

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Vice-Chair Rettman – 6. Absent: Parker – 1. Also present were Pat O'Connor, Interim 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 Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the November 25, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – Joint Use Agreement between Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul for Purchase of Services from Workforce Solutions

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

Commissioner McDonough said this is leaps and bounds from where it had been two years ago with the City of St. Paul in relation to workforce development. The City is stepping up with dollars to pay for the County Employment Guidance Counselor in Workforce Solutions, and providing space to house them. He thanked the City, and Bob Bierscheid, in particular, for his leadership on moving forward in how we work together on workforce development.

Commissioner Carter added thanks to Bob Bierscheid, and said he will be missed when he leaves employment with the City. She recognized Commissioner McDonough for the work he has done to get to a place where we are collaborating in workforce development with the City of St. Paul.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2008-348)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County operates the YouthLEAD program, a collection of services to youth focused on increasing the rate of skills acquired and of timely high school graduation of at -risk youth; and

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul operates the Youth Job Corps program, a summer job program designed to teach and train Saint Paul youth skillful work habits; and

WHEREAS, Both parties desire to have the services of a job development staff person to supplement the existing efforts of the City's Youth Job Corps program and the County's YouthLEAD program in placing disadvantaged Saint Paul Youth between the ages of 16 – 21 in employment situations which are not subsidized by the City or the County; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The County has a job classification titled *Employment Guidance Counselor* (“EGC”), the duties of which include job development services; and

WHEREAS, The City currently has no job classification that includes job development services and would have to create one; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §471.59, the County and City are authorized to enter into agreements with other governmental units to provide services which the governmental unit providing the service or function is authorized to provide for itself; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of both the County and the City to jointly obtain job development services through the services of a County EGC; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Joint Use Agreement with the City of St. Paul and a payment of \$150,000 for a period of two years for job development services to participants of the City First Place Program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Use Agreement with the City of St. Paul; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute amendments to the Agreement including amendments to extend the term of the Agreement, so long as funding for the services is received from the City of St. Paul; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves an increase of one (1) starred FTE Employment Guidance Counselor position in Workforce Solutions to provide services under the Agreement and any extensions, such position to continue so long as funding for the position is received from the City of St. Paul; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make any necessary budget amendments subject to approval by Budgeting and Accounting.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Food Support (formerly Food Stamp) Performance Bonus

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2008-349)

WHEREAS, The federal government provides bonus payments to states and counties who maintain a low error rate; and

WHEREAS, For the seventh year, the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County staff earned this bonus; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services has notified Ramsey County that we will receive a payment of \$64,274; and

WHEREAS, The requirements are that these funds be invested in efforts to maintain or improve administration of the Food Support or Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP); and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department proposes to use the funding for technology improvements for direct service staff, additional training and overtime to process applications in a timely fashion; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Food Stamp Bonus Payment of \$64,274 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the proposed plan to utilize the bonus payment for technology improvements, additional training and overtime to process applications in a timely fashion; and Be It Further

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

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

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2008-350)

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

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

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

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

VETERANS SERVICES/COUNTY MANAGER – Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Grant

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

Vice-Chair Rettman asked if the computer system will allow for information to be provided to folks about the new legislation that went into effect in August 2008, regarding veterans' mental health status and for other information regarding emergency assistance for veterans.

Tom Moore, Acting Director, Veterans Service Office, said once all the files are converted, they should be able to do queries and have the ability to send out form letters and related information.

Commissioner Rettman said it is important, especially in terms of some of the veterans' issues. This might afford them more benefits than they've had. She wants to make sure it is more user-friendly.

Mr. Moore said he believes it will be.

Vice-Chair Rettman congratulated Mr. Moore on the grant.

Commissioner Bennett asked if this is the same automated system used by other counties, which eliminates much of the work being done by hand.

(Continued)

Mr. Moore responded that it is basically the same. There are two different systems being used by counties. This will remove much of the work being done by hand.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2008-351)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Legislature has authorized funding for the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (“MDVA”) to issue an Enhancement Grant program for County Veteran Services Offices (“CVSOs”) since 2006; and

WHEREAS, This Enhancement Grant is for the purposes of assisting CSVOs in enhancing benefits, programs and services provided to veterans; and

WHEREAS, The grant is open and competitive, and applications are evaluated for alignment with the MDVA’s programmatic goals and measureable outcomes, one of which is digital records management; and

WHEREAS, A digital records management system would significantly enhance Ramsey County’s ability to provide efficient and effective services to Ramsey County’s veteran community; and

WHEREAS, The County Manager indicated the intention of the Veterans Services Office to apply for funds from MDVA for the purchase of a digital records software program, in a memo to the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on September 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The MDVA notified Ramsey County on November 12, 2008 that the Ramsey County grant proposal was approved for funding; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners ratifies the submission of the application for an Enhancement Grant to the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for the amount of \$55,035 in order to purchase a digital records management software system; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept the grant award, approve the grant agreement, and make necessary budget adjustments; and Be It Further

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

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Authorize the execution of rate setting contracts for chemical assessment using the ASUDS-R

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

Vice-Chair Rettman asked if levy dollars are used for the rate setting agreements.

John Menke, Assistant Director, Adult Services, Community Corrections, said these are paid for primarily from revenue gained from the chemical assessment use fee that is imposed in court on all alcohol related driving assessments.

Vice-Chair Rettman said the documentation states that funds are currently in the budget and will be a part of any budget process, but it didn’t identify the source. She wanted to make sure this is not levy dollars.

(Continued)

Mr. Menke said this is not levy dollars.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.
(2008-352)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections Department is committed to the implementation of evidence based practices in the correctional environment. The focus is on the criminogenic needs that put the offenders at risk for continued criminal behavior. Actuarial assessment tools can identify the areas of service needs. The Adult Substance Abuse and Driving Survey-Revised (ASUDS-R) is one of the assessment tools used by the DWI Unit; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to MS 169A.70, when a defendant is convicted of an offense of driving while impaired Ramsey County Community Corrections is mandated to conduct a chemical assessment and submit a report to the court; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections is encouraging a variety of agencies and individuals to train to conduct the ASUDS-R assessment and would like to contract with them to do the assessment on the offenders in the DWI Unit; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute rate setting Agreements with agencies or individuals who are certified by Ramsey County Corrections to conduct the ASUD-R assessments for DWI offenders through December 31, 2011; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve any necessary amendments or renewals in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

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

MEDICAL EXAMINER – Agreements for Medical Examiner Laboratory Services

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

Bonnie Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board, said a word was left out of the draft resolution; it should read that the contracts would be in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 annually and \$30,000 annually.

The amendment to lines 8 and 9 of the draft resolution was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.
(2008-353)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Medical Examiner Department wishes to enter into agreements with Regions Hospital and Hennepin Healthcare systems for forensic laboratory services; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve the agreements for forensic laboratory services with Regions Hospital, 640 Jackson Street, St Paul, MN 55101 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 annually, and with Hennepin Healthcare Systems, 701 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55415 in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 annually, both for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the agreements with Regions Hospital and Hennepin Healthcare Systems; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments and payments, and execute amendments to the agreements in a form to be approved by the County Attorney provided the funds are available within the Medical Examiner's operating budget.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- On a class called Partners In Policymaking for families dealing with extreme challenges regarding developmental disabilities. This was well-attended with a lot of good information presented on housing, transportation, waived services, case management, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Rettman declared the meeting adjourned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session was called to order at 11:55 a.m. with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Vice-Chair Rettman - 6. Absent: Parker – 1. Also present were: Susan Gaertner, Ramsey County Attorney; Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office; and Pat O'Connor, Interim County Manager.

Re: Richard Robinson vs. Ramsey County

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution, seconded by Commissioner Bennett. Roll Call: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2008-354)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners approves the budget recommended by the Ramsey County Attorney that was discussed in this Executive Session.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk - County Board