?

Commissioner Rettman responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Ortega, as seconder of the motion, said he had stated he would support the maker of the motion. He wanted to keep this broad to: 1) look at all possibilities on how best to use these dollars, and 2) how do you operate it? The County Manager had said this is an ongoing process – \$2,148,689.17 sounds like a lot of money, but it is not. We need to make sure it has the most impact in the communities where it makes a difference. He was concerned that when the County Manager puts a product before the Board, not to vote up or down – that is bad policy, and he cautioned the Board on that.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Carter said while four Workshops are requested, they are not limiting the County Manager from bringing forth any other proposals that might be possible.

Roll Call on the amended resolution: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 5. Nays – Bennett, McDonough – 2. (2008-169)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is committed to working in partnership with others in Ramsey County to create a wide array of supportive services, programs, and initiatives to address housing issues; and

WHEREAS, The County Board, created the Housing Endowment Fund (HEF) in December 2000 as a reflection of their commitment to addressing these issues; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, the County Board, using the HEF, has been able to participate in the creation of 1,062 units of housing; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners wishes to affirm its commitment to addressing housing issues; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that the net proceeds of \$2,148,689.17 from the sale of the former Patrol Station at 655 West County Road E be used to pay down the Housing Endowment Fund loan from the General Fund; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that the remaining loan balance from the General Fund to the Housing Endowment Fund be forgiven; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that the remaining assets and liabilities be transferred from the Housing Endowment Fund to the General Fund; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that the Housing Endowment Fund be closed; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that future repayments from housing developers be receipted into the General Fund; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs that the net proceeds of \$2,148,689.17 from the sale of the former Patrol Station be designated in the General Fund for future appropriations, with emphasis on supporting housing priorities; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to meet with each Commissioner to ascertain the areas of housing priorities in their specific area they represent, as we speak to those needs within areas as they are identified within the areas the Commissioners represent; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to have Board Workshops on each of these subjects: Veterans' Housing, Homeless Youth, Foreclosure Gaps, and Heading Home; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager to provide an in depth fiscal analysis of all Federal, State, and local dollars which are currently being used by Ramsey County to support housing priorities; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The County Board directs the County Manager and county departments to review community needs in relation to supporting housing priorities and return to the Board with ideas and proposals to address these issues.

COUNTY MANAGER – Emergency Communication Center Contracts and Personnel Complement

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

Commissioner Rettman said she would not support this item; not because of the consultant, but because of the complement increase.

Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2008-170)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County's Department of Emergency Communications ("Department") is operating a new Public Safety Communication System\800 MHz ("System") to provide dispatch services to the majority of the County from a new Emergency Communication Center ("ECC"); and

WHEREAS, There is still some work to be completed on current technical projects and additional transitional issues regarding operations need to be addressed, especially at the ECC; and

WHEREAS, The County Manager has reviewed the transitional and project completion issues facing the Department and is recommending a set of actions to ensure that the ECC delivers high quality services to the community; and

WHEREAS, The most effective strategy for addressing user and community concerns regarding consolidation is to move as rapidly as possible toward becoming a "Center of Excellence" as defined by best practices in the industry; and

WHEREAS; The County is ready to take additional steps to refine its operating practices and standards and to support enhancements in order to provide the best services to the Ramsey County public; and

WHEREAS, Best practices unique to the ECC will be incorporated into the practices and standards and into daily operations; a formal training curriculum around these standard policies and procedures will be developed; and a standards-based quality assurance program that will assist management in identifying and resolving emerging problems will be developed; and

WHEREAS, The resources necessary to accomplish these tasks in order to achieve the highest possible level of operating performance will require expertise in a variety of areas including human resources, organizational development, quantitative analysis, training, technical writing, and communication; and

WHEREAS, Some resources can be utilized on a one-time basis, while others will be required on an on-going basis; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The County Manager has determined that additional, specialized resources, to be provided through a combination of consulting services and an increase in the ECC staff complement by 1 FTE, will best ensure that both the resolution of transition issues and the implementation of strategies for operational improvement will take place as quickly as possible: and

WHEREAS, The use of consulting services for Management Activities Support is proposed and PLK Consulting, P.C. is recommended because PLK Consulting provided Project Management services for the development and implementation of the System and build outs at the ECC and Back-up Dispatch Center, is familiar with the new System, the ECC and its operations, and community needs; and

WHEREAS, For Management Activities Support, it is estimated that 30 hours of service per month will be the average workload at an hourly rate of \$100 plus expenses for a period up to 12 months and at a maximum, not to exceed amount of \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, The use of consulting services for Training and Curriculum Development Services is proposed with a contractor to be determined after a scope of work, list of deliverables and qualifications is prepared with the assistance of PLK Consulting, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, An addition of 1 FTE to the ECC complement is proposed to address ongoing research, policy development, creation of reports necessary to develop and monitor operating practices, data analysis, contract writing and other administrative duties, and

WHEREAS, The Human Resources Department has evaluated this position and concluded that its duties and responsibilities are well described by the currently existing class specifications for the Planning Specialist 2; and

WHEREAS, These activities are part of the Emergency Communication Department's operations and the Department anticipates that adequate funds will be available for these additional resources; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with PLK Consulting, P.C., 3605 Eben Way, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 for services related to the transition of dispatching services on the 800 MHz system from the Emergency Communication Center and during the Federal Communication Commission Frequency Rebanding Project and other close-out projects, for a twelve-month period, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000 and subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute a contract for Training and Curriculum Development Services for the Emergency Communication Center, with a cost not to exceed \$40,000, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes an increase to the personnel complement of the Emergency Communications Department by a 1.0 FTE for a Planning Specialist 2 in the classified service; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make necessary adjustments to department 2008 and 2009 budgets as needed, and to execute any amendments, and change orders necessary to complete these activities in a timely manner.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Proposed Tobacco-Free Zones Parks and Recreation Policy

Commissioner Bennett said the discussion would be on the proposed Tobacco-Free Zones in Parks and Recreation areas affecting children.

Greg Mack, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, introduced Brittany McFadden and Jeannie Weigum, representatives from the Tobacco-Free Youth. He said the Department has been in discussions with the Tobacco-Free Youth group for several years. That group has worked diligently across the State and in the metropolitan area, to talk about policies and ordinances that affect the use of tobacco products within park areas. They have secured policy support from 100 different jurisdictions in the State that prohibit the use of tobacco products in parks and recreational settings throughout the State. The municipalities of St. Paul, Maplewood, North St. Paul, Roseville, Shoreview, New Brighton, Arden Hills, and Mounds View, have adopted policies that restrict tobacco use in certain areas of their park systems, though it is not necessarily universal. Ramsey County is involved as a regional park-implementing agency. The counties of Anoka, Dakota, Washington, and Three Rivers Park District representing the Hennepin County area, have all passed similar policies. Ramsey County is an “island” that has not taken action. The Parks and Recreation Commission has recommended restriction of tobacco use within certain parts of the County system, those where children are mostly present – playground areas, swimming beaches, Tamarack Nature Center, and in front of ice arena facilities. This is a policy, not an ordinance, and it becomes advisory. Signs would be put up, provided by the Tobacco-Free Youth organization, to encourage people to support the policy.

Ms. McFadden reminded everyone that one reason so many communities have adopted these policies restricting or eliminating tobacco use in their park areas is because of the litter. She exhibited a large covered jar filled with the litter collected in a North St. Paul park by some high schools, which took them only 20 minutes to collect. There are a number of reasons why communities throughout the State have adopted these policies. Right now, there are 108, as indicated by the map contained in the board documentation. Over 30 of those communities are in the metro area, and a number of them in Ramsey County. In addition to the litter, cities and counties are adopting these policies to help protect park users from exposure to second-hand smoke, especially in areas where people congregate, which is what the policy before the Board addresses. This is also a way to promote a healthier park system and positive role modeling, including activities with coaches working with young children.

Ms. McFadden exhibited a sign, similar to those up in parks all over the State and metro area. The use of similar signs is a way to help people understand that this policy is consistent throughout the park systems to encourage the restricted use of tobacco in those areas. She pointed out the support data within the packet.

Commissioner Bennett said Mr. Mack made this clear that this is a policy, not an ordinance, so there wouldn't be tagging of people, that it is a volunteer policy. He asked if safe litter containers would be placed near the signs to prevent litter and eliminate damage to the areas.

Mr. Mack said ash containers are placed at various locations, and if this policy were approved, would be installed in identified areas.

Commissioner Bennett said they should be placed at convenient locations.

Mr. Mack concurred.

Commissioner Rettman said she was surprised to see this on the Agenda without it being

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discussed in a Workshop. Policy items normally have discussion first, and this came directly to the Agenda for action. While it has been said this would not cost the County any money, it sets the expectation. Commissioner Bennett has already asked the question about adding containers. Policies should be vetted totally because they turn into enforcement and other things. There is a process for the Board on where to spend money. This is policy, but pushes out to other areas, and if properly vetted during discussion, might have been a better way to do this. If voted on today, this has not been properly vetted.

Chair Parker said the policy discussion on the agenda is all that is needed for a policy. A Workshop is not needed on every policy discussed at a Board meeting.

Commissioner Rettman said there has been no discussion, with a week before taking action. The norm has been for discussion in a Workshop, and have it totally vetted as opposed to placement on the Board Agenda.

Chair Parker said the discussion would be held today with approval at the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Ortega said the Board has dealt with the smoking issue in restaurants, bars, etc., over the past several years; it is a public health issue. The Board takes the posture that this is about educating the communities as the tool of first resort, rather than enforcement. Educating the public is about doing the right thing because that is the sustainable way to do things. This is a move in that direction. We now have a Statewide ban in restaurants and bars, and this makes sense, especially when it comes to the young folks who are part of the motivating factor behind this type of policy. He understands the process as Commissioner Rettman sees it, but in terms of it being vetted, the Board has discussed the issue of smoke-free/tobacco-free, for the past several years. He supports this and said we need to move forward. He commended the Department and the tobacco-free organizations for bringing this forward. It is the next logical step, and it should be assumed that this would keep going – to keep educating folks that this is a critical public health issue. All departments should be involved in some way to make it happen.

Commissioner Bennett moved, seconded by Commissioner Ortega, the proposed Tobacco-Free Zones Parks and Recreation Policy.

Commissioner Rettman said she supported the compromised smoking ban on the bars. She has been consistent in her voting because she believes education starts at home. This is a policy, and absent enforcement, gives mixed messages, opening up other issues. She thought this would just be discussion with time to phone the departments, and to address some other items, such as loitering issues.

Chair Parker said this would come back to the Board so there is time for phone calls and discussion.

Roll Call: Ayes – Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – Rettman – 1. Final action on the policy would be considered on May 13, 2008 Board Agenda.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said there is a lot of activity behind the scenes, and negotiations between the House, Senate and the Governor's Office. The overall budget balancing is the crux of the discussion. The Governor wants the budget balanced consistent with the way he wants to do it. On the side are some ancillary things like Central Corridor, the park in Vermillion, and the Vets Home. The tax bill brings new issues to the table as well. The tax bill was wrapped up in the House, but the Senate adjourned and won't return until Wednesday afternoon. There will be a working group, made up of the same members on the conference committee in both House and Senate tax bill, to work on the differences in the two bills and for what the Governor would accept.

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Mr. Riley said the big concern for the Governor is levy limits. Last night, the House attached levy limits. After conversing with Jeff Van Wychen, the County's legislative consultant, Mr. Riley said those levy limits wouldn't go into effect for a full year. The County would have this budget period without levy limits if this is the form agreed upon, as opposed to the Governor's, which would have been in effect for next year. When the levy limits go into effect, the average of all 87 counties is taken, not going above a number higher than the CPI and growth and other things. This means for Ramsey County, it would be about a 3.7% increase allowed. The Governor's bill would be more stringent, incurring huge cuts in Ramsey County. This is a moving target. The County would work with AMC and MICA to mitigate some of the things the County could levy for to take some things off the table, but the Governor insists that levy limits be part of the final agreement.

Commissioner Reinhardt, borrowing from some earlier comments from Commissioner Bennett, explained for people watching this meeting, that levy limits may sound like a good idea – it would cap the amount they would pay on property taxes. What they might not understand is the hype that goes into what the Governor is saying. When talking about spending increases, that is what should be looked at, when in fact, the spending increase in Ramsey County went up about 1.7% and the State's went up by about 5%. Yet, the Governor is saying that the local governments are spending too much. The reality is, all the shifts made from the State onto property taxes are why property taxes have gone up under the current state administration. It is because local governments are paying the State's bills; we are being forced to. It is misleading to say to people that if a cap is put on property taxes that somehow a change is being made at the local governmental level. People need to understand that if we didn't have the increases, the shifts coming directly from the State from bills they paid last year and are telling local governments they need to pay this year, we wouldn't have to worry about levy limits. The County is not spending more than what we can afford – it is what is being forced on us.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the rail levy is included; is it an aggregate levy limit?

Mr. Riley said he believes it is included but would need to be analyzed further.

Commissioner Rettman asked that all Commissioners receive the information.

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said Commissioner Reinhardt asked that staff look at the levy limit proposals and what they might mean. The proposals are changing rapidly. Budgeting and Accounting staff have been working with Mr. Van Wychen to analyze those proposals and should have information to the Board possibly today. Commissioners at the AMC Legislative Committee meeting last week were to talk with county commissioners around the State and with staff to take into account some exceptions. Some proposals might come back to the tax chairs and to the Governor's Office to say that if there would be levy limits, to show what it could mean to counties showing any exemptions. They spoke of the whole area of public safety area, the collection of child support, and the loss in child support from the Federal level.

Mr. Riley concurred with Commissioner Reinhardt on all the points she raised. Part of the reason for the Governor's insistence on levy limits is because he is being accused by Democrats that there is an increase in taxes -- there is no such thing as no new taxes – it is property taxes that keep going up. They have a limited amount of money and keep shifting their responsibilities onto the local governments. They made cuts but keep the mandates and it keeps bringing up property taxes. We no longer get a share of state aid we once got to help mitigate some of those costs. The House and Senate are trying to put a small amount in there, \$20 million for counties, which would be about \$1.5 million for Ramsey County if that were to be adopted. There is about \$50 million for cities, but it doesn't keep up with inflation. Those are the arguments the Democrats have made, but given the parameters they have to work in – the no new taxes – the Governor will veto everything if they have a tax increase, so they are in a box and this is what they have to swallow this year if they expect to get anything out of this session.

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Commissioner Carter asked if there is discussion if there are exclusions to levy limits for increases in cost of mandates or shifts.

Mr. Riley said right now, there are no exclusions. They hope to go back to some of the earlier language when there were levy limits, for some carve-outs for these additional costs the County keeps getting and for growth areas of the County. Staff believes there will be levy limits.

Commissioner Bennett said a better job is needed in educating the public. He wasn't sure even the media understands counties versus cities. The County has about 80-90% mandates, where cities have 3-5% mandates. They are totally different, and yet, the Governor and Legislators lump cities and counties together. The fact that the County delivers services for the Legislature, and when putting on restrictions, the County has to make the cuts that they won't make. Someday somebody will get that message out to both the Legislators and to the public. County government is a hidden government, and well hidden in this area from the public and Legislators. Looking at the County's spending increases over the last ten years, and looking at the State under both parties, both parties far exceeded the County almost every year. If that were brought out, the public might understand this better. The problem is, even though we rank 32 in the nation as far as property taxes, the property tax is the most hated tax because of the lump sum payment. When paying a sales tax, it is paid on a small basis. State taxes are withheld from paychecks. Not only do counties deliver its tax message to the public, but the cities' and school districts' as well. The press could educate both the public and the Legislators because neither of them understands this.

Mr. Riley said the first analysis of this, if under the Governor's levy limits, would probably have to reduce staff under the current scenario by about 65.7 FTEs. Under the House scenario, it would be 51 FTEs. That message will be passed on to the Legislators that we need help.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it is important that it is understood that there are not only people in those positions, but it is the services they provide, some critical for day-to-day life, and others are things people expect from County government. It is about the services that will not be available to people when they need or expect them.

Chair Parker said that is an important point. The number of County staff affected is irrelevant to the public and Legislators, but is specific to the services provided. Last year there was discussion about trying to increase hours at the Library, but that means staff. If staff are cut, those hours would go down. Child protection services – those are things people assume are taken care of, for which the County bears the responsibility.

Commissioner Bennett cited the articles about the Charter Commission's consideration of the Sheriff as elected versus appointed. One article cited how the Sheriff's budget had doubled. What would happen if that budget were cut in half? What would the public's reaction be to public safety? The criminal justice area as a whole is the fastest rising portion of County budget. If those were kept to whatever the levy limits would be, the public would be screaming.

Mr. Riley said one area of the budget bill just dealt with was in corrections. Staff believe the County did not come out as badly as was possible. They cut back on how much money would be given for short-term offenders. The County would get \$15 a day. We were getting \$9 and spending \$90, bringing us up to \$31 last year, and now have been cut back to \$15 a day. They did not touch other areas that would have hurt the County more with probation officers and in other areas. The shortfall would still have to be made up.

Ms. Speiker said Senator Moua and Representative Paymar were very helpful, led the discussion, worked with Community Corrections staff, and with AMC staff to make the budget proposal, which looked dire at the beginning. She encouraged staff and Commissioners to thank them for that work.

Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, explained that when the costs go up, there

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is a slow shift back to counties for some of the ongoing care in the nursing facilities. A number of years ago Medicaid costs were transferred over to the State. Slowly, those have been shifting back to counties over the last several biennia with “co-pays” when placing residents in State-operated services such as State hospitals. There are only about twelve states where the counties deliver most of the human services or contract for it, and Minnesota is one of those states. Counties like it because of local control and we can respond better to our communities.

Ms. Brewington said with all the cost shifting, there is less and less money coming from the State, and they have cut us dramatically. In 2003, we lost \$25 million a year in our biggest block grant, the CCSA, which comes to us with a lot of flexibility. That is a chunk of money lost Statewide, and we have less and less flexibility in responding to our communities because we are spending more and more of a smaller pot of money on core services and mandated services like child protection, which everyone agrees we absolutely have to maintain. When we only have money to do that, we don’t do the kind of innovative programs that our counties have been very good at like Alternative Response, an early intervention, voluntary program for families before they become neglectful or abusive. That is not mandated, but when our budgets become pressured, we start losing the ability to do those early intervention/prevention programs, in order to do the higher cost programs like Out-of-Home Placement, which the counties pay for.

Ms. Brewington said in the big budget bill, they have processed each area from agriculture and vets through the environment, and public safety, with human services addressed last. About one-third of the State budget is in health and human services, with the same percentage reflected at the County level. In years past, we have taken the biggest blows. This year there is not a lot of area to cut the County, and a lot of the shift is moving over to the health plans and hospitals. There are a lot of assessments and delays, decreases in the payments that they will save. For counties, the areas we will feel some cuts would be in a very temporary delay in grant payments by one month moving it out into the next fiscal year, making the problem bigger for next year. There is a 1.7% reduction in the grants to counties, including the big block grant, the CCSA grant of about \$2.3 million Statewide. Counties get nickled and dimed to death and is another thing that happens to our costs in how they can shift this. They do it slowly and there is not a big outcry. Delays are seen in other areas that will hurt people served, with a cap on waivers for the disabled. Counties do draw down some Federal dollars for some of the waiver programs, but a cap has been put on that because of the investments. Overall, the County comes out fairly well.

Commissioner Rettman asked if that is the CADI waiver.

Ms. Brewington said it is the CADI, TBI, all the waivers. Some of it is a formulary change, and it is not a straight-out cap seen in the past, and not as bad as it could be. They have shifted some of the COLAs. They are shifting some of the COLA increases for the nursing facilities into the future, however, there is a 2% nursing facility COLA that will be in effect for 2009, 2010, and 2011 at a cost of about \$5.7 million. Part of the negotiations is in delaying some of the increases for coverage for Minnesota Care to families at slightly higher incomes, but still families very much in need of some subsidy in trying to get access to health care.

Ms. Brewington said that is the information staff has at this time; so much is in play, and we don’t know where we are going to land. It is a constantly changing environment.

Commissioner McDonough said as Ms. Brewington pointed out, Minnesota is one of twelve states providing direct services at the local level with state and federal funding. It is a good system, allowing the flexibility and ability to react locally to these decisions – “the right arm of State government”. At AMC, work is ongoing with Legislators, administration and departments, to quit viewing and treating us as just another special interest out there – that we are true partners in how we provide these services and in how they are funded. Anyone testifying does feel just like a

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special interest competing for attention. That is not how this works because of the relationship in counties providing services at the level the Legislature determines and whether they decide to give us money, take money away, and needs to be worked out more in a partnership relationship. That will not play out between now and the end of Session, but the work we are doing at AMC and for counties Statewide to change that relationship with the State on all levels about recognizing and valuing the partnership and view the decisions that go along with that as a true partner.

Commissioner Reinhardt provided an update on waste paint, which has taken some surprising turns. Paint manufacturers on a national level, the retail association, the contractors, paint recyclers, household hazardous waste programs – all came together for what happened in other product areas. They are taking responsibility. The paint manufacturers are saying it is not government responsibility to pay for dealing with waste paint. They want to do that, but in order to, they need to be allowed to talk to each other, which involves anti-trust issues. They went to the State to be allowed to incorporate this into the price of their paint to take care of education, collection, and use the in-place infrastructure in Minnesota.

Commissioner Reinhardt said currently as a County, we need to pay for the proper management of waste paint – paint manufacturers want to do that. Somehow, some of the Legislators got it into their minds that this fee was a tax, which it cannot be because in order for something to be a fee or a tax at a State level, it has to go through a State agency. The manufacturers are even taking responsibility for setting up a third-party organization; they want to be responsible for this and include it in the cost of business.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this is not money coming to the State in any way; there is no cost to the State for this. Across the State, it costs county governments \$5 million a year to deal with waste paint; in the metro area, it is \$2 million a year. At this point, it sounds like the Governor is having some issues with it. This is so unique and new and manufacturers want to do this on their own without it costing property taxpayers or the State tax dollars a dime, there has got to be a misunderstanding about what this is. It is property tax relief. State funds currently going into this would no longer be required, and the manufacturers would be picking up the cost. She hoped the message gets through how important this is to the taxpayers. Included in the Legislation is a requirement that an analysis be done so tax impacts are realized and avoided. The manufacturers would charge \$.40 per container, exempting anything under one quart. She hoped this would go through.

Mr. Riley said a bill the County Board was supportive of on mortgage foreclosures that gave up to one-year leeway for paying the mortgage, passed the House and Senate, and is sitting on the Governor's desk. Staff understands that the Governor would probably veto it. The major banks were opposed to it because they said it would be hard to get credit in Minnesota if that happened. They feel it should be a national issue so that one State is not like an island where credit is harder to get because of that bill.

Mr. Riley said on the tax bill, there is a working group, and the Environmental Response Fund is in both sides. The light rail exemption for Central Corridor for sales tax is in both sides. Moving the Truth In Taxation hearing to later in the week in December because it conflicts with the AMC Annual Conference is also in the tax bill.

## ADJOURNMENT

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