

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Carter (late), McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Reinhardt and Chair Bennett – 6. Absent – Parker - 1. 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 Rettman moved approval of the Agenda of the January 9, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough, Bennett – 5. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the Minutes of the January 2, 2007 Annual Organization Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rettman. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, McDonough, Bennett – 5. Nays – 0.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to Capitol Region Watershed District Board

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-016)

WHEREAS, In accordance with Ramsey County's Open Appointment process, a press release was distributed November 17, 2006, seeking applicants for one position on the Capitol Region Watershed District Board of Managers, due to a resignation; and

WHEREAS, Two applications were received; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of Marylyn Deneen, 831 W. Nebraska Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55117-3452, to the Capitol Region Watershed District Board of Managers, to complete a term to expire on September 30, 2007.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Rice Creek North Regional Trail – Change Order for Engineering Services

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-017)

WHEREAS, On October 24, 2006, the County Board approved an agreement with MSA Professional Services, Inc. for design of a portion of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail; and

WHEREAS, The agreement did not include hydrologic and hydraulics design and calculations for Rice Creek; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and MSA have been informed that hydrologic and hydraulic design will be required in order to obtain Rice Creek Watershed District permits for the project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$15,890, to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services for design of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail with MSA Professional Services Inc.; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the Change Order.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Adult Mental Health

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-018)

WHEREAS, The Community Recovery Team (CRT) works with individuals who are being referred to pre-petition screening during consideration of civil commitment; and

WHEREAS, With the intervention of the CRT, community and state hospital stays have been reduced; and

WHEREAS, As the County is paying a 10% share of the daily cost of placements, the CRT is holding down costs; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services has offered an additional \$105,000 to add a social worker to the Community Recovery Team and to pay for cost of living increases and benefits for the other team members; and

WHEREAS, This funding will be added to the base grant for the Community Recovery Team and will continue to be provided on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, With the addition of this social worker, the team can provide better housing options and access to the benefits for which individuals are eligible; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the \$105,000 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the Community Recovery Team; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary budget adjustments; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the increase in the complement of the Community Human Services Department by 1 FTE Social Worker II for the Community Recovery Team.

PUBLIC WORKS – Advance Encumbrance of State Aid Funds

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-019)

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is planning to implement County State Aid Highway Projects in 2007 which will require State Aid funds in excess of those available in its State Aid Regular Construction Account; and

WHEREAS, The County is prepared to proceed with the construction of these projects through the use of advance encumbrances from the general State Aid Construction Account to supplement the available funds in their State Aid Construction Account; and

WHEREAS, Repayment on the funds so advanced will be made in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 162.08, Subd. 7 and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8820; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners requests that the Commissioner of Transportation approve this advance for financing approved County State Aid Highway Projects of the County in an amount up to \$6,344,143 in accordance with Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subparagraph 9, and to authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to the Regular Construction Account of the County State Aid Highway fund for the County.

**SHERIFF – Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force Grant**

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-020)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Legislature created the Minnesota Financial Crimes Oversight Council and appropriated funding for a statewide Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force to reduce harm caused to the public by identity theft and financial crimes; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Public Safety through the Office of Justice Programs has awarded the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office a grant to participate in the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force in the amount of \$146,359; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Office will assign one officer, approved by the Oversight Council, to participate in the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force for the eighteen month period of January 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The grant funding will reimburse Ramsey County for the cost of the officer assigned to the Task Force and expenses for the use of a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office requests authority to increase the personnel complement by one FTE in order to backfill the position assigned to the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force for the duration of the grant period; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force Grant with the State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, in the amount of \$146,359, for the period of January 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008; and Be It Further

***(Continued)***

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Grant Contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve any necessary budget adjustments to establish the grant; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute any amendments or renewals of the Community Crime Prevention Grant Contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the addition of one FTE Deputy Sheriff position to the Sheriff's personnel complement to backfill the position assigned to the Task Force, for the duration of the grant, to be starred in the personnel complement.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Children's Mental Health

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-021)

WHEREAS, On October 21, 2003, the Board approved Ramsey County operating as the fiscal agent for the East Metro Children's Crisis Services project; and

WHEREAS, As the crisis response system has evolved and been improved, work has now begun on creating a metro-wide crisis response system; and

WHEREAS, Among the advantages is the creation and advertisement of one crisis number for mental health crises across the metro area; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services is offering \$250,000 to support the development of a mental health crisis infrastructure, including a single phone number and coordinated intake and response system for the metro area; and

WHEREAS, The State plans on providing another \$250,000 next year to continue this development; and

WHEREAS, This request is for Ramsey County to continue acting as the fiscal agent for the now expanded coordination of crisis services; and

WHEREAS, A Joint Powers Agreement between the seven metro counties is being developed to govern the operation of the crisis services and distribution of the funding; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Ramsey County serving as the fiscal agent for the metro-wide Children's Mental Health Crisis Collaboration; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board accepts the grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services of \$250,000 for the development of one crisis phone number for the seven county metropolitan area; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary budget adjustments and to enter into agreements, upon review and approval by the County Attorney and Budgeting and Accounting, to implement coordinated, metro-wide, children's mental health crisis services.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Anti-Racism Initiative

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-022)

WHEREAS, The St. Paul Area Council of Churches is replacing the Tri-Council Coordinating Commission as the fiscal agent for the Minnesota Collaborative Anti-Racism Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The focus of this initiative is staff training to improve the ability of the Community Human Services Department to serve individuals from all races and cultures; and

WHEREAS, The net effect of this action is to transfer the existing agreement, with no other changes, to the new fiscal agent; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the rate-setting agreement with the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, 1671 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105, for the Minnesota Collaborative Anti-Racism Initiative, for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, in an amount not to exceed \$43,750; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the agreement.

DISTRICT COURT – Approval of 2007 Contract Addendum extending Hospital Participation Agreement between Ramsey County and Regions Hospital for Court Civil Commitments

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-023)

WHEREAS, Regions Hospital provides civil commitment facilities and patient care services to Ramsey County and the District Court; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and Regions Hospital have entered into a contract since 1985 to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, The Contract was most recently negotiated and executed in 2001, followed by Addendums in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, A 2007 Contract Addendum has been prepared; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the 2007 Addendum to the 2001 Contract between Ramsey County and Regions Hospital, on file with the Chief Clerk, to provide civil commitment facilities and patient care services to Ramsey County and the District Court, for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, at a cost not to exceed \$963,000 annually, to be payable at the rate of \$80,250 per month; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Contract Addendum on behalf of Ramsey County.

DISTRICT COURT – Approval of 2007 Addendum extending the Security Services Agreement between Ramsey County and Regions Hospital for Court Civil Commitments

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-024)

WHEREAS, Regions Hospital provides weapon screening and security services for the areas outside of courtrooms, including waiting rooms where people congregate, related to the civil commitment facilities and patient care services for Ramsey County and the District Court; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and Regions Hospital have entered into a contract since 2005 to provide these weapons screening and security services; and

WHEREAS, The Contract was negotiated and executed in 2005; and

WHEREAS, A 2007 Contract Addendum has been prepared; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the 2007 Addendum to the 2005 Contract between Ramsey County and Regions Hospital, on file with the Chief Clerk, to provide weapons screening and security services related to the civil commitment facilities and patient care services to Ramsey County and the District Court, for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, at a cost not to exceed \$37,000 annually, to be payable at the rate of \$3,083.33 per month; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Contract Addendum on behalf of Ramsey County.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Contract with Rowekamp Associates for Geographic Information Services (GIS)

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

Commissioner Reinhardt said Ramsey County has a very robust GIS system. She asked how the Community Human Services (CHS) GIS work connects with what is being done within Ramsey County's GIS. At times, outside consultants come in for both systems, but she wants to make sure that the "right hand and left hand" know what they are doing.

Dave Haley, CHS, said that staff in the evaluation division had kept CHS' GIS database together to produce maps. When a couple of those positions were eliminated, it was more cost-effective to contract for this work to keep that database updated. He said he could not provide the answer in terms of the relationship between this and GIS in general.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she is not questioning the validity of this contract, but she wants to make sure that once the information and data is paid for, it is connected with other data in GIS in Ramsey County. She asked if this could be laid over.

Mr. Haley responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt moved to lay over the item to obtain additional information, seconded by Commissioner Rettman.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Rettman said she had already submitted questions to the Department regarding a policy. She asked the County Manager that a policy discussion be held on siting of homes, overlays and other issues, which is a different issue from the GIS. It would not stop this item from going forward. There are people in the Public Works Department who do the GIS work; she asked why they were not contracted with for this work.

Commissioner McDonough asked who had been doing this prior to the cuts – employees in the CHS Department, or GIS people.

Mr. Haley said the work had been done by Human Services evaluation staff to keep updated on the CHS programs that were sited in the community. In 1997-98, during the siting discussion, a policy was developed in terms of informing local units of government and municipalities, with criteria for siting places.

Commissioner McDonough said when the policy discussion on siting is held, he would like to expand it to see how GIS might be used to keep track of the sexual offenders in the communities and to get a sense of that concentration. With the recent incident on the East Side, there will be meetings to try to identify all the sexual offenders in that area for some face-to-face contact.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that could be in a database form. By giving the GIS staff a list, they would have a map back in about one-half hour. If this were simply about addresses, she would question whether an outside contract is needed. Revisiting a policy discussion is not a bad idea, but information should return regarding current use.

Roll Call on layover: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0.

#### COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Supplemental Security Income Disability Benefits Advocacy and Assistance

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

Commissioner Rettman said she is delighted that 25% of the recovered money would come back to the County for the provision of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) advocacy and assistance services. The resolution gives the County Manager authorization to sign amendments and extension of the contract. She requested that the last 'resolved' clause of the draft resolution be amended to include the following language: "so long as the Minnesota Department of Human Services pays 100% of the staff and related administrative costs, and remits at least 25% of the recovered dollars to Ramsey County". She does not want to see a "bait and switch", and this become an unfunded mandate.

Dave Haley, Community Human Services, stated the additional language would be fine.

The additional language was accepted as a friendly amendment to the resolution.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-025)

WHEREAS, Staff at Ramsey County Human Services have been providing Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Disability Benefits Advocacy and Assistance for several years; and

WHEREAS, Duties include:

- outreach to populations potentially eligible for SSI benefits,
- explanation of benefits available,
- initial assessment of merits of disability claims,
- assistance with completion and submission of applications, and

(Continued)

- representation at interviews, hearings and other proceedings related to determination of eligibility and appeals for SSI benefits; and

WHEREAS, Under this arrangement, the state provides reimbursement for county staff and related administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, Up to 25% of state interim assistance funds recovered from SSI benefits approved and paid retroactively is reimbursed to the county as well; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the contract amendment between the Minnesota Department of Human Services and Ramsey County for the continued provision of Supplement Security Income (SSI) advocacy and assistance benefits; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair to sign the contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign amendments and extensions of this contract, so long as the Minnesota Department of Human Services pays 100% of the staff and related administrative costs, and remits at least 25% of the recovered dollars to Ramsey County.

PUBLIC WORKS – Approve Capitol Region Watershed District's 2003 Minor Plan Amendments for Como Lake and Lake McCarrons.

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

Commissioner Rettman said all the Commissioners received copies of the Capitol Region Watershed District's 2003 Plan. She appreciated the work of all the staff involved in making this work. Other minor plan amendments will come forward to the County Board in the future. The linkage of the Capitol Region Watershed was borne out of the neighborhood, and that tie to Ramsey County is very critical. Everything is in order now, and this does not tie Ramsey County to any of the bonds.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-026)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners supported the formation of the Capitol Region Watershed District in 1998 (98-120); and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County provided planning staff for the preparation of the Capitol Region Watershed District's Watershed Management Plan in 2000; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the Capitol Region Watershed District's Watershed Management Plan on December 13, 2000; and

WHEREAS, On October 2, 2003, the Capitol Region Watershed District, Minnesota (the "Watershed District"), adopted minor amendments (the "Minor Amendments") related to Como Lake and Lake McCarrons to its Watershed Management Plan (the "Plan") adopted December 14, 2000; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The metropolitan water management organization law (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B), does not provide a procedure for minor amendments to a watershed management plan, but rather requires said plan itself to prescribe standards for the review of minor amendments; and

WHEREAS, The Plan provides that minor amendments to the capital improvement program are those which provide an additional degree of detail to capital improvements set forth in the original plan, and requires that Ramsey County, Minnesota (the "County"), approve the capital improvement in its revised, more detailed form; and

WHEREAS, The Minor Amendments provide more detail on capital improvements relating to Como Lake, consistent with the Watershed District's Como Lake Strategic Management Plan adopted in 2002, and to Lake McCarrons, consistent with the Watershed District's Lake McCarrons Management Plan adopted in 2003; and

WHEREAS, The Watershed District did not request the County's approval in 2003, but bond counsel for the Watershed District's \$1,555,000 Tax-Supported Bonds, Series 2007A (the "Bonds"), will not approve the issuance of bonds which finance capital improvements identified in the Plan as amended unless the County has approved the capital improvements as set forth in the Plan as amended; and

WHEREAS, The County Board has been provided with the Minor Amendments and the Plan as amended, which identify capital improvements in revised, more detailed form (the "Capital Improvements") compared to the original plan; and

WHEREAS, The Bonds finance eight (8) rainwater gardens, eight (8) infiltration trenches, an underground stormwater storage and infiltration facility, and a regional stormwater pond (the "Project") within the Como Lake watershed; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Capitol Region Watershed District's 2003 Minor Plan Amendments for Como Lake and Lake McCarrons; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Capital Improvements contained in minor plan amendments related to Como Lake and Lake McCarrons to the District Watershed Management Plan adopted October 2, 2003; and

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby finds, determines and declares that the components of the Project financed by the Bonds are Capital Improvements identified in the Plan and the Plan's implementation plan and capital improvement program components.

SHERIFF/HUMAN RESOURCES – Designation of Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent Position to the Unclassified Status

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

Commissioner Rettman said there have recently been several of these requests. She asked

*(Continued)*

the County Manager if this is something for a County Board discussion, or if all the requests have been processed. When unclassified positions are created, it sets in motion different types of benefits and other things that all cost the taxpayers. There has been no discussion on a rationale or boilerplates for this type of action.

David Twa, County Manager, said these tend to come up on a department-by-department basis as they review positions. He could not say that there would be more coming forward, but suspected that there would be.

Commissioner Rettman said she would like to have that discussion soon in terms of where the Board stands on this issue. The request today is to reclassify an Accountant III position to the Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent position. She asked for more details about this request.

Gail Blackstone, Director, Human Resources, said that as this relates to the criteria for the unclassified position, which is designated within State statute and in the Personnel Act. The criteria that is already in the law is then applied and reviewed to see whether it meets the criteria that is laid out; and if it does, it is then brought forward for authorization by the Board.

Commissioner Rettman asked if this position already exists.

Ms. Blackstone said there is already an Undersheriff position. The Sheriff's Office would like to change the job title, using the same job classification as for the Community Corrections Department Superintendent of the Workhouse, and just needs an additional position in order to move it into a job that could be a civilian job in the future. This is adding an additional title position.

Chair Bennett temporarily laid over 10.9 and 10.10 to await the arrival of Sheriff Fletcher.

#### COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Family Service Center and Emergency Shelter Services

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

Commissioner Rettman said the documentation states that the central intake would be presented at a later time. Is that contract still in effect?

Shannon Kennedy, Community Human Services, said that contract is in effect through the end of 2007.

Commissioner Rettman said there was only one respondent to the RFP, and asked why there was a delay in bringing it forward.

Mr. Kennedy said they are negotiating because the price came in a little high.

Commissioner Rettman said there is a proposal on the agenda of the Legislative Committee of the Whole meeting today in terms of working on a central number for mental health. Is this intake only for Ramsey County or linked with Hennepin County's so we are getting non-duplicative services?

Mr. Kennedy said this intake is for Ramsey County's shelter services only. They are discussing issues with Hennepin County, but the program shared in common with them is a long-term supportive housing program, it is not a shelter program.

Commissioner Rettman said it has been discussed that if someone went to an intake, it would be transferable so that another intake process would not have to be done. When this comes back she would like to make certain there would be non-duplicative services.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-027)

WHEREAS, On August 2, 2006, the Community Human Services Department issued a Request for Proposals for three distinct programs related to the Family Service Center and emergency homeless shelter in Ramsey County:

*(Continued)*

- Operations and management of the Ramsey County Family Services Center, a 55-bed facility for families with children and single adult women,
- Emergency shelter for 20 single adult men, and
- Operations of a centralized emergency shelter intake program; and

WHEREAS, In response to the Request for Proposals, the County received two (2) proposals for the Family Services Center, one (1) proposal for emergency shelter for men, and one (1) proposal for the emergency shelter central intake; and

WHEREAS, The proposal evaluation panel consisting of five staff from the Community Human Services Department and one representative from the Wilder Foundation reviewed the proposals; and

WHEREAS, Catholic Charities is being recommended to continue operating the Family Services Center as they can provide the services at a significantly lower cost than the other proposal; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the panel recommendation to renew the purchase of service contracts with Catholic Charities, 1200 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403, for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011, for:

- Service operations for the provision of emergency shelter for families with children and single adult women at the Ramsey County Family Service Center, located at 2001 Van Dyke St., Maplewood, MN 55109, at a price for the first year not to exceed \$534,991; and
- Space and service operations for the provision of emergency shelter for single adult men at Mary Hall located at 236 Main St., St. Paul, MN 55102, at a price for the first year not to exceed \$179,000;

and Be It Further

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

#### WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS - Food Support Employment and Training Plan

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

Commissioner Rettman said page 9, item 4 under the narrative cites “she”. She had requested that word be changed to “she/he” for equal opportunity. The Department has made that change. She said it is exciting to get the extra \$133,000. Workforce Solutions is committed to seeing that every person who applies receives these dollars within 48 hours of the request. That is critical because this is limited to three months in any 36-month period. She requested a report back to the County Board on whether that criteria has been met as set forth in the document.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-028)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is required by Minnesota Statutes §256D.051 to provide a food support employment and training (“FSET”) program to food stamp recipients; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, County agencies are required to submit a county plan for the FSET program which details the services and program components; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal funds cannot be released for use by the County until such plan has been approved; and

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department and Workforce Solutions have prepared an FSET Plan for Fiscal Year 2007 in compliance with state requirements; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Food Support Employment and Training (“FSET”) County Plan for FY-2007; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the FSET County Plan for 2007; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept State and Federal funds for the operation of the FY-2007 FSET program, make necessary budget adjustments, execute appropriate contracts for the receipt and expenditure of the funds, accept supplemental funds, and submit plan modifications, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make temporary cash loans as needed from the County General Revenue Fund to Workforce Solutions in order to cover FY-2007 FSET program expenses until funds are received, with repayments to be made upon receipt of grant funds.

SHERIFF/HUMAN RESOURCES – Designation of Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent Position to the Unclassified Status

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

Chair Bennett asked if the Undersheriff position now handling this would be eliminated.

Sheriff Bob Fletcher responded negatively.

Chair Bennett asked what the function would be for the new Undersheriff position.

Sheriff Fletcher said essentially, a new staff position is being added. When he was elected in the fall of 1994, there were less than 300 employees in the Sheriff’s Office. Since that time, the Department has grown to over 400. The issue is how to manage an organization in excess of 400 employees without adding any leadership positions at the top. The Sheriff’s Office has never had a Captain rank, only Lieutenants and Undersheriffs; the Police Department has 25 Captains. It is difficult to run an organization without the proper amount of managers. The proper span of control is probably one Undersheriff to 100 or so employees.

Additionally, over the last five years the Sheriff’s Office has attempted to civilianize the detention staff at the Jail. In the long run, there should be significant cost savings to the County in terms of both payroll and in different types of benefits afforded law enforcement personnel that are not afforded to correctional officers at the Jail. It is important to keep giving opportunities to the correctional officers. Sergeant positions have been converted to correctional officers at the Jail.

There are plans this year to give a test to correctional officers to become lieutenants within their own subdivisions, similar to the Ramsey County Workhouse. It is a longer-term plan to convert

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the head of the jail to a non-sworn position, and this is part of that transition, to take a sworn Undersheriff position and convert it to a superintendent, identical in title to that at the Workhouse. That would provide some career opportunities and career development for the civilian staff. That could be done simply by not adding additional positions, but it wouldn't be in the best interest in running the Sheriff's Office. The alternative would be to come in with a proposal asking for half a dozen Captains, which is probably needed at the Sheriff's Office. Looking at any other law enforcement organization, it would be seen as another layer of supervision. This is a good compromise in moving forward on civilianization of the Jail allowing for the appropriate span of control.

Chair Bennett said it would have been helpful to have had an organization chart available. This is putting another appointed position in the unclassified position, which was one of Commissioner Rettman's questions. This is a reorganization of the Sheriff's Office, which he understands, but this Board, which has to pay for it through taxpayers, should at least have a chance to look at it and a say in it.

Sheriff Fletcher said there is no secret here. An alternative was to come in to ask for another Undersheriff position. The Sheriff's staff met with Gail Blackstone, Director, Human Resources, to look at different alternatives. To meet the mission of moving toward a civilianized Jail, this was felt to be the better alternative. There is no additional cost; it would be absorbed in the Sheriff's budget. Even if there was an additional cost, it is necessary.

Chair Bennett asked for information on elimination of the Accountant III position. Why is this position expendable?

Trudi Winek, Sheriff's Office, said she does the job as an accountant, but her title is Director of Administration.

Chair Bennett asked how long the position has been vacant.

Ms. Winek said it has been about two years.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the vacant Accountant III position stills shows up as the FTE allocation.

Mr. Twa responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the Accountant III position would be eliminated.

Mr. Twa said basically, the Sheriff's Office would convert the Accountant position into this new position.

Commissioner Rettman referred to Chair Bennett's question about whether or not one of the Undersheriff positions would be eliminated, and requested clarification on the Sheriff's response.

Sheriff Fletcher said it is a new Undersheriff position, but one of the other FTEs would be eliminated, which is the Accountant III position that Ms. Winek used to hold. The Accountant III position would be eliminated and this position would move up one grade.

Chair Bennett said the Accountant III position would disappear and become a Superintendent at one grade pay higher.

Commissioner Rettman said the County Board did a budget adjustment at the end of 2006. Was this included in that budget adjustment? If this position is not being done, a lesser budget adjustment could have been done.

Mr. Twa said this position was not included in that adjustment.

Commissioner Rettman said less could have been budgeted and that money could have been reallocated elsewhere in the Department. It would have been good to have more information on this.

Chair Bennett asked when this position goes to the unclassified service does Human Resources or the Sheriff's Office have control over the increases in salary.

*(Continued)*

Ms. Blackstone said this position would have the same increases as other unclassified positions; the Sheriff would review it through the normal performance review process.

Commissioner Rettman asked if this position would also have the opportunity for extra premium pay for outstanding service, and different benefits that can be accrued, which the Accountant position would not have.

Ms. Blackstone said the primary difference within the Department Director Pay Plan is that those positions are eligible for a merit pay that is a lump sum amount that has to be earned every year. If it is a distinguished category, a 2% lump sum can be earned; if it exceeds expectations, it would be 1% earned; meeting expectations would be just a movement in the salary range to the next step unless it is at the top of the range.

Sheriff Fletcher said the County Board sets the policy of salary increases, and bonuses. He asked if it would be a better practice if the performance appraisals for the employees were brought to the County Board.

Commissioner Rettman said she believes that all County employees should be working at a level of excellence at all times. There should not be a differential between classified and unclassified employees to be able to get premium pay. Excellence should be our hallmark.

Sheriff Fletcher said a majority of this Board does not agree with that.

Commissioner Rettman said her responsibility is to the citizens.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 5. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2007-029)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Personnel Act 383A.286, subd.3, authorizes the County Board to designate positions to the unclassified service after certification by the Human Resources Director that specified standards and criteria relating to the position are met; and

WHEREAS, On November 17, 2006, the Sheriff requested certification by the Human Resources Director that designation of a Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent as unclassified was consistent with the standards and criteria outlined in the Ramsey County Personnel Act; and

WHEREAS, Based on a review of the position, the Human Resources Director certifies that the designation of the position Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent as an unclassified position is consistent with the standards and criteria; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Human Resources Department to designate as unclassified the position of Correctional/Detention Facility Superintendent within the Sheriff's Department.

SHERIFF/HUMAN RESOURCES – Designation of Internal Affairs/Special Projects Officer Position for Computer Forensics to the Unclassified Status

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

Chair Bennett asked if a new vision is being created within the Sheriff's Office. Is this being done for the contract cities, and if so, is this only being billed to the contract cities, or to the entire County?

Sheriff Fletcher said that is a great philosophical question, but no, a new vision is not being created. There are several individuals at the Sheriff's Office who specialize in computers. They are

*(Continued)*

not forensic computer experts. Information Services ought to be able to service the Sheriff's Office computer needs. The reality is they do not have the resources to do that. Over time, as the Sheriff's Office computer usage has expanded, they have been forced to dedicate additional law enforcement resources to do that.

Chair Bennett said his question was about computer forensics; the Sheriff is talking about internal computers within that Office.

Sheriff Fletcher said they are closely married. People who understand computers, hard-drives, software and recovery of different computers, are closely related to the people who can forensically examine computers of suspects. Unfortunately, the Sheriff's Office has never had the luxury of expanding the computer unit doing the forensic work. They have had people who are interested, but have not had time to dedicate to this.

The White Bear Lake Chief of Police, and later the Ramsey County Chiefs of Police Association, requested that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office take the lead. The intent is for the entire County, not just for contract cities, not just for suburban police departments. In law enforcement, this is an expanding area of expertise that the County has not kept pace with anywhere in law enforcement because of the lack of resources. The Sheriff's Office has decided it is important enough to cover this within its own budget if the right person could be found to do the work. They could bring in individuals with expertise outside the County system with law enforcement backgrounds, specifically secret service type people who have done this in the past. The appropriate scale and the flexibility for hiring through the inspector classification is needed, and the reason for the request.

Chair Bennett said he does not disagree with the need. He is concerned that this is creating a new division within the Sheriff's Office, something not done in the past, but in the future is going to entail more than just one person, more of the Sheriff's Office budget, with subsequent requests for money. He is fine with that. But, to look at the Sheriff's internal computers when this is more about forensic computer work, which is called investigative, there probably should be a Board Workshop. This is something not done before.

Sheriff Fletcher agreed on the issue of having a larger Workshop discussion, but the request is not for additional money today, and he is not anticipating that for two or three years. It is possible that could occur in a three or four-year window. More likely, the existing investigative staff would be converted to have more expertise in forensic computers. It is a matter of shifting resources from one to the other, which is all the Board documentation is. The request is for the inspector position so there could be a person who knows what they are doing, versus someone from the existing complement that may not.

Chair Bennett said a vacant deputy position would be reclassified. What area of responsibility would that deputy position be taken from – Courts? The Sheriff has come to the County Board requesting people in a lot of areas, and has an extra deputy that could be used for this; what area is this one coming from?

Sheriff Fletcher said the outcome after the reorganization is unknown. There are several possibilities. It could come from the shrinking pool of patrols/canine people; it could come from the transport function. It is not anticipated that it would come from Courts security because that was made a priority. There are retirements on an on-going basis. It could come from the apprehension unit.

Chair Bennett said he didn't believe the County Board ever sanctioned the apprehension unit, and it has expanded over the years. He would support a layover on this item until more information comes forth in a Workshop.

Sheriff Fletcher said he hoped this would not be laid over. The individual sought for

*(Continued)*

recruitment into this position also has a job offer with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. There are not many qualified people in this area. He asked that this be approved today and that a Workshop be held, and if at that time the Board decides this doesn't merit being in the 2008 budget to eliminate it then.

Chair Bennett asked if this would be a separate line item in the Sheriff's budget like the canine unit or anything else.

Sheriff Fletcher said this is only one position, and a separate line item in the budget could be created.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if this position could be starred in the budget and look at it in the Workshop.

Chair Bennett said that is a good suggestion.

The amendment to star the position in the Sheriff's budget was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 5. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2007-030)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Personnel Act 383A.286, subd.3, authorizes the County Board to designate positions to the unclassified service after certification by the Human Resources Director that specified standards and criteria relating to the position are met; and

WHEREAS, On November 17, 2006, the Sheriff requested certification by the Human Resources Director that designation of an Internal Affairs/Special Projects Officer as unclassified was consistent with the standards and criteria outlined in the Ramsey County Personnel Act; and

WHEREAS, Based on a review of the position, the Human Resources Director certifies that the designation of the position Internal Affairs/Special Projects Officer as an unclassified position is consistent with the standards and criteria; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Human Resources Department to designate as unclassified the starred position of Internal Affairs/Special Projects Officer within the Sheriff's Department.

#### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- On Electronic Waste (E-waste), which is at the forefront of the environmental community. E-waste is computers and televisions, anything with a cathode ray tube. In February 2009, there will be a switch in television broadcasting from analog to digital. Rather than pay for expensive fixes, people may purchase televisions that can handle the change. Legislation passed in July 2006 banned these items from landfills; they must now be recycled. The main issue is how the recycling will be paid for. It will become more costly and much of it is falling to local governments to pick up those costs. Getting something done in this legislative session is critical to get the manufacturers to take the responsibility for the cost of recycling and/or other disposal of electronic equipment. In February 2009, by federal regulation, television will no longer be broadcast in analog. Any analog TV that doesn't have a converter, cable, or satellite will no longer receive reception. That is when a lot of TVs will be dumped, which is one of the major costs. Cost for recycling a TV or computer varies from \$25 to \$50.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Ortega reported:

- On a meeting with Senator Pete Murphy from Red Wing, and Representative Mary Murphy.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- On several community and city events and breakfasts taking place for the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, February 15, 2007.

Commissioner Ortega said there are also many local breakfasts on the East Side on the West Side for people to attend.

#### BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Bennett reported:

- At Lake Owasso Residence, he accepted a new Dodge diesel van with a handicapped chairlift.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board