

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Bennett – 7. Absent – 0. Also present were David Twa, County Manager, and Gary Davis, Assistant County Attorney.

APPEARANCE

Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health Department, introduced individuals visiting from Australia through the Rotary Group Study Exchange.

AGENDA

Commissioner McDonough moved approval of the Agenda of the April 24, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Parker moved approval of the Minutes of the April 17, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

PUBLIC WORKS – Final Payment and Contract amount for the reconstruction of Lexington Avenue between Cummings Park Drive and Hwy 96, S.A.P. 62-651-38

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-158)

WHEREAS, County Board Resolution 2005-175 approved a contract with Forest Lake Contracting for the construction of Lexington Avenue (CSAH 51) between Cummings Park Drive and Highway 96, S.A.P. 62-651-38, Contract CC001381; and

WHEREAS, The final contract cost amounted to \$2,686,876.97; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Project Engineer has inspected the work and certified that it has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications of the contract; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a final contract amount of \$2,686,876.97 and authorizes a final payment of \$9,247.19 to Forest Lake Contracting, 14777 Lake Drive, Forest Lake, MN 55025, County Contract CC001381.

PUBLIC WORKS – Final Payment and Contract amount for S.A.P. 62-668-043

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-159)

WHEREAS, County Board Resolution 2004-204 approved a contract with Tower Asphalt for the construction of traffic signals and turn lanes at the intersection of McKnight Road and Lower Afton Road, S.A.P. 62-668-043; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The final contract cost amounted to \$706,276.95; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Project Engineer has inspected the work and certified that it has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications of the contract; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a final contract amount of \$706,276.95 and authorizes a final payment in the amount of \$5,154.57 to Tower Asphalt, P.O. Box 15001, Lakeland, MN 55043, Ramsey County Contract CC001243.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL – CHS Citizens Advisory Council member appointments

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

Commissioner Reinhardt pointed out that the people who serve on the Community Human Services Citizens (CHS) Advisory Council, as well as the Community Health Services Advisory Committee, do a fantastic job in bringing information to the Board. Individuals Interested in applying to the County's volunteer groups can access information at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cb/ma/volunteer. The committees of the CHS Advisory Council are: Adult Services, Chemical Health, Children's Mental Health Advisory Council, Children's Review Panel, Developmental Disabilities Committee, Low Income Committee, and the Mental Health Advisory Council.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-160)

WHEREAS, Several committees of the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council have membership vacancies; and

WHEREAS, The County's open appointment process was followed to obtain applications; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Council recommends applicants listed in the attached Membership Appointment Recommendations be appointed to serve on the committees identified for the terms noted; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individuals to serve on the committees of the Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Council, with terms specified.

Adult Services Committee

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Barbara Wlodarczyk
(incumbent) | through 6/30/08 |
| 2. Kathleen M. Tuenge | through 6/30/09 |
| 3. Barbara Doherty | through 6/30/09 |
| 4. Barbara A. Johnson | through 6/30/09 |

Chemical Health Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 5. Jonathan Lofgren | through 6/30/09 |
|---------------------|-----------------|

(Continued)

Children’s Mental Health Advisory Council

- 6. Lana M. Magnuson through 6/30/09
- 7. Mary McLean Donnelly through 6/30/09
- 8. Roy Roberts through 6/30/09

Children’s Services Review Panel

- 9. Lyn Birawer through 6/30/08
(incumbent)

Developmental Disabilities Committee

- 10. Gene Martinez through 6/30/09
- 11. Rick Varco through 6/30/09

Low Income Committee

- 12. Kristin Kinney through 6/30/09
- 13. Ibrahim Mohamed through 6/30/09

Mental Health Advisory Council

- 14. Scot Hunter through 6/30/09

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Mental Health Clinic – Partial Hospitalization Program

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-161)

WHEREAS, The Partial Hospitalization Program has expanded capacity from 10 to 20 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Services are provided through two programs tracks – Young Adult and Adult; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is required to furnish meals to all participants; and

WHEREAS, St. Paul Public Schools has allowed the County to purchase hot meals through their program at Agape School for several years; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the program expansion, the annual expenditures for lunch will rise above the \$10,000 limit for contract approval by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, The period of the original contract is September 2006 through July 2008 and this amendment increases the amount of the original contract from \$6,000 to \$15,000 for each calendar year; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the contract amendment with St. Paul Schools, 360 Colborne St., St. Paul, MN 55102, for school lunches for all individuals in the Partial Hospitalization Program, in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 annually; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the contract.

(Continued)

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Homeless Services – Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Application and Homeless Coordinator

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-162)

WHEREAS, To follow-up the discussion at the April 17 Board workshop on Homeless Services; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners ratifies the submission of the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance application to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for \$3 million for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board directs the County Manager to send a letter to the City of St. Paul outlining the County Board's desire to have the Homeless Services Coordinator report to one entity, to give the City of St. Paul the opportunity to hire and supervise the coordinator, and to indicate the County is willing to hire and supervise if the City declines.

PUBLIC WORKS – Cooperative Agreement for the reconstruction of Old Highway 8

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

Commissioner Parker said this is a cooperative agreement with the City of New Brighton to reconstruct that part of Old Highway 8 between I694 going north to the Long Lake Park entrance. The City of New Brighton calls this the northwest quadrant; major renovations for pollution cleanup are being done in this area. The County has been involved in funding some of the cleanup activities; new multi-family housing is being built for about 2500 new residents in that area; and additional traffic will also result from the industrial workforce coming into the area.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-163)

WHEREAS, The City of New Brighton, in cooperation with the Ramsey County Public Works Department, is developing plans for the reconstruction of Old Highway 8 between I-694 and the Long Lake Regional Park Entrance; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Public Works Department has prepared Cooperative Agreement PW2007-03 with New Brighton addressing cost participation and maintenance responsibilities for the project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Cooperative Agreement PW2007-03 with the City of New Brighton; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The four (4) page Cooperative Agreement PW2007-03 is made part of this resolution by reference and is kept on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

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

PUBLIC WORKS – Construction Status Report for the period January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007

(Continued)

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-164)

WHEREAS, County Board Resolution 91-061 requires the Public Works Department to submit periodic reports on the financial status of each project and any modifications that have been authorized within the limits set by County Board Resolution 2001-93; and

WHEREAS, The contract modifications include items such as cost quantity changes, change orders, and supplemental agreements; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Construction Status Report for the January 1, 2007 through March 31, 2007.

COUNTY MANAGER BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly Report of contracts and Final Payments and Grant Submissions that were approved during the month of March 2007

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-165)

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

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

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

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report of Contracts and Final Payments and Grants for the month of March 2007.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, distributed draft materials relating to the tax bill.

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said the Omnibus tax bill came out yesterday and public testimony will be taken. It may pass this week and then go to the floor of the House for passage there. No major changes are expected in the items Ramsey County is interested in. The Environmental Response Fund (ERF) is in the House tax bill, which is already in the Senate. They are identical with the exception of no sunset in the House bill.

A new fourth tier was put in on the income tax, for raising revenue, at 9%. For married couples, there is a \$400,000 threshold before that kicks in, and would raise about \$423 million a year. Most of that money would go for various forms of property tax relief. The city LGA is at about a \$65 million increase, with the county program aid at a \$24 million increase. The Governor may veto; that bill may not sustain a veto with the income tax increase.

Commissioner Ortega said he read that property taxes over 2% of income would be part of the property tax relief. That is expected to affect 90% of Minnesota residents, and would have a

(Continued)

huge impact on the elderly. It is important that people understand where the income tax increase on property is going.

Mr. Riley said the money would mostly be given back to individuals in rebates versus to local governments. That is different from where the Senate is. These will be conferenced out sometime next week.

Ms. Speiker said the House tax bill is focused on individual relief to property taxpayers, and a reform to the system. From a property taxpayer standpoint, this is an exciting bill because it addresses a lot of things taxpayers had said were concerns for them. The State's "no new tax policy" has led to the kinds of local property tax increases that are seen reflected in some of the material just distributed. This is a combination of material, including some of the things County Manager Twa and Budget Director Julie Kleinschmidt said were driving property tax increases -- many being cost shifts from the State and federal governments. The top chart shows a correlation between the State's "no new tax policy", and property tax increases, put together by Jeff Van Wychen. Another chart shows how local property taxes have grown to pay for the cost of local Minnesota road and bridge projects. This draft material will be in final form later today.

Commissioner Parker referred to the section "Ramsey County receives only enough State highway aid to reconstruct local roads every 108 years"; it is actually State and federal aid.

Ms. Speiker said the phrase would be changed later today.

Mr. Riley said he and Ms. Speiker would be meeting with city lobbyists, Jeff Van Wychen, and Dave Verhasselt, Public Communications Manager, to craft a message that the Commissioners can use in response to the idea that the State has \$2 billion in new money and that they don't need to increase taxes to address any of these issues. More shifts will be made to the property taxes, which is the direction it is going in. A clear, concise message will be put together in a timely manner.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if the fact sheet would be put on the County's website www.co.ramsey.mn.us so people can access it.

Ms. Speiker said it would go on the website. Lee Bradford, Public Information Associate, can customize the fact sheet for use by individual Commissioners. On the whole debate about whether there really is a surplus or whether or not inflation was factored into the budget projections -- it wasn't factored into the spending side. An article in this morning's paper contained a quote by a member of the House Tax Committee yesterday: "with the surplus available...why anyone wants to raise taxes now is beyond me". The surplus is supposed to be real, but without inflation figured in, it is hard to call it a real surplus. That was a piece of the assignment that came to staff yesterday out of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) meeting.

Commissioner Parker said the draft handout was distributed at AMC last week where there was a lot of interest and appreciation for it. She asked when this material would be final.

Ms. Speiker said it would be finalized today. Ms. Kleinschmidt wanted to make sure that the information regarding backfill of State and federal cuts is substantiated.

Commissioner Carter referred to the false concept about having so much money so that we don't need to raise taxes. Everyone around the table at the JPTAC meeting was concerned about getting the right message out, and being very careful about that message. We don't want to paint a picture of doom and gloom, but to be clear about what is happening, not only in property taxes, but what is happening with Minnesota in terms of expansion in education spending, ability to keep pace with the rest of the nation, foreclosures across the State, which corresponds with the lack of increased spending to meet inflation in an area such as Community Human Services where it has made a direct impact. We need to keep pressure on the legislature to get something done. The money that is there is not extra money. It is money that could help compensate for inflation, but we need to implement small incremental change in property tax relief in order to keep pace.

(Continued)

Commissioner Ortega said he attended meetings with colleagues from around the State and JPTAC. The dilemma is to get the message out that there is no such animal as “no new taxes”. It comes down to the local level and onto the property tax, which is the most regressive. It is good that the fact sheet can be customized because the Commissioners all have different audiences who need to be addressed in different ways.

Commissioner Reinhardt said regardless of when this new way of presenting the budget forecast started to not put in the inflation, everybody knows that it is not a truthful picture. She is aware that there was some move afoot to just give the real numbers. To include this in one side and not the other gives a false picture. She asked if the Legislature is going to take that action.

Mr. Riley said this was implemented the last year of Governor Ventura’s term, and agreed upon by Tim Pawlenty who was then majority leader in the House, and Roger Moe, both who were running for Governor the following year, to clear the slate for a rosier picture. From the tax cuts, and the economy taking a downturn, there was a \$5 million deficit, but until then, it was always included in all the forecasts. The Senate has already passed a bill, and it may have passed the floor of the House, to do just what the Commissioners are saying, to include inflation in all the forecasts on the spending side. The House was reluctant to put in anything because the Governor might accuse them of giving automatic pay increases to State employees if they included inflation. In retrospect, they may have done that because they now see the damage being done. Staff believes something may come out yet this year for future forecasts.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this is relatively new. For the average Minnesotan to think they can be given numbers that would not be accurate is beyond them. People don’t realize that this change took place.

Commissioner Parker said that Mr. Twa has had discussions with department heads about the budget for next year. Just in the County Attorney’s Office alone, if the County were not successful in getting something in place for the Child Safety Act, about 35 positions would be lost.

Mr. Twa said this goes back to the Child Support Collections. Ramsey County has two-thirds of the costs reimbursed through that program, but in order to backfill the hole created by the Targeted Case Management Act at the federal level, we would have to put approximately \$1 million back into the County Attorney’s Office. That is one-third of the cost, and approximately 32 positions would have to be eliminated. That is on top of the whole issue related to Targeted Case Management for the Human Services Department. The County would have to figure out a way to come up with about \$4-5 million just to backfill that particular loss of funds, or cut services accordingly.

Commissioner Parker asked how many positions would be eliminated in Human Services?

Mr. Twa said the Human Services budget is being reviewed this Friday and he would have an actual number at that time.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she and staff spent a great deal of time at the Legislature talking about the Child Safety Act and the impact on Ramsey County. The Legislature seems to be listening and dealing with at least part of this. For every dollar that is spent on child support collections, \$4.85 comes back to families. Those are non-government dollars. The return is incredible, and keeps those families from being on welfare and needing additional services. Every Board member has stressed the importance of this with the federal legislators and delegation members. The County is part of this team, but have been stressing that the federal government, and specifically in Minnesota, the State government needs to be a part of the team to make families safer.

Commissioner McDonough said this material is a good piece of information. We need to get the right information out about where we are at financially, and the fact that there isn’t a billion dollars sitting out there, and if there is, how do you deal with the inflation piece. For further

(Continued)

discussion on policy --in looking at the graph on public safety and human services – in 2002, there was roughly 1% on County spending and now it is about 10% more. If we are not investing in safety net services and prevention services, the consequences end up in public safety and corrections, which tend to be much more costly for society to deal with. This says a lot about how Ramsey County is choosing to invest. We need to explore that policy shift about where those dollars are being spent and the impact it is having in our communities as counties. Ramsey County needs to take the lead role in that conversation because that is where it comes down to as deliverers of public safety, human services, and public health services.

Commissioner Carter said it appears that there is a focus from the Senate, the House and the Governor to do something regarding the Child Safety Act. The AMC proposal was about putting those dollars in the base. It appears there is agreement to move forward, but it is more likely that would come out of one-time dollars, which meets all the concerns for this year, but the need is still there, and in fact, leaves an even bigger hole for the coming years.

Ms. Speiker said AMC had proposed there would be \$55 million in ongoing funding that would come back to counties to be spent for child protection, child welfare, safety net services – the kinds of services the federal government used to give a percentage of money to fund. That idea ended up getting support from the Governor in his budget at \$40 million for one-time funding. It was \$40 million also for one-time funding in the House, and \$23.5 million for one-time funding in the Senate. At least all three entities were saying they believed that funding is needed – it isn't permanent, it isn't in the base, but is there for one-time funding. As the bills have come off the Senate and House floor and ready for conference committee, those amounts have changed -- the House bill came out with \$2 million out of the \$40 million for funding for some nursing homes. She is not sure how that might affect Ramsey County's nursing home. Dave Haley, Community Human Services, will be looking at that. There was a request coming through the county associations for \$8 million in ongoing funding to backfill the child support piece. That one-time funding amount has been reduced \$4 million in the Senate and \$5.3 million in the House. Mr. Twa is looking at what this might mean as he talks with the department heads as the requests come forward.

There are some hopeful pieces in some of the funding. In the public safety bill, there is some backfill funding for community corrections at counties and for the short-term offenders. Both the House and Senate public safety bills are more in line with the Governor's proposals in terms of dollar amounts than some of the other bills. That might be something that would give some funds to try to backfill some of the cuts that have happened in previous legislative sessions.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she has heard some legislators talking about the one-time funding and that there is some renewed hope at the federal level, that this would be a transition, hoping that some of the federal cuts would be restored. This is a huge issue, and it is about abused and neglected children.

Ms. Speiker said she and Mr. Riley are seeing this not just in the human services or public safety areas, but on the whole issue of taxes. There seems to be a great understanding on the part of the legislators that county government and the kinds of services provided to citizens in the counties has been significantly affected by the State budget shortfall and by the federal Reconciliation bill. They are talking about that amongst themselves and in committees.

Chair Bennett asked if the new legislative members understand that counties deliver the services for the State.

Mr. Riley said he is very impressed by the new members.

Ms. Speiker said there are a lot of new members, especially in the House, who have local government experience, some who were school board members or teachers involved in a higher

(Continued)

level delivery of services, experienced with budgeting. A number of new members on the Ramsey Delegation fit that profile. That background is also being seen in Washington and Dakota Counties.

Commissioner Rettman asked if because the House, Senate and Governor all seem to agree, would there be an opportunity for the Governor to line-item veto, rather than just a complete veto.

Mr. Riley felt there would have to be some agreement in the end. He believed the Governor would first veto the entire bill. He earlier had felt there would be a special session, but yesterday began like a “shot gun” start with the conference committees. There were at least 8-10 conference committees that started at the same time. It seemed the legislators are sincere in getting this done. Targets should be completed later this week, but there are some big gaps to be reconciled. The House tax bill includes a foreign operating corporation (FOC) loophole that would bring in \$297 million over the biennium, which is substantial revenue.

Ms. Speiker said there are dramatic tax reform issues. The FOC money has been before the tax bill the last few years. Depending on what the targets look like on Friday, there will be a better sense of whether bills are vetoed before they come back that might be more agreeable to everybody.

Commissioner Rettman said she watched a replay of one of the Governor’s statements, one including common ground. He could veto three major bills.

Ms. Speiker cited the article about the giant veto story, which talks about all the provisions that the Governor has been clear on that he doesn’t like. It seems the only thing he is comfortable about and wouldn’t veto in the major spending bills is the one that would fund the veterans service programs.

Regarding the tax issues, Mr. Van Wychen provides good information, which could be provided to those Commissioners who don’t already receive it.

A staff person from the Department of Human Services, contacted staff regarding an information hearing in the House, to be at 2 p.m., Thursday, on county based purchasing. A request was made for a County Board member to attend the hearing to talk about Ramsey County’s experiences and to testify.

Commissioner Ortega asked staff to send the Commissioners the information.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the E-waste bill (primarily about computers and televisions), passed the Senate today, with the identical bill going forward in the House. It is hoped that there will be a signed E-waste bill in Minnesota by next week.

Mr. Riley said there is good bipartisan support on that bill, and there should be no problem getting it passed.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- She and several other Commissioners attended the Central Corridor Development Strategy Session.
- She attended the Association of Minnesota Counties Legislative all-day meeting.
- She attended the Paint Product Stewardship Stakeholders dialog in Washington, DC. The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board paid for her participation in this dialog. The National Paint and Coatings Association agreed to a voluntary rollout of a national financing system for leftover latex and oil based paints, with Minnesota to be the pilot project state, beginning January 2008 and running through July 2009. January 1, 2009, the states of Washington, Oregon and Vermont would be added; in July 2009, California would be added; and each year following, other states would be added as they are ready. Hopefully, there will be a national voluntary system to partner on the cost.

(Continued)

Commissioner Rettman asked if there would be a “bank” for people to use the leftover paint.

Commissioner Reinhardt said a lot of the infrastructure already exists. This would set up a mechanism for an eco fee paid into a third party organization to help fund the environmental aspects for reuse, recycling, etc. There is value in recycling the aluminum cans, as well as some plastic jugs.

Commissioner Parker reported:

- On an Active Living – Ramsey County meeting; a member of the Pollution Control Agency was present and talked about the movement of sustainability and community.
- She attended the Finance Committee and the Board meeting of the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. A budget was passed retroactively for 2007. Staff has been responsive and helpful.
- The Library Board discussed the Roseville Library. There will be a Board Workshop to discuss the library sometime in June.
- The Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative Executive Committee met and reported they had been notified that one of their proposals had been granted a considerable amount of money over a five-year period from the McKnight Foundation for some after school programs. She believes the grant is about five million dollars. These are flexible dollars, which can be used for all the schools from pre-school to high school.

Commissioner Rettman asked if that was the only community in the State of Minnesota to receive one. Commissioner Parker responded that she does not know who else received one.

- The Electronic Recording Task Force, under Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, is proceeding. Over one-half of the counties in the State are pilot counties. She hopes Ramsey County will become interested and start figuring out how to do this. The counties involved are starting to have good luck with it. Dakota County has recently started doing this. Many more real estate transactions will be recorded electronically with this new system.

Dave Twa, County Manager, said substantial improvements have been made in the Property Records and Revenue Department now that Pat O’Connor, retired Hennepin County Recorder, has been working with us. We are now within the fifteen-day filing recording requirement on the abstract side; we still have a ways to go on the Torrens side. The move to electronic recording has been a goal. There were substantial issues that needed to be fixed before moving to the electronic recording.

Commissioner Rettman:

- Referred to the forum that Commissioner Reinhardt spoke about and said she has a copy of the document from that meeting. It can be shared among the Commissioners. It has a lot to do with land use and the vision. Toward the end of the meeting there was a question regarding Park-and-Ride lots. The response was that there was not a lot of desire to do that. She said that from the County’s perspective, the north-south connection and having Park-and-Rides are very critical. The purpose is to have the rest of the County participate. The first response was that they could park in downtown St. Paul; that is not doable. The number of Park-and-Rides has gone up dramatically in other municipalities and counties. Not all the Park-and-Rides have to be on University Avenue.

(Continued)

- Referred to a meeting where the intersection of Snelling and University Avenues was discussed. Of the people present at that meeting, about one-half said there is no problem at that intersection. There are other things that might be pursued to get at some of the other aesthetic things that could be done. The City gave the presentation. Not all the District Councils knew about the meeting. The capacity study was about numbers. The flow is on Snelling. It was suggested that if a tunnel was going to be done, it should be done for light rail. A north-south quadrant study is commencing that talks about perhaps connecting on Vandalia. There is a myriad of things that have to do with land use. We dropped the ball in making sure that the City lived up to the responsibilities to involve the District Councils. We dropped the ball; the City dropped the ball. Since we put in money, it should have happened; it wouldn't have then been a surprise. People are willing to be thoughtful. The County has to do a better job and not just hand things off.

Chair Bennett asked if anyone asked the City why they let CVS build just two years ago, knowing that light rail would be coming through.

Commissioner Rettman said there was no comment on that; however, when Home Depot is built, it will have parking on top of it.

Commissioner Carter believes the study was undertaken with the assumption that everyone agreed that there is too much congestion at University and Snelling. It became apparent that people agree there is a large amount of congestion, there is no agreement that the right way to fix the congestion is to make it easier for large numbers of cars to move through that area. It is an interesting process that will require more dialogue with the community.

Commissioner Carter reported that:

- She attended a Children's Mental Health Executive Committee Meeting. As part of the collaboratives' movement this year, Children's Mental Health is participating with the other three collaboratives. They are envisioning joint administrative services, but each collaborative is going through its own individual journey. For Children's Mental Health, it is a journey to determine how, with decreasing resources and increasing needs, to meet the needs of the children they serve. The collaboratives are a group of organizations and systems that work for children on behalf of their mental health needs. Ramsey County Department of Human Services and the collaboratives are exploring how to create a closer partnership and partnering to serve all the children we need to serve, focusing the collaborative on more of the deep end services and needs, and developing a concern among collaborative members about our ability to continue to address the prevention and intervention services that some of the collaborative partners deliver. There is also a concern about the viability of those organizations that currently provide services through the collaborative. This is an ongoing conversation. Joel Hetler, Community Human Services, continually presents information to the Children's Mental Health Collaborative about Ramsey County's challenges – budgeting concerns and needs – to meet the needs of children in both the Department and in connection with the Collaborative and working with the County's Advisory Committees and making it work together in consideration of our future work to blend administration across the three collaboratives and possibilities for the future. Commissioner Ortega had suggested that at some point, the Board should be updated on all three collaboratives and the work of those collaboratives engaging together. She believes this could be done in the fall of 2007.

(Continued)

- She attended an adolescent mental health conference, which was an interesting gathering of systems people, community providers, parents, and people in the community who are concerned about the juxtaposition of mental health needs and services and corrections needs and services. The question was how communities of color can ensure that more of the children who have mental health needs end up on the services side, and less on the corrections side. There is legislative action to prepare a better mental health services integration with health services.
- The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives (JDAI) Steering Committee met and discussed a visit of the Annie E. Casey coordinators who are providing technical support to the Committee and support for Ramsey County to visit and learn from other model sites throughout the nation. We are aware of some milestones that Annie E. Casey is now publicizing that will help guide the way through the JDAI process. We are in a process now, having agreed to the purpose of detention, of developing our screening instrument. The committee working on the risk assessment instrument is now challenged with making an instrument that provides for our operations and making detention decisions against that objective screening instrument.
- The Central Corridor Development Strategy was an interesting presentation. An abbreviated presentation will be made to the Regional Railroad Authority. The importance of the Union Depot comes through when the presentation is made.
- She met with the STEPS community consortium. This is a program that works on eliminating or reducing chronic diseases.

Chair Bennett reported:

- He met with the authors of the transportation bill. The governance is pretty much the way counties are looking at it.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board