

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker (late), Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Bennett – 7. Absent: None – 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 McDonough moved approval of the Agenda of the November 7, 2006, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0.

[Commissioner Parker arrived at this time.]

MINUTES

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the Minutes of the October 24, 2006 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

SHERIFF/COUNTY ATTORNEY/COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Justice Assistance Grant Program Award

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-351)

WHEREAS, The U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance has made available through an allocation formula, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program funds for state and local government agencies to support a broad range of law enforcement activities for preventing and controlling crime and improving the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, An allocation was available to the joint agencies of Ramsey County, the City of St. Paul, the City of Maplewood, and the City of Roseville in the total amount of \$290,350; and

WHEREAS, As lead agency for the Justice Assistance Grant funds, the City of St. Paul submitted the grant application on behalf of all the participating agencies; and

WHEREAS, An Interlocal Agreement between the agencies regarding the distribution of grant funds was required to be in place and submitted along with the grant application; and

WHEREAS, Based on the Interlocal Agreement, Ramsey County will receive \$81,538 of the grant funds to be split by the Sheriff's Office, the County Attorney's Office and the Community Corrections Department; and

WHEREAS, The grant application was approved and the Justice Assistance Grant awarded and available for expenditure through September 30, 2009; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Office has been awarded \$30,985 for gang, narcotics, and apprehension overtime payments; and

WHEREAS, The County Attorney's Office has been awarded \$19,568 to fund an Investigator to work with the Courts in providing essential information regarding defendants prior to bail hearings and sentencings; and

WHEREAS, The Community Corrections Department has been awarded \$30,985 to fund a Community Corrections Aide to work in the criminal records intake unit; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners ratifies the Interlocal Agreement between the City of St. Paul, Maplewood, Roseville, and Ramsey County for allocation of the Justice Assistance Grant Program award; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board accepts the Justice Assistance Grant award to Ramsey County in the amount of \$81,538; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve necessary budget adjustments to establish the grants in each of the Sheriff's, the County Attorney's and the Corrections' budgets; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the continuance of the .80 FTE unclassified Investigator-County Attorney "starred" position in the County Attorney's personnel complement, previously funded through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and subject to availability of Justice Assistance Grant program funding; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the continuance of the 1.00 FTE Community Corrections Aide "starred" position in the Community Corrections personnel complement, previously funded through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant and subject to availability of Justice Assistance Grant program funding; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Board Chair to approve future Interlocal Agreements between the participating agencies for future Justice Assistance Grant awards; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approved future Justice Assistance Grant awards and to approve the necessary related budget adjustments.

**PUBLIC HEALTH – Adjustment of Public Health Budget complement by an additional 1.8 FTE Nutrition Assistant "staffed" positions for the WIC program**

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-352)

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

WHEREAS, Public Health provides WIC services to eligible women, infant and children in Ramsey County to improve their nutritional and overall health status; and

***(Continued)***

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County WIC client caseload has significantly increased over the past year and funding for WIC services has also increased; and

WHEREAS, In order to provide the required services to the increasing number of clients, additional staff is needed; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes an increase of 1.8 FTE Nutrition Assistant, “starred” positions, in the Public Health complement, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary adjustments to the 2006 and 2007 Public Health Budgets by increasing estimated revenue to fund these positions.

**PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Approval of local option tax reductions by the County Board of Commissioners**

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-353)

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 273.123, subd, 7, authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to approve a local option disaster tax reductions; and

WHEREAS, The County Board of Commissioners retains sole authority to approve said reductions; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent or more of the homestead dwelling or other structure of the attached list of properties has been unintentionally or accidentally destroyed and the property affected was thereby made uninhabitable or not usable; and

WHEREAS, The owner of the property has made written application to the county assessor; and

WHEREAS, The owner of the property hereby makes written application to the county board; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reduction in taxes and any penalty and interest as noted on the exhibit on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to the exhibit previously mentioned, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby discloses that they do not have a financial interest in a local option reduction, nor any familial relationship with a local option tax reduction applicant.

**COUNTY MANAGER – 2007 State Legislative Proposals**

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

Commissioner Rettman said that at the Legislative Committee meeting she had requested

additional information on the funding for the Family Planning Special Project Grants, and had understood that the information would be added to the documentation, but it was not included. She had also requested information on the Local Public Health Grant, which was included in the Board packet.

Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health, said the request was for the total amount of family planning dollars that the 50% cut would impact. The total amount per year is \$3.75 million. That \$3.75 million has been the base of family planning for a number of years. In the 2006-07 budget passed by the State, it was set at \$3.75 million for two years. Last year in the last legislative session, there was action to reduce it by 50%. What the State did was rather than putting out new RFPs, they extended the current contracts to June 2007. The amounts of dollars are 18-month amounts to the various Ramsey County agencies.

Commissioner Rettman asked if each of the agencies' amounts would be doubled if the money was restored.

Mr. Fulton responded negatively and said there would be a new RFP process done if the money is restored. The base going into the 2008-09 State budget will now be \$1.875 million. There would have to be action to return that base, for which the Department is seeking support.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the impact would be between \$850,000-\$1 million.

Mr. Fulton responded affirmatively. The money has not yet been lost. The State has told the County it will not be issuing RFPs for the following two-year budget until they have some clarification of what the governor's budget will be.

Commissioner Rettman asked that the information be added to handwritten page 4 of the documentation in the final text.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7.  
Nays – 0. (2006-354)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has reviewed a number of proposals for possible inclusion in their 2007 state legislative package; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, based on their review of these items, makes a finding that the following should be included in their 2007 state legislative proposals:

*COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS*

- MS 383A.08, Subd. 6 and Subd. 7
- Short-Term Offender Costs

*PUBLIC HEALTH*

- Reinstate full state funding for Family Planning Special Project Grants
- Reinstate full funding of the Local Public Health Grant

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its representatives to work with the Legislature and other interested parties to seek the necessary legislation for these proposals.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Adult Mental Health Initiative

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

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Rettman said her concern on this item is the last 'resolved' clause, which authorizes the County Manager to accept additional grant money and add up to four new positions. She would like to amend the resolution to remove that clause because the County doesn't know what impact the message from the State will have on current existing positions. There might be a current County employee who would be laid off, but qualified for these positions. She doesn't know if this money would allow those individuals to be qualified because they would not be considered new positions. She would like to see what happens to the rest of human services.

Commissioner Ortega doesn't see how her objective would be met by removing the 'resolved' clause. It could be amended to add a phrase that the filling of any of those positions could be done through employees impacted by cuts.

Commissioner Rettman said she would be fine with that, but she doesn't know if they have to be new positions, because this money can be used only for mental health purposes. She is concerned that the dollars may preclude existing staff from doing that work.

Mr. Twa said the Board has been very clear about wanting to avoid layoffs if at all possible, as long as the affected employee is qualified for another position. This specifically relates to the issue of targeted case management dollars. It is likely that we will see the regulations toward the late part of December or early January. What is being requested in this resolution is to simply expedite the process.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this is positive money and the positions for this plan make sense to her. She doesn't see how the County would be restricted from doing this.

Commissioner McDonough agreed, and believes the policy is quite clear about how cuts and available dollars are handled. His concern is from a different approach. There are reasons why the Board has asked that grants come back to the Board. More and more he sees these written so that the Board doesn't see anything. The Board should address this item; if there are more in the future, they should come back to the Board also.

Commissioner Ortega said this doesn't preclude the County Manager from informing the Board of what took place.

Commissioner Rettman moved deletion of the last 'resolved' clause, seconded by Commissioner McDonough.

The amendment was not accepted as friendly.

Roll Call on amendment: Ayes – McDonough, Rettman – 2. Nays – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 5. Amendment failed.

Roll Call on original resolution: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2006-355)

WHEREAS, Over the last several years, the State of Minnesota has provided state employees to work with county and private agency staff in community-based services; and

WHEREAS, This developed as the service delivery system has evolved and the State of Minnesota's role in the provision of direct service at State Hospitals has diminished; and

WHEREAS, This effort has grown to the point that 37 state employees have worked in direct service settings in Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, In June 2006, the State of Minnesota notified Ramsey County Human Services that they intend to provide the equivalent of this resource annually beginning July 1, 2007; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, The Department is developing a plan for utilizing these dollars, which is to be submitted to the state by December 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, On August 22, the Board approved two new positions for Community Human Services in response to five vacancies among the 37 state positions; and

WHEREAS, The state advanced the cash equivalent to Ramsey County and the Department is working to make sure that the level of service remains the same through this transition; and

WHEREAS, There is now an additional .7 FTE state position that was providing crisis services and has become vacant, with the state providing the cash equivalent of that position; and

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department requests an increase in the complement of .7 FTE Social Worker II to provide crisis outreach services – specifically assessment, intervention, and follow-up with adults in crisis; and

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department anticipates that some of the state staff will leave their positions between now and July 1, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The Department is requesting delegation to the County Manager to add up to four new positions or to amend contracts specifically for this initiative prior to implementation of the entire plan on July 1, 2007, as those positions become vacant and the state provides the financial support; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Adult Mental Health Initiative funds in the amount of \$37,925 for the period July 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board increases the complement of the Community Human Services Department by .7 FTE Social Worker II in 2006 and 2007; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to accept any additional grant money, add up to four new positions, amend contracts, and to make the necessary budget adjustments specifically for the Adult Mental Health Initiative.

#### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported that:

- She and Commissioner Ortega attended the Grand Opening of a Park & Ride lot in Stacy. This was part of the multi-modal process that has been discussed.
- She attended the AMC Board of Directors meeting.
- The Ramsey County League of Local Governments meetings was devoted to Ramsey County Active Living.
- The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB) met. E-waste is a very critical issue this year.
- She attended the foster care recognition dinner. There are some foster parents who have been providing this service and helping youth for over 40 years.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Parker reported that:

- The Ramsey County League of Local Governments meeting was an extended meeting and focused on Active Living Ramsey County. People from almost every city in the county were in attendance. There is a great deal of enthusiasm about this program. There is a new staff person who will begin work in a couple of weeks.
- She attended the Substance Abuse graduation.

Commissioner Rettman reported that:

- She attended an EMS mini conference. One issue is elevating the level of EMS workers.
- She attended the West Minnehaha Rec Center Halloween party.
- Over 25,000 people attended the Zoo Boo at Como Park.

Commissioner Carter reported that:

- She attended the SWMCB meeting and the Foster Care banquet.
- She attended a stakeholder meeting of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) where they were joined by representatives from the various stakeholder groups. She and Judge Bastian co-chair this group.
- She attended the conference of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Judge Gregg Johnson received an award for having begun the mental health courts.
- She attended the Metropolitan Counties Energy Task Force meeting on the wind project. The rural board has been meeting to discuss the wind project. This meeting was to review governance models and the process of preparing governance models to the attention of this Task Force and the rural board to select and move forward our wind energy project.

Commissioner Ortega reported that:

- As Commissioner Reinhardt stated, they joined Congressman Oberstar at the grand opening of the Park & Ride lot in Stacy.
- He attended the annual meeting of the Riverview Economic Development Association and business organization on the West Side. This meeting was held at the Show Boat.
- He attended the last meeting of the working group for the Robert Street corridor. A steering committee is being put together similar to those put together in other corridors, and will consist of two representatives from Ramsey County (Commissioners Ortega and McDonough), two from Dakota County, and mayors of various cities.

Commissioner Bennett reported that:

- The Executive Director of the EMS is retiring. The EMS Director is leaving and going to the University of Minnesota as the Assistant Emergency Management Director.
- Jay McLinden, Anoka County Manager, passed away this past week.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

---

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board