

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 Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the July 10, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – One application to purchase a tax-forfeited property by the City of Saint Paul, a government agency

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-225)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, Department of Property Records and Revenue, on behalf of the State of Minnesota, has received one application from the City of Saint Paul, to purchase a parcel of tax-forfeited land; and

WHEREAS, This property is located in the City of Saint Paul, County of Ramsey, and is legally described as follows:

Abstract: Eastview Addition No. 3, the East 1 foot of Lot 13 through Lot 30, Block 4.

Torrens: All that part of the following described tract: The North 32.8 feet of Lot 25; and all of Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30, Block 4, Eastview Addition No. 3; which lies Easterly of a line run parallel with and distant 1 foot Westerly of the East line of the above described tract.

Subject to all right of access, being the right of ingress to and egress from that portion of the above-described tract, not acquired herein, to Trunk Highway No. 212. See Document No. 454161.

Subject to an easement for slope, cuts and fills in the grading of the alley adjoining the above property as shown in Document No. 154340.

PIN: 34-29-22-31-0051; and

WHEREAS, The Acting Director of Property Records and Revenue proposes to sell the tax-forfeited parcel to the City of Saint Paul for the appraised value of \$500.00, plus other applicable fees and costs; and

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WHEREAS, This parcel is adjacent to a residential condominium complex to the west and a public alley to the east that contains a large and deep sewer line; and

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul wishes to acquire the parcel to ensure there is adequate easement area to provide for maintenance of the sewer line and to keep structures a safe distance from it; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the sale of the above-described tax-forfeited property to the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota, for the appraised value of \$500.00, plus applicable fees and costs.

PARKS & RECREATION – Award of Contract for the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-226)

WHEREAS, Harding Ice Arena is the last direct freon refrigeration system operated by Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The refrigeration system was installed in 1975 and has a recent history of leaks due to corroded steel freon distribution system pipes; and

WHEREAS, The 2007 Capital Improvement Program includes funding for the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project; and

WHEREAS, Bids for the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project were received on June 20, 2007 and the lowest responsible bidder was Arena Systems, Inc. with a lump sum bid of \$420,000; and

WHEREAS, In order to have sufficient funds to award the contract, the Department of Parks and Recreation recommends deferral of the Ken Yackel-West Side Arena Roof Replacement Project and transferring \$135,000 from that project to the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to transfer up to \$135,000 from the Ken Yackel-West Side Arena Roof Replacement Project to the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the Contract with Arena Systems, Inc., 420 County Road D East, Little Canada, MN 55117-1218, in the amount of \$420,000 for the Harding Ice Arena Refrigeration Retrofit Project, subject to approval of the contract form, bonds and insurance by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

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PARKS & RECREATION – Approval of Contract for Construction of Rice Creek North Regional Trail

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-227)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County received title to 112 acres along Rice Creek from the National Park Service under the Federal Lands to Parks Program and the property is part of the Rice Creek Regional Trail Corridor; and

WHEREAS, Plans and specifications have been prepared for a new 2.2 mile long paved trail within the property from County Road I to County Road J; and

WHEREAS, Bids for construction of the trail were received on May 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, The low bid of \$512,033 by Motzko Company is consistent with the work and with the project budget; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a loan of up to \$145,000 from the Open Space Land Acquisition Account to supplement financing of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail project, to be reimbursed from future Metropolitan Council Capital Improvement Program appropriations; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the Contract with Motzko Company, 627 – 95th Street, S. E., Delano, MN 55328 for Rice Creek North Regional Trail Development, including base bid of \$293,442, add alternate 'A' of \$76,994, add alternate 'B' of \$38,019, add alternate 'C' of \$54,036 and add alternate 'D' of \$49,542 for a total project cost of \$512,033, subject to approval of the contract form, bonds and insurance by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointments to Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-228)

WHEREAS, Terms for eight county-appointed Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members end on July 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Three of these individuals are seeking reappointment; and

WHEREAS, The positions these individuals represent on the WIB are in the category of One-Stop Partners, Education, and Labor; and

WHEREAS, The St. Paul Area Trades and Labor Assembly, has submitted a nomination letter in support of the reappointment of the incumbent for Labor; Now, Therefore, Be It

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RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of the following individuals to represent the categories of One-Stop Partners, Education, and Labor, for terms commencing August 1, 2007 and ending July 31, 2009.

To Represent One-Stop Partners

Patricia Brady, Director, Workforce Solutions

To Represent Education

Craig Anderson, Saint Paul College

To Represent Labor

Bernie Hesse, United Food and Commercial Workers Union 789

HUMAN RESOURCES – 2007 Salary Rates for Building Trades Job Classes (Carpenter, Master Electrician, and Painter)

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-229)

WHEREAS, The salary rates for building trades job classes in the Saint Paul Area are established through negotiations between the Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades Council and area building contractors; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these negotiations, a single salary rate is established for each building trade job class, and the rate for each class is applied uniformly throughout the community with no variation from employer to employer; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades Council jointly established a salary formula to match the total compensation paid to Ramsey County building trades employees, with the total compensation paid to building trades employees affiliated with the Saint Paul Building Trades Council; and

WHEREAS, The salary formula is based on four components: wages; employer-paid insurance contributions; employer-paid retirement contributions; and, employer-paid time off benefits; and

WHEREAS, At the request of Ramsey County building trades employees, Ramsey County and the Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades Council updated the salary formula as described in the attached document entitled “*Agreement For Calculation Of Proposed Salary Rates For Ramsey County Building Trades Job Classes*”; and

WHEREAS, This document was approved by the Board of Commissioners on December 15, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Based on the updated salary formula and the 2007 salary rates for Carpenter, Master Electrician, and Painter positions affiliated with the Saint Paul Building & Construction

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Trades Council, the Human Resources Department has calculated new salary rates for the Ramsey County building trades job classes of Carpenter, Master Electrician, and Painter with effective dates for the new rates to coincide with the dates of the wage changes set by the Saint Paul Building & Construction Trades Council; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with the Personnel Act, MN Statutes §383A.282, is responsible for determining the compensation for all employees in the Ramsey County Personnel System; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with the provision of the Personnel Act, MN Statutes §383A.282, hereby approves the following salary rates for the building trades job classes for 2007:

<u>Job Class Title</u>	<u>Number of Employees</u>	<u>Full-Time Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Part-Time Hourly Rate</u>	<u>Effective Date of New Rate</u>
Carpenter	2	\$34.10	\$44.26	May 1, 2007
Master Electrician	Vacant	\$47.04	\$59.36	May 1, 2007
Painter	1	\$33.27	\$43.29	May 1, 2007

PUBLIC WORKS – Construction Status Report for the period April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-230)

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 April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly report of contracts and final payments and grant submissions that were approved during the month of June 2007

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-231)

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

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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 June 2007.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – RFP for Professional Psychological and Vocational Assessments of MFIP Clients

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

Commissioner Rettman said the action requested is to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find psychologists credentialed with PMAPs to perform psychological assessments, who are also qualified to provide vocational assessments. Are there people available who are qualified in both areas?

Sue Illg, Planner, Workforce Solutions, responded affirmatively. Workforce Solutions currently contracts with some individuals who do both types of assessments. It is a specialty that not all psychologists do.

Commissioner Rettman asked if there were any penalties that Workforce Solutions had to pay back for continuing to do this and in using MFIP dollars.

Ms. Illg responded that there have been no penalties. The State met with staff and requested they find an alternative way to do this.

Commissioner Rettman requested clarification that there has been no reduction of the dollars and/or no penalties. It sounds as though the State has always challenged this, but allowed it to continue. She asked if there is a deadline.

Ms. Illg responded there would be no penalties and that no deadline was specified.

Commissioner Rettman asked when this would come back before the County Board. The document states this is for programs for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2008. She asked if the State would be notified that this RFP was being sent out.

Ms. Illg said the State is aware of this.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the State would continue to allow Workforce Solutions to use MFIP dollars.

Ms. Illg responded affirmatively. A State staff person reviewed this RFP and was made aware of the timetable; no objections were raised.

Commissioner Rettman asked if MFIP dollars could be used to continue to pay for this until the new contracts are in place.

Ms. Illg said the State has not requested Workforce Solutions to stop immediately, just to make alternative plans. She could report back to the Board on that.

Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2007-232)

WHEREAS, Employment services staff serving Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) participants sometimes need a mental health/cognitive functioning diagnostic assessment and a vocational assessment in order to write an appropriate employment plan for a participant and to determine whether a participant is employable; and

WHEREAS, Mental health/cognitive functioning diagnostic assessments are available through MFIP participants' health plans but vocational assessments are not; and

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WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions wishes to identify psychologists who are credentialed with MFIP participants' health plans and have expertise in providing vocational assessments, so the psychologists can bill the health plans for mental health/cognitive functioning diagnostic assessments and provide employment services staff with vocational assessments billed to the County; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the issuance of a Request for Proposals for Psychological and Vocational Assessments for Workforce Solutions' MFIP programs for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2008, with the option to renew for additional one-year periods, up to a total five-year term.

COUNTY MANAGER – Presentation of the Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

David Twa, County Manager, said this is the County's second two-year budget. It begins with the County's Mission Statement "Ramsey County – Working With You to Enhance Our Quality of Life". The Value Statement established by the County Board is that we are community centered, serving the citizens with integrity, honesty, respect, innovation and responsibility.

In April 2007, the County Board added to its Goals and Critical Success Indicators, which is how the County's performance measurements are aligned. In reviewing the 2008-2009 budget, increased performance measurements are indicated, as well as data, which is an improvement over the last two-year budget. This is all possible due to hard work by the Commissioners in establishing these guidelines and directions, as well as significant work by all the Departments over the last several weeks. It is also important to recognize the Budgeting and Accounting Department for all the work they have done to put this together, including Julie Kleinschmidt, Marion Holly, and Kathy Kapoun.

The Critical Success Indicators and the Goals talk about the fact that Ramsey County intends to be a leader in financial and operational management, promote multi-modal transit and transportation solutions, prevention of crime and improve public safety, the changing demographics, and the delivery of critical services for both children and families, as well as individuals with special needs. The Board added the additional goal to deal with natural resources and the quality of our environment.

Residents expect the County to deliver high quality services in a cost effective manner. The demand for services has increased steadily over the last several years, as well as the cost of providing those services. Residents have a right to, and do expect that the County will provide value for their hard-earned tax dollars.

The County has been in a fiscal crisis since 2003, when dealing with the significant cuts from State and federal governments. That has resulted in a reduction, and in some cases, elimination of some programs over the last four years, as well as restructuring of some services. The consolidation of dispatch services in Ramsey County has been a significant part of the reason, as well as some of the changes made in the Property Records and Revenue Department in terms of restructuring their services. Significant cost drivers include rising health care costs, not just for County employees and retirees, but also for the clientele being served. In addition, there are new and increased public safety expenditures with the significant amount on the consolidation of the 911 Dispatch Center, as well as for 2008-2009, the expansion of the Workhouse, and moving the prisoners from the VOA facility into the new facility, which will be operational by the end of 2008 or early 2009. The Board has provided significant dollars toward the under-funded employee retirement costs, and we will continue to look at very significant dollars in that area both for 2008 and 2009. Significant dollars have been put into the levy for Regional Rail costs to deal with the

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debt service as well as operating costs. We are also dealing with the issue of replacement of space as we move forward with eliminating the office buildings on the Riverfront.

The overall budget strategy has been to preserve the services that make the most difference. Some reductions continue to be necessary because the State revenue, provided for mandated services, is far below costs. One example is in the area of what is called “six-month prisoners”, those who are transferred from the State to the County’s facilities. The Governor increased the amount of money given to the County from about \$11 up to \$33 daily for each prisoner, but it costs the County over \$80 per day to house these prisoners. In spite of some increased dollars from the State Legislature, the County continues to lose ground in that particular area. Another area staff has tried to address in the 2008-2009 budget is in the courts – the County now has the costs associated with the civil commitment of criminal sexual offenders. The County is responsible for the daily costs of those individuals to be housed until they are actually committed. The State provides no money for that. The County has budgeted about \$200,000 for 2007, and our actual costs will be over \$600,000 to meet that State mandate. Those are small examples of what drives this budget. Staff are focusing on the delivery of essential services and maintaining the financial health of the County. In 2008-2009, it is proposed to put in significant dollars to cover the retiree health insurance that looms large for Ramsey County, as it does for governmental entities throughout the State and nation. As directed by the Board, staff have attempted to use minimal amounts from fund balances to balance the budget, with the overall goal to stabilize the revenue and expenditures.

Mr. Twa said the budget highlight is that spending is going up by 2.8% for 2008, and 2.8% for 2009. That is the good news. The proposed budget is a little over \$566 million in 2008 and about \$582 million in 2009. The increased spending is significantly less than the consumer price index (CPI) in terms of what has been projected over that period of time.

Public safety continues to be the largest budget increase. The new Emergency Communications Center, which consolidates 911 services in Ramsey County, will increase costs by \$1.2 million in 2008 and an additional \$750,000 in 2009.

Another big cost driver is the Adult Correctional Facility (Workhouse), which will increase the budget by \$226,000 in 2008 and \$930,000 in 2009. It is projected that the new areas of the Workhouse will open at the end of 2008 or early 2009; there is a period of time to prepare for additional staff and their training prior to the opening, which accounts for some of the costs occurring in 2008.

Staff proposes to put some money into youth diversion programs by funding \$225,000 in 2008 and to continue funding at that level in 2009.

There have been extensive cuts in the number of employees in some departments; overall there will be about 26.4 new positions over the next two years, mostly in Community Corrections for the Workhouse expansion.

Health and human services have seen the largest budget reductions in the past several years. There is a modest increase for community partners and vendors who deliver essential services in human services with a 2% increase in the dollars provided to vendors in 2008 and an additional 1% in 2009. In spite of the best efforts, there will be approximately ten positions in Community Human Services and Public Health eliminated over the next two years.

In 2007, for the first time ever, the dollars the County levied for public safety exceeded the dollars levied for human service programs. In 2008, for the first time ever, the total spending as a percentage of the budget for health and human services will drop below 50%.

Between 2003 and 2009, health and human services spending will have increased by a total of 5.1%. During the same period of time, spending for public safety and justice will have increased by 32%.

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Commissioner Parker requested clarification that the health and human services spending increased or decreased by 5.1%.

Mr. Twa said between 2003 and 2009, the total spending in those areas increased by 5.1%.

The proposed budget has a substantial amount of money for the preservation and maintenance of the existing infrastructure. In the past couple of years, the Board has referred to this as the Life Cycle Maintenance, and has put dollars aside to keep the buildings and properties working and available. The proposed budget includes modest increases for Parks and Public Works. Included in this two-year budget is the renovation and expansion of the Roseville Library, at a cost of about \$16 million. Significant dollars have been proposed for the retiree insurance liability funding.

The proposed budget includes about \$900,000 to begin looking at the Boys Totem Town Facility. Most of the buildings are 75 years old; that issue needs to be addressed.

Where do the County dollars go? In 2008, health and human services will be at 50.1%, and in 2009, would drop below 50% for the first time ever. Public safety and justice continues to increase. In 2007, spending was about \$146 million for public safety and justice; by 2009 that will rise to \$156 million. Health and human services will go from \$277 million to \$286 million over the same time period, which will represent 49.2% of our total spending.

Where do the County dollars come from? Over the last several years, property tax dollars have been required to replace the lost intergovernmental revenues – dollars received from State and federal governments. For 2008, 41.8% of the dollars will come from property taxes; in 2000 that was 36%, showing a steady increase in the need to backfill holes in the budget caused by what State and federal governments have done.

A chart compiled by Jeff Van Wychen, consultant for the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee, shows that from 2002 through 2006, County property taxes have filled in the hole due to the continued drop in federal and State aid.

There is increased reliance on property tax for public services because of State policy. Local Government Aid is dollars the State provides to cities. County Program Aid is the equivalent for counties. For this budget period, those dollars were flat. Had the Governor not vetoed the tax bill, there would have been an additional \$1 million in County Program Aid for 2008. That number equates to about a half percent in the levy.

On many occasions, the Governor has said that there is not a revenue problem; it is a spending problem. He has talked about the fact that over the next two years, the State's budget will increase by about 10%. Had the State provided the counties with the same level of increased spending that the State is giving to itself, Ramsey County's levy would be 2.4% instead of the proposed 5%. This levy increase is also slightly higher than the Implicit Price Deflator. That is what the State government uses to determine an appropriate level of increased spending. Because of what government buys in terms of counties, cities and state government, the services are significantly different than what the Consumer Price Index covers, such as health insurance costs, which are significant for our budget.

The proposed 2008 levy is an increase of \$11,552,338, or 5% over 2007. Of that amount, about \$5 million goes for public safety, and \$3 million to health and human services, which means about \$3 million, goes for everything else in the County. In 2009, another 5% increase is being proposed at about \$12 million.

In summary, this budget stabilizes Ramsey County after major reductions over the past several years. It doesn't mean we are in the clear because there will always continue to be storm clouds on the horizon. For example, in human services, even though we have had some relief from the State to backfill the holes in the Targeted Case Management area as a result of the federal

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budget reduction act, that is one-time only to cover for the next couple years and a permanent fix is still needed. Additionally, there is a statewide Targeted Case Management audit going on by the federal government, which could potentially have a long-term impact on Ramsey County. There are still issues to be dealt with, but staff believes this would stabilize Ramsey County for the time being, and it provides limited funding for employee and vendor costs. One area where we could do more is funding of early intervention and prevention services. There are some dollars to address that in increased funding through some of the providers, but over time, more is needed in the prevention area.

This proposed budget delivers the value the Board feels is important to the citizens and constituents of Ramsey County. In mid-August, the Board will begin budget hearings with the individual departments. On September 4, there will be public testimony for anyone who wishes to comment on the budget. On September 11, the County Board will adopt the maximum tax levy. There will be additional budget hearings as necessary in October and November. The Truth in Taxation Notices will be sent in early November; the Joint Truth in Taxation Public Hearing will be held with the City of St. Paul and the School District; and on December 18, the Board will adopt the final budget and levy.

Additional information on the 2008-2009 proposed budget is available on the County's website: <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us>.

Commissioner Reinhardt, Chair of the Budget Committee, thanked County Manager Twa for the budget presentation. She and Commissioner Rettman, Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee, worked hard on the budget hearing dates. There is a lot of work ahead before setting the maximum levy. They also worked hard so that the issue of accountability would show through in this budget. Every tax dollar spent has to show how it is being spent and if it is being spent wisely. As Department Heads come forward, tough questions will be asked to make sure the County gets the biggest bang for the buck. This afternoon a Workshop will be held to go more in depth on what was provided in Mr. Twa's presentation.

It is important, when thinking back to what has happened between 2003 and 2009 and the amount of increase that has occurred, especially with the cumulative increase of 5.1% in human services, it is a decrease when the CPI is factored in. This Board is fiscally conservative and she is confident that the Board will go through the budget with a fine-toothed comb to do the very best it can for the constituents of Ramsey County.

Commissioner Rettman thanked Marion Holly, Budgeting and Accounting, for work done on her last budget presentation prior to her retirement from Ramsey County.

BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Bennett reported:

- He attended the National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference in Richmond, Virginia, which was one of the busiest conferences he'd ever attended. All Ramsey County's positions were reaffirmed. There were many powerful and interesting speakers at the meetings.
- Shoreview will hold its Slice of Shoreview event and celebrate its 50th anniversary on Saturday.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- At the NACo Conference, the Environment Committee passed several resolutions; three came from Ramsey County. One was affirmation of paint, recycling and reuse at a national

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level; another was regarding mercury; and one regarding e-waste. There was an excellent speaker on foster care, and another on climate change. Voting took place at the conference for a new vice-chair. David Twa, County Manager, was the parliamentarian for the conference, and he did a fantastic job. Chair Bennett said there was a verbal protest regarding the election, and a written protest was to follow.

- The Rush Line Corridor Task Force met and discussed scenarios for the bus line corridor. Hennepin County will be encouraged to participate in some capacity. Buses may be running by the end of 2007.
- The Children's Collaborative met.
- On a press conference where they discussed the legislative session and highlighted the work done on crime prevention initiatives, in particular ACE.

Commissioner Parker reported:

- On several meetings of Active Living – Ramsey County. Blue Cross Blue Shield held an all-day workshop to discuss their next stage for this movement, bringing in national speakers. Those in Ramsey County are having strategic planning discussions about what to do after the grant goes away. Discussions will be held with some Department Heads to see if some funding could be cobbled together to continue this movement. Recognition events will be held for the pilot projects. An item for the next stage of funding will come to the County Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- The Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church opened its doors at 501 W. Lawson.
- The City of Falcon Heights will hold its annual ice cream social on Thursday.
- The Rice Street Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday.
- The Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) continues to make progress. By September, there will be bylaws and new members. Updates will continue to the County Board at least until the end of the year.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- The NACo Conference was a very productive and wonderful conference.
- On the CAPRW meeting and distributed a brochure titled *Community Action*, which highlights its programs. A presentation was given on its sustainability program.
- On the Children's Collaborative, which has intense work going on right now. The next grant cycle is moving forward, and will focus on allowing that the partnership promotes programs that aid children with co-occurring risk factors. Data from a report is being reviewed. They are looking forward to the three collaboratives' implementation of a recommendation of an administrative structure. The three collaboratives, Children's Mental Health, the Children's Collaborative, and Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative, will gather together in September to discuss the recommendation.

Commissioner Parker said she attended several of the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative meetings, where a motion was made, with the intent of being helpful, that as of January 1 Mary Sue Hansen could become the leader of all three collaboratives. It seemed that was the direction in which this was moving and the motion was made to take a next step, but that was not received well.

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Commissioner Carter said she was out of town during that meeting of the collaboratives. The motion and offer from Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative was well received at the meeting she attended. A question had come up whether an individual would be designated prior to the structure, resulting in a question about the process.

Commissioner Ortega said he received several phone calls from community members with concerns. The history of this group goes way back. This has to do with governance from the bottom up. The work of this group has to keep moving along.

Commissioner Carter said although there may be concerns, work continues on a process to define an administrative structure.

- On a recent Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) stakeholder committee meeting. This is the oversight board for all the JDAs. Meria Carstarphan, PhD, St. Paul School's Superintendent, presented the implications of and for JDAs of the St. Paul Public Schools strategic plan. There was also a guest speaker from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Jim Payne. It was the impression from Annie E. Casey that it is important to stay focused, on-track, and continue moving forward. Ramsey County was congratulated for having one of the best collaborative bodies. This will be retrospectively tested, looking back at juveniles who have been arrested and brought forward for detention, and determining what would have happened with those juveniles. This is the second year of the process.

Commissioner Ortega reported:

- On a tour of the West Side neighborhood looking a dozen homes to clarify what is going on with many foreclosures and property transactions. He thanked David Twa, County Manager, and Stephen Baker, County Assessor for attending this tour.
- On a tour of the Union Depot with the planning commission and district councils.
- He was a judge at the Highland Fest for the children's parade.
- Christopher Johnson is the new president of the Chamber of Commerce.
- At the NACo Conference, he attended four sub-committee meetings of the Transportation Committee. New alternatives for a revenue stream must be found.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk-County Board