

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Carter, McDonough (late), Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Bennett – 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 Parker moved approval of the Agenda of the April 3, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Minutes of the March 27, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0.

PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Rettman, as Chair of the Health Services Committee, read a Proclamation declaring the week of April 2-8, 2007 as Public Health Week.

Rob Fulton, Director, St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department, accepted the Proclamation on behalf of over 320 Public Health employees who do the actual work. A study was just completed on how many employees might turn up in a medical emergency – in this area, 85% of employees would report for duty, of which two-thirds have family at home they would also need to care for. That is positive news, and reflects the dedication of the employees.

Commissioner Parker said that Mr. Fulton spoke at a recent Roseville Citizens' Forum. Many people were surprised to learn that Public Health is involved in so many activities.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Agreement for concrete Railroad Crossing Surface on Victoria Street

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-138)

WHEREAS, The Soo Line Railroad Company, in cooperation with Ramsey County, is proposing the installation of a concrete grade crossing surface on Victoria Street (CSAH 52); and

WHEREAS, The installation of a concrete grade crossing surface is eligible for state aid funds; and

WHEREAS, The agreement, prepared by Soo Line Railroad Company, identifies cost participation and maintenance responsibilities 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 installation of a concrete grade crossing surface on Victoria Street (CSAH 52); 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 four (4) 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:

INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUE

2007 17304 550880 00000 314606 CSAH Construction Regular P033258 \$41,995.44

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS

2007 17304 550880 00000 424625 Victoria St RR Crossing P033258 \$41,995.44

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a temporary cash loan of \$41,995.44 from the County General Fund to the 2007 Capital Improvement Program Fund until receipt of County State Aid Highway reimbursement funds.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Salary Schedule and Grade Allocation for a new classification: Forensic Clinical Psychologist

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-139)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a classification/compensation review of a Clinical Psychologist position in the Community Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined that its current classification, “Clinical Psychologist”, does not adequately describe the duties of these positions or the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to perform the work; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined no other existing classification adequately describes the duties of this position; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department developed a new classification, “Forensic Clinical Psychologist”; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a job evaluation and analyzed salary information; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined that the appropriate salary grade for “Forensic Clinical Psychologist” is Grade 34 on Salary Schedule 27N of the County’s compensation plan; and

(Continued)

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

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a Salary Schedule and Grade Allocation for the following new classification:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Annual Salary Range</u>
Forensic Clinical Psychologist	27N	34	\$59,885 – \$88,914

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Contract with AMICUS, Inc. a non-profit corporation

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-140)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections wishes to contract with AMICUS, Inc., a non-profit corporation, to provide gender-specific programming for the female juvenile population; and

WHEREAS, The County will pay the contractor \$53,783 for services provided in 2007 and payments will be made monthly: 11 payments of \$4,481 and one payment of \$4,492; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Community Corrections' Juvenile Division finds this service of value and consistent with the move toward evidence-based practice; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an Agreement with AMICUS, Inc., 100 North Sixth Street, Suite 529B, Minneapolis, MN 55403-1503, a non-profit corporation, in the amount of \$53,783, for the period of January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, to provide programming services to juvenile girls at the Juvenile Detention Center and on probation in the community; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary amendments to the Agreement, 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.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS –Appointment to the Veterans Rest Camp Board

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-141)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the Ramsey County Open Appointment Policy, a press release was distributed, soliciting applicants for one position on the Veterans Rest Camp Board, due to a resignation. One application was received; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of David L. Gjerdingen, 1038 Bowdoin Street, St. Paul, MN 55116, to the Veterans Rest Camp Board, to complete a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending August 1, 2008.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0. (2007-142)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment Process, a press release was distributed January 11, 2007, seeking individuals for one position on the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers. The incumbent was the only applicant; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the reappointment of Paul V. Ellefson, 2888 Bartelmy Lane, Maplewood, MN 55109, to the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers, for a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending February 23, 2010.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Salary Schedule and Grade Allocation for a new classification: Public Information Officer

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

Commissioner Rettman does not believe a Public Information Officer is needed in the Public Health Department. She said that Public Health staff work with the people through various services, such as Visiting Block Nurse Program, the WIC Program, and SOS, and should be the information dissemination point. They have personal relationships with people, and would have a better chance of getting people to be part of the health community and prepared for pandemics, etc. A few years ago the number of people in public information positions was reduced, and is now being ramped back up -- soon every department would have one or more of those positions. She has taken a stance repeatedly against this type of action. She believes Public Health staff are already getting out the information so vital to people.

Chair Bennett asked for clarification on staffing this position.

Jane Norbin, Director, Health Policy & Planning, Public Health Department, said this is a new classification. The Department had an individual employed in the classification of Public Information Associate, but it is vacant at this time. This is a different position description that would more accurately reflect the work. The Department would rehire at this classification, if approved. The vacant position is a grant-funded, starred position. If the preparedness funds go away, that position would go away unless other funds are approved. They had a person in the position but at a different level.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 5. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2007-143)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a classification/compensation study of a proposed job classification: Public Information Officer; and

(Continued)

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

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department developed a new classification specification for the proposed classification; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a job evaluation of the proposed new classification, and analyzed internal and external salary survey information; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined the appropriate compensation for Public Information Officer is Salary Schedule 02A, Grade 31 of the Ramsey County's compensation plan; and

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

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following Salary Schedule and Grade Allocation for the new classification of Public Information Officer:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Annual Salary Range</u>
Public Information Officer	02A	31	\$53,367 - \$79,149

PUBLIC HEALTH – Approval of Agreement with Landis Consultation Solutions, Inc. for Process Mapping and Digital Health System Implementation Services

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

Commissioner Rettman said a five-year contract had previously been approved with Garrison Enterprises, but it was found that we were not able to use what they were doing. She asked if another contract is now needed.

Zack Hansen, Environmental Health Division Director, said there is a five-year contract with Garrison for the web-based application. In moving from our system, which is totally automated, toward paper to electronic, staff tried to go through the business process mapping alone. They did not have the expertise, the time, or the tools to do it. They consulted with the City of Minneapolis, one of the partners, in moving toward a digital health department, and with Washington County, talking to the consultant they used. They understood that outside expertise was needed, and are seeking one-time only funding, to help in this transition. They will be learning from the work in Minneapolis and Washington County by using the same consultant.

Commissioner Rettman asked if, at the end of this contract, staff would be trained to continue on their own.

Mr. Hansen responded affirmatively. Some of the work is one-time only, but for the work that would remain, staff capacity would be built up.

Commissioner Rettman asked there would be a residual if staff retired.

Mr. Hansen responded affirmatively.

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

WHEREAS, The Environmental Health Section of the Saint Paul – Ramsey County Department of Public Health (“Department”) manages data associated with a variety of regulatory and operational programs; and

WHEREAS, The Department has been engaged in collaborative efforts with the environmental health programs in Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis in obtaining an Advanced Practice Center Grant from the National Association of City and County Health Officials for environmental health emergency preparedness. The grant participants have identified the need for coordinated data management to improve response and recovery to disasters; and

WHEREAS, The County has entered into an Agreement with Garrison Enterprises, Inc. for the development of a comprehensive web-enabled environmental health information system, which will improve data management within the Environmental Health Section to reduce waste, improve efficiency, enhance regulation, improve interoperability and coordination with other health departments, and improve public service; and

WHEREAS, The Department seeks expertise in business process mapping and modeling, so that the information systems will be implemented more efficiently with a higher rate of accuracy, and has identified Landis Consulting Solutions, Inc. as well qualified to carry out this work; and

WHEREAS, Funding, in the amount of \$25,000, is available in Advanced Practice Center grant funds used by the Department for environmental health emergency planning, and the remaining \$48,200 in funding is available in Solid Waste Fund Balance; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Agreement with Landis Consulting Solutions, Inc, for process mapping and modeling and Digital Health information systems implementation services, in an amount not to exceed \$73,200 with a term of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to transfer \$48,200 from the Solid Waste Fund Balance and to execute the Agreement, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney’s Office.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Cash Loan and Revised Internal Debt Service Schedule for The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course

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

Commissioner Rettman said she was concerned when this was first done because it was based on a revenue payment to the debt service. She feels this continues to sink money into a loan. The County is losing over \$1 million in interest earnings by doing this out of the general fund – doing exactly what we said we wouldn’t do, which was to subsidize this. We need to look at all options. This moves this out to 2032. She has a real problem with this, and believes this is making the wrong decision.

Commissioner Carter said although we are moving forward in voting on this proposal to restructure the debt, when the Board requested monthly reports on the revenue in the upcoming months, she assumes that it is for the purpose of advising the Board continually as to the reason to

(Continued)

continue in the same manner. What would be the opportunity for making any change in decisions if adverse reports are shown in the future?

David Twa, County Manager, said the payments could be postponed from the golf fund for 2011 and the general fund could pick up that cost. That is the piece being voted on today. The other part the Board had requested in a Workshop was that reports be brought back concerning operational costs, because as Parks & Recreation had indicated, based on current projections, there would be a shortfall in the revenue stream for 2007 that would have to be addressed later in the year. The discussion from the Board had been to bring that back toward the end of the season, probably in September.

Commissioner Ortega said for clarification, the discussion is about a golf course. In any given year, not just with the golf course, the County faces difficult things and different services provided to the community, and would do exactly the same thing, and the Commissioners don't all agree on what is more important. Whether the Nursing Home or a golf course, they all have revenue streams that flow up and down at different times, some for different economic reasons and demographic changes. Some enterprises don't do well during a time period. It is the County Board's job to address these types of things and make decisions. It is always a balancing act.

Commissioner Parker said this is an investment in the infrastructure. It is a golf course, which will be there forever, so she looks at this as an investment for our children. It is not something being developed, but will be a permanent asset for Ramsey County and the residents in the surrounding area. The economy does go up and down, and it is important to continue the County's stewardship of some of these important physical features in the County.

Commissioner Rettman said this course was built differently from the other golf courses. It was created as an enterprise fund, tangential on making money. Equally different, is that golfing is waning. Just as the investment was made in soccer, the County made the investment, but did not own it. The reality is that we have to come to terms that there may be other venues of participation that become more the norm; this is restructuring the debt service that was done on this particular course, and that is her concern.

Chair Bennett said he, too, did not support this enterprise at the time, because he felt it should be financed under a different method without the debt structure. Times change, the decision was made to go ahead, and we need to look at the debt service to restructure the debt service. This will come back for a revisit, and the Board may need to figure out a way without having the debt service, maybe pay off more of the capital costs. This is not just a County issue, rather something occurring metro wide, and that could change. This is a restructuring for the County's financial picture.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 5. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2007-145)

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2007, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners conducted a workshop to discuss the impacts of the changing golf market on the ability of The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course Enterprise Fund to meet its 20-year debt service obligations for capital improvements and the excess revenue projections from general fund golf course operations; and

WHEREAS, The Board recognized a national, regional and local decline in golf participation; and

WHEREAS, The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course opened in the midst of a downward trending golf market where revenues are adequate to cover operating expenses but are insufficient to meet the debt service obligations in the short term; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Restructuring The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course debt obligation from 20 to 30 years provides a more realistic plan given current golf market conditions; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a revised debt payment schedule for The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course Enterprise Fund with payments extending through 2032; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a temporary cash loan of up to \$2,747,781 from the County General Fund to The Ponds at Battle Creek Golf Course enterprise fund for debt service payments as approved in the revised internal debt service schedule, to be repaid with golf course operational revenues per the revised schedule.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE [updated tracking sheet materials were distributed]

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said they have been busy. It is quieter now because the Legislators are on their Easter break, and many of the bills have gone through. Ramsey County may be in the best position in years as far as having things in omnibus bills and structured the way we like would like them structured.

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said the County is in good shape at this time, but the Governor has said he will veto nearly everything this year – the upper tier increase in income tax; the transportation bill with a ½ cent sales tax to the metro counties, and the 10-cent gas tax.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if it is likely that there will be an override on the transportation-funding bill.

Ms. Speiker said it is likely that there will not be enough to override unless things change dramatically.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked about the income tax.

Mr. Riley said that is party line.

Ms. Speiker said although we have not seen, and are not likely to see, all of the House proposals until the end of the month, it is expected that the tax increases will be different. It is not likely that some will make it to the Governor's desk.

Mr. Riley said the transportation bill would be the one bill that could possibly earn enough votes for an override but it has to sit long enough. There is a group trying to garner the extra support to override the veto.

Ms. Speiker said what is being said about an override to the veto is that they would probably have to slim down the bill substantially in conference committee. In talking with the Members, staff can't figure out how slim.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked about the income tax.

Mr. Riley said he didn't know if the Governor would allow much of an increase, if anything, in the income tax; he may be pinning other hopes on being tough on any tax increases. The House missed an opportunity to show that the \$2 billion increase is mostly inflationary. They didn't take action to include in future forecasts that they have to include inflation and spending. Those would equate to automatic pay increases for employees, which they don't equate to at all but that is what they were worried about early on. They lost that opportunity – now, most people think the State is flush with money – there's a \$2.5 billion surplus and there's no need for tax increases – and they should be able to fund everything with that money – that simply is not the case.

Ms. Speiker said the Governor indicated in the past that he would be willing to look at some of the correction around the foreign operating corporations; it is expected to be in both bills, but it is

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more extreme than what he has indicated in the past. The Governor's position is that he is putting out a large increase in funding in his own budget, and that should be sufficient to have this move forward.

The problem with the tax bill is that there are a number of aid proposals that both cities and counties are hoping they will see for general operating funds. In the House, there is \$15 million; in the Senate there is \$60 million for county program aid Statewide. There are large amounts for local government aid and some provisions for indexing of both those aid programs. All of that is predicated on his income tax increases, mostly. The House fits very clearly with a lot of things Ramsey County has talked about for a long time – property tax relief. Not just property tax relief directed toward local units of government, but income-sensitive property tax relief for homeowners. This is one proposal that seems to have support in a number of places from a policy perspective, but the money isn't there for it.

Commissioner Parker spoke of a radio ad from Governor Pawlenty, which encouraged the public to call their legislators to hold the line on taxes. The message about property tax relief is something that is important to get out to the public because people are frustrated about their high property taxes. When somebody says, "hold the line on taxes", they don't realize that they are being pushed over to the property taxes as a result.

Commissioner Reinhardt said yesterday she sat through a bill discussion, and that was brought up – to say that taxes have not been raised, while pushing it off onto property taxes, is not an accurate statement. It was repeatedly said that we are trying to make it more fair and equitable, rather than putting in on property taxes, which is a regressive tax.

Mr. Riley said a major difference in the Senate transportation bill was they used the lease vehicle funding, which is about \$60 million per year. In the House, that was used as property tax relief. If anything passes, it is going to be very slimmed down from where it is.

Regarding the transportation bill, Chair Bennett asked about the impact when the constitutional amendment was passed; how much money is raised per year.

Mr. Riley said when fully implemented, over a five-year period, it is up to \$300 million.

Chair Bennett said just to put that into perspective in the discussion last week on transportation, the Crosstown freeway project bid letting was \$288 million. Compare that to the \$300 million, and that tells you we can't do any more transportation projects for a while just because of that one project.

Mr. Riley said when that project was first let about four years ago, it was at \$100 million. Inflation and other factors drive up the cost of every project. There is such a big delay of projects already in the queue, and there is a high demand for new projects. AMC pointed out that the need is \$1.7 billion a year; Mn/DOT is in dire straits right now.

Chair Bennett asked how much the gas tax raises.

Ms. Speiker said she didn't have that number. In addition to the money that MVET raises, the House and Senate bills combination of financing would raise around \$1 billion. Most people say that \$1.3-1.5 billion is needed per year.

Chair Bennett recalled that the 10-cent gas tax is around \$200 million.

Ms. Speiker said it takes a combination of changes in those two bills to get to the amount that people feel is necessary.

Chair Bennett said that is the point that the public does not recognize – there isn't the money for ten years to do them.

Mr. Riley said that MVET transfer also is predicated that 40% of the money goes for transit, so not all of that \$300 million is dedicated for roads.

(Continued)

Ms. Speiker distributed the weekly tracking sheet and said one thing missing from the tracking sheet is in the mental health area. The Governor, the House and the Senate all have about the same amount of money, about \$45 million, designed to be available for new benefits. The Governor and the Senate do some transition of benefits to the health plans, and in the House that bill is structured and doesn't include the benefit transfer with more of a mix for how people would get the expanded benefits. The bills are very different.

Statewide, there was a push to request an additional \$8 million in child support funding. There was no funding in the Governor's budget specifically for child support. In the bills that came out, there is \$4 million in one-time funding support in the Senate, and there is \$2 million in the House, but that is on-going funding and looks like it is added to the base. The child safety act money is all predicated in the House and Senate on the things going on in the tax committee. In the Governor's proposal, he has one-time money, specifically for the child safety act, not for child support.

Mr. Riley said under the Capital Investment Bill, the bonding bill, there would probably be at least a line-item veto. The Governor only proposed about \$20 million in spending. Both bills, when adding up the one-time cash and the bonding, come to over \$300 million. They particularly fund most of the Governor's projects with cash, which he did not want.

Commissioner Rettman asked for more discussion on the child safety act. Is it also tied to the tax bill?

Ms. Speiker said she did not know the answer to that, but would get the information.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked what happened with the Environmental Response Fund (ERF).

Ms. Speiker said the House tax bill is not out yet.

Mr. Riley said on the tax bill, staff tried to amend the language that would allow for a sales tax for light rail equipment and construction. That was not put in, but the chair of the tax committee will work with staff to try to get that into conference committee.

Ms. Speiker said that is a savings of about \$16 million on the Central Corridor construction.

[Commissioner McDonough arrived at this time.]

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- On the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Conference where she chaired the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and the Extension Committee.
- She testified at the Legislature on issues from the Child Safety Act to the environment, wetlands, Ewaste, Rock-Tenn.

Commissioner Parker reported:

- She and Commissioner Bennett attended a workshop with the combined city councils from New Brighton and Mounds View on issues having to do with the County. One particular item was the intersection at the corner of County Road H and Silver Lake Road, and concerns about a stoplight there. The County has warranted that there is sufficient traffic at the intersection, but the County has no money for this project.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it is important for everyone to understand that the County is trying to partner as much as possible to get as much done as possible.

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Commissioner Parker said the County's policy was discussed for a stoplight such as this. If the intersection is in a municipality, the municipality is responsible; this intersection is 100% county-owned. She suggested there be discussion about changing the policy if we can't afford it or how to fund it.

Commissioner Rettman thought the policy talks about availability of funds.

Chair Bennett said this signal has been requested for several years – as funds are available. The County is \$19-22 million behind schedule.

- She met with Joe Skelly, who is working part-time with the Friends of the Library. He is trying to broaden the base of support for the Ramsey County Friends of the Library, and will be contacting all the Commissioners.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Friends have an overall fundraising goal as well as to do specific projects. They raised about \$62,000 for artwork in the new Maplewood Library.

- Work for the Active Living Ramsey County benches is ongoing. There will now be an urban and suburban pilot for the benches.

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- She and Commissioner Bennett attended the state Radio Board meeting.
- On the Nellie Stone-Johnson scholarship annual dinner.
- On the tragedies that have occurred in her district. The community has continued to come together during these times.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- She attended meetings during the AMC Conference.
- She attended meetings at the Legislature.
- She attended the NAACP regional banquet and training held in Bloomington.
- She attended the University of Minnesota's stadium advisory committee meeting, where they heard the report from the neighborhood impact committee on mitigation funds, and the application process was discussed.

Commissioner McDonough reported:

- On the St. Paul Youth Service Bureau, which is in the middle of its capital campaign. This youth service bureau does a lot of work with the ACE program, the children's mental health crisis intervention, and is a strong organization connected to the County.
- On the "Big Three", which is a collaboration of the League of Minnesota Cities, the Minnesota School Board Association, and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), working with the same constituencies, but in the past, pulling in different directions. Action plans and key things are being developed to work better together.

BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Bennett:

- Expressed condolences to Sheriff Fletcher on the loss of his father this past week.

(Continued)

- Reported on Bill Buth's retirement party. Mr. Buth will continue working with the LOCATE Committee and will stay active regarding the Depot.
- Scheduling for budget meeting dates is being worked on.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board