

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: None. Also present were David Twa, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Rettman moved to amend the Agenda of the August 21, 2007 Board Meeting by laying over item 10.1 to the next Board Meeting and by moving item 10.8 to the beginning of this Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call on amendment: Ayes - Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

Commissioner Rettman moved approval of the Agenda of the August 21, 2007 Board Meeting, as amended, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

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

PRESENTATION

Commissioner McDonough presented the Ramsey County Farm Family Award for 2006 to Xa Lor and Kao Yang, accompanied by two family members. Xa Lor and Kao Yang live in St. Paul and currently farm 25 acres in St. Paul Park, and 30 acres in Hammond, Wisconsin.

PRESENTATION

Commissioner Bennett presented the Farm Fest Award, and the Ramsey County Farm Family Award for 2007, to Molly Papenheim, owner of Victoria Valley Orchard. This apple farm is located at 4304 North Victoria, in Ramsey County. Ms. Papenheim presented the Commissioners with a new apple called *Zestar!*, which is a cross between a *Honey Crisp* and *State Fair* apples. Ms. Papenheim said her recently deceased husband started this orchard, and without him, there would be no Victoria Valley Orchard.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the AMC District Ten Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-243)

WHEREAS, The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Board has created a fifth policy committee for the Association, called the Public Safety Committee; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the new committee is to create a permanent forum within the Association in which to address ongoing, overlapping and emerging county public safety and criminal justice issues; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Matters related to the delivery of public safety services and their impacts are among the high profile local government issues and are significant cost-drivers for most county budgets; and

WHEREAS, Among the responsibilities of the new committee will be to recommend policy positions on issues related to emergency management, courts, corrections, and criminal justice and others, and propose actions to address service delivery; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Commissioner Tony Bennett to the Association of Minnesota Counties' Public Safety Committee.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointments to Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-244)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners must approve Workforce Investment Board (WIB) members appointed to serve on the Youth Council by the WIB Chair; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the appointment of the following individuals to the Ramsey County WIB Youth Council:

<u>APPOINTEE</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE CATEGORY</u>
Kirk Hayes	Youth Serving Organizations
Bernie Hesse	Other
Doug Hubbard	Business
Sheldon Jensen	Other
David MacKenzie	Job Corps
Dean Shawbold	Secondary Education
Rick Vazquez	Business

PUBLIC WORKS – Supplemental Agreement 29 to CC001274 for County Road C Reconstruction, S.P. 62-623-40

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-245)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is currently reconstructing County Road C between Long Lake Road and Snelling Avenue; and

WHEREAS, After commencement of construction the engineer determined it necessary to remove and dispose of construction rubble found during the excavation of Snelling Pond; and

WHEREAS, There was an additional charge of \$20,224.88 for this work; and

WHEREAS, Appropriate additions or corrections are defined in Supplemental Agreement 29; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The total costs for the work identified within this contract revision will be paid for by 51.45% Ramsey County State Aid Funds S.P. 62-623-40 and 48.55% Federal Aid S.P. 62-623-40; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Supplemental Agreement 29 to Contract CC001274; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the supplemental agreement on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the following budget adjustment:

INCREASED ESTIMATED REVENUE

2002 17304 550880 00000 314606 CSAH Construction Regular P033148 \$20,224.88

INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS

2002 17304 550880 00000 442305 Co Rd C Reconstruction P033148 \$20,224.88

HUMAN RESOURCES – Agreement with Ergometrics & Applied Personnel Research, Inc.

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-246)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Human Resources requested approval to contract with Ergometrics & Applied Personnel Research, Inc. to produce videos, and written and computerized examinations for screening applicants for the Correctional Officer position and training incumbent Correctional Officers; and

WHEREAS, The County will pay Ergometrics & Applied Personnel Research, Inc. \$18,000 for services provided in 2007 and 2008, and the cost will be split equally between the Community Corrections Department and the Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, The Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an Agreement with Ergometrics & Applied Personnel Research, Inc., 18720 33rd Avenue West, Lynnwood, Washington 98037, in the amount of \$18,000, to provide the design, development, production, and validation of a testing video, training video, and written exam/computerized testing process; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement with Ergometrics & Applied Personnel Research, Inc.; and any subsequent amendments to the Agreement, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney's Office.

(Continued)

HUMAN RESOURCES – Memoranda of Agreement addressing labor relations issues arising from the consolidation of City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and City of Maplewood Dispatch Operations

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-247)

WHEREAS, The City of St. Paul and Ramsey County have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to consolidate the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County dispatch functions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Maplewood and Ramsey County have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement to consolidate the City of Maplewood and Ramsey County dispatch functions; and

WHEREAS, The City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, the City of Maplewood, the St. Paul Police Federation (representing City of St. Paul Dispatchers and Telecommunicators), and Teamsters Local 320 (representing Ramsey County Dispatchers and Telecommunicators), entered into discussions to resolve issues of wages, seniority, and other terms and conditions of employment for those employees affected by the consolidation of dispatch functions; and

WHEREAS, Those parties have negotiated Memoranda of Agreement delineating how the pertinent terms and conditions of employment will be addressed in the consolidated dispatch function; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Memorandum of Agreement between Ramsey County and Teamsters Local 320, addressing consolidation issues affecting Ramsey County employees and employees of the City of Maplewood who became County employees upon consolidation; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, the St. Paul Police Federation (representing St. Paul dispatchers and Telecommunicators), and Teamsters Local 320 (representing Ramsey County dispatchers and Telecommunicators), addressing additional terms and conditions of employment affected by the consolidation; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to execute the Memorandum of Agreement

PUBLIC HEALTH – Ramsey County Business Recycling and Solid Waste Management Practices Survey

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-248)

WHEREAS, Since 1995, Ramsey County has conducted periodic telephone surveys of businesses to determine reported participation in recycling programs, to assess solid waste management challenges, to measure results toward County outcomes, and to gain specific information for solid waste planning purposes; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, These surveys have been an important form of public engagement on solid waste matters and are also of value in illustrating trends in waste management behavior; and

WHEREAS, Waste management survey information will be valuable information in assessing the progress towards Solid Waste Master Plan goals; and

WHEREAS, Up to \$15,450 has been budgeted to contract with an outside research firm to administer the survey; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute an agreement with the MarketLine Research, Inc., 1313 5th Street SE, Suite 309, Minneapolis, MN 55414, to administer the 2007 Ramsey County Business Recycling and Solid Waste Management Practices Survey, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney's office, and in an amount not to exceed \$15,450.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Modification of Electronic Security System at the Juvenile and Family Justice Center

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-249)

WHEREAS, The existing electronic security system was installed when the Juvenile and Family Justice Center was built in 1999. The security system can no longer be trusted to ensure a safe and secure environment for residents and staff. The Juvenile Detention Center is spending \$18,000 per month for overtime to monitor the doors. This expense can be alleviated when the updated software is installed; and

WHEREAS, The security system at the Juvenile Family and Justice Center is set up as one system and the Courts and Corrections would like to split the system so that it is more responsive to their individual needs; and

WHEREAS, The proposed contractor, Electronic Design Company, installed the original system, has been supporting the system since the installation, and is the only authorized vendor in this territory for the system, Montgomery Technical, Inc. Electronic Design Company should be designated as a 'sole source vendor' based on the recommendation of the Contract Analysis Service Department; and

WHEREAS, The funds in the amount of \$92,956 are available in the existing budget to cover the cost of the new software, hardware and installation; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an Agreement, for the term October 1, 2007 through March 30, 2008, at a County cost not to exceed \$92,956, with Electronic Design Company, 4650 Churchill Street, Shoreview, Minnesota 55126, to modify and update the Montgomery Technical, Inc. electronic security system at the Ramsey County Juvenile and Family Justice Center; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary amendments, renewals and budget adjustments in a form approved by the County Attorney.

(Continued)

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Early Intervention – Coordination of Services with School Districts for Children with Disabilities

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-250)

WHEREAS, Since 1994, Ramsey County and the six public school districts in Ramsey County have operated an office that provides a single point for central intake and coordination of services for children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, This effort has improved the delivery of services and has achieved high levels of family satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, Since 1995, Ramsey County has served as the designated Local Primary Agency; and

WHEREAS, The responsibilities of this designation are:

- Facilitate the development of the annual application for funding submitted to the State of Minnesota;
- Provide oversight for data collection efforts; and
- Be the central location for the referral of conflicts and appeal requests;

Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the agreement with Mounds View School District, 350 Highway 96 West, Shoreview, MN 55126, to serve as the Local Primary Agency for the Interagency Early Intervention Program for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008; and Be it Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

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

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-251)

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

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

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

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The owner of the property has made written application to the County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, The owner of the property hereby makes written application to the County Board, Now, Therefore, Be It

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

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

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Approval of abatements by the County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Carter introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-252)

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. sec. 375.192, Subdivision 2, gives the County Board of Commissioners final approval for abatements not delegated to the Department of Property Records and Revenue; and

WHEREAS, The County Board by Resolution 2003-104 has delegated to the Director of the Department of Property Records and Revenue the authority to grant final approval for abatements where the reduction in taxes is less than \$10,000; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reduction in taxes and any penalty and interest of abatements with reductions of \$10,000 or more, as noted on the exhibit on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, With regard to the abatements on the exhibit previously mentioned, members of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby disclose that they do not have a financial interest in any abatement therein, nor any familial relationship with any abatement applicant therein.

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

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

Commissioner Rettman pointed out that McGough Construction submitted a change order for a reduced maximum price for the Dispatch Center. They have done good work for the County and she felt it was important to point out that reduction.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-253)

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

(Continued)

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 July 2007.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Approval of agreement for funding and addition of 5.0 FTE starred positions in Public Health to administer the home-based family mentoring component of the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation project

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

Commissioner Rettman said the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation has made available to the City of St. Paul a pilot project to provide scholarships and mentoring services to low income families with young children in the Frogtown and North End areas. Dr. Art Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank; Deb Hendricks, representing the merged St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department; and Luz Frias, representing the Mayor of St. Paul, were present to explain this project and answer any questions.

Dr. Rolnick said his 'real' job is on the committee that oversees monetary policy. The Federal Reserve is designed to have a grass roots part of the system. There are twelve district banks; Minnesota is in the ninth Federal Reserve district, which also includes parts of Wisconsin, Montana, and North and South Dakota. Every six weeks, they go to Washington to report on economic conditions. Congress also gave them the responsibility to monitor the local economies and do basic research on those economies. The economy in the Twin Cities is dependent on the State; the State is dependent on the region, and upon the national and global market. A key factor found from all research is that success of an economy is dependent upon what is called "human capital" – basically the way we educate our kids and train our workers. The most successful economies are those that have invested well in human capital.

Dr. Rolnick said he has argued for many years that Minnesota has one of the best economies because it is one of the most educated economies in the world, and they have evidence to support that. We got there by investing in education, and representing one of the most highly educated workforces. Building in this human capital is how to track high-quality firms, and why in terms of per capita we are number one in Fortune 500 companies.

Five years ago, when they began looking at human capital and how best to invest, they found through an organization called "Ready for K" (kindergarten), put together by former Governor Al Quie and former Mayor of Minneapolis Don Frasier, that education begins prenatal, that the brain starts to develop then, and development of the brain is so critical in those early years. From a lecture Dr. Rolnick attended, neuroscientists said that a child living in a stressful environment by the age of 3, has a brain that hasn't developed properly, and is in fact, smaller than it should be. We know that education and environment matters a lot. Out of that, he and Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health, proposed a way of addressing the problem of early childhood education that takes account of the research, and to bring it to-scale, so that every child has this opportunity.

The idea is to start with pilots to show that this can be done, and done well, and to start at prenatal. There is a lot of evidence that shows that if there is a high-quality public health nurse

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visiting program, starting prenatal, a huge difference can be made in those first three years – ongoing and on regular visits. There are longitudinal studies that go out four years, and there are current studies done recently that show that visiting nurse programs reduce infant mortality by 70%. When they graduate high school, they get good jobs, pay taxes, stay off welfare. One study indicated the crime rate went down 50%. It was calculated from one study that the public overall return on an annual basis with investment in early childhood education, with 16% inflation adjusted, virtually all of it going for public – public because it reduces the need for special ed, retention -- are most successful.

Dr. Rolnick said he and Mr. Fulton have argued there is a huge public return; a better public return can't be found right now for the dollars spent. They are hearing a lot now about the need to make sure we invest in the infrastructure, and this is one form of the infrastructure they plan to invest in. They are thrilled that the State put together an organization called the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. The President of the University of Minnesota and the President of Twin Cities United Way are on this board, which is in the process of raising \$30 million; a high percentage has already been raised. They are now looking to St. Paul because the Mayor stepped forward and wanted St. Paul to be the first pilot program. Follow-up will be done because research says high-quality early ed is needed so all the kids in this program will get a scholarship, not for kids over 18 to go to the U of M, but for kids at age 3 to go to a high quality early childhood program in their community. Kids will be ready for school and there will be a much better chance they will be successful. Research shows that if they don't start, a high percentage of them will drop out and be a problem for the community. This program has gotten a lot of national attention. The *Wall Street Journal's* August 9 front page did a story on these ideas. St. Paul will be the first pilot that endorses and tries this idea of starting as early as prenatal and one that provides scholarships. It uses the market, and providers have to compete. They have helped governors from around the country look at this issue. The Buffet Foundation, and the Gates Foundation have been looking at this issue because they will be investing \$90 million in early education in the Seattle area. This is a very important pilot, and they are thrilled for Ramsey County and St. Paul.

Ms. Frias, Mayor Coleman's Internal Affairs Director, said the Mayor wanted the County Board to be aware of the partnership they have with Dr. Rolnick and the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. The Mayor has put education at the forefront of his administration. In an unprecedented move, 25% of his policy staff has been dedicated to education of all sorts. Early education marks the first of a number of continuums of initiatives that the City has that goes from early education through the after-school programs that are allotted, and through high school and to college attainment. They are fortunate to have the partnership with Dr. Rolnick. At the start of the Mayor's administration, they have been there from day one. They are excited that two of the City's neighborhoods are being targeted, and are supportive of any type of initiative that can be paid-forward to better the communities in collaboration with the County and with the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation. She asked that the Commissioners support this item, which is a first step of many to come in this partnership.

Ms. Hendricks said she is representing Mr. Fulton, who is currently out of the country. She is delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this project with the City of St. Paul and Minnesota Early Learning Foundation through guidance of the Federal Reserve. The program is described in the documentation provided. Public Health has had a high priority for the well being of children prenatal-6 years of age, for many years, and they very much appreciate the Board's support of that over the years.

(Continued)

Commissioner Rettman thanked Dr. Rolnick for attending this meeting to provide information, and Ms. Frias' presence on behalf of the Mayor. She has always been a believer in the home visiting block nurse program for the elderly, as well as for this opportunity to reach the 1400 children. This is a community effort.

Commissioner Parker thanked Dr. Rolnick for his participation. She cited the documentation that says children would be selected at birth or at age 3. She asked how that selection process works.

Ms. Hendricks explained that children will be enrolled each year, either at prenatal or at birth, and will receive three years of the mentoring, home-visiting services, and then be eligible for scholarship at age 3. At the same time, the project wanted to move right into providing scholarships with the 3-year olds so a separate group of the 3-year olds will be enrolled, and will receive both a scholarship for the quality child care programs and a mentor relationship that will be slightly less intense because they will be in quality child care. Most likely, that will be contracted out to community-based agencies. Those two cohorts of children will be followed over the years, and the children will receive the scholarships until eligible for kindergarten.

Commissioner Carter appreciated Dr. Rolnick's participation. She thanked the City of St. Paul through the Public Health Department for a wonderful opportunity to partner again. These two neighborhoods are also part of the Invest St. Paul neighborhoods. She is looking forward to the number of families who will be reached, and for the match of Invest St. Paul to this excellent program. She asked if it is planned that this program would spread out starting small within a couple of the Invest St. Paul communities to the other two communities, and throughout Minnesota in the future.

Dr. Rolnick said the pilot is to convince people that this can be done to-scale, and they do not believe it will be very difficult to take this program out for every child, not just in St. Paul and the Twin Cities, but in the State of Minnesota. Ultimately, what will be pushed for is an endowed fund, partially funded by the State and partially matched by the private sector. With that kind of endowed fund, in perpetuity, every child in the State of Minnesota will have this opportunity. This is not just a City problem. They want St. Paul to show how well it can be done and take that model to the State level. They do not see a reason not to move quickly once there is some success here and make it available to all kids. Research already suggests that should be done, but Dr. Rolnick has been told by many people across the country to start small, show it can be done well, and then take it to-scale.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2007-254)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation and the City of St. Paul are developing an Early Childhood Development Program to provide scholarships and mentoring services to low-income families with young children in the Frogtown and North End neighborhoods of St. Paul to promote child development and ensure kindergarten readiness; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation has requested that the Department of Public Health coordinate and conduct the family mentoring component of the St. Paul Early Childhood Development Program; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health is prepared to coordinate and conduct family mentoring services for the identified families through the delivery of public health nursing services and the development of contracts with community-based agencies; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation has made initial funding in the amount of \$504,826 available to Ramsey County for the family mentoring component of the Early Childhood Development Program for the period September 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008, with an intent to continue funding to 2011; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves acceptance of initial funding from the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation, in the amount of \$504,826, for the family mentoring component of the St. Paul Early Childhood Development Program for the period September 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves the addition of the starred positions of 3.0 FTE Public Health Nurse, 1.0 FTE Health Education Program Assistant, and 1.0 FTE Clerk Typist to the staff complement of the Department of Public Health; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute contracts and agreements, in a form approved by the County Attorney, and to make budget adjustments that are necessary to implement the grant, to approve any amendments to the grant, and to accept any supplemental grant funds should they become available.

SHERIFF - Request for new FTEs in Civil Process Division Due to Increased Mortgage Foreclosure Services

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

Commissioner Rettman said the resolution should be consistent with action at the Budget Hearing yesterday: 1) the increase should be for 1 FTE Deputy Sheriff position and 1 CSO position; and 2) they should be starred positions. Hopefully, the foreclosures will ebb so the positions should be starred.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this amendment would change the positions to 1 FTE Deputy and 1 CSO. The amount would also be reduced slightly since this is only part of the year.

Commissioner Rettman said this would have no levy impact.

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2007-255)

WHEREAS, The number of mortgage foreclosures for Minnesota homeowners is at an all time high due to the use of adjustable rate mortgages; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 20% of these types of mortgages made to families in 2006, will end up in foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, Based on current volume, the number of foreclosures processed in Ramsey County in 2007, will be more than triple the number of mortgages processed in 2005; and

WHEREAS, It is projected that there will be excess revenue over that estimated in the Sheriff's 2007 budget for the Civil Process Division, due mainly to the increased processing of foreclosures, of approximately \$201,880; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Deputy Sheriff positions in the Civil Process Division serve various types of court ordered papers and oversee evictions and judge ordered child pick-ups in often times volatile situations; and

WHEREAS, Due to the uncertainty of these situations, it is often crucial that two Deputies be present for these service processes, however, staffing levels do not always allow for two Deputies to be present; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Department requests that a portion of the projected excess revenue in the Civil Process Division be used to add two new Deputy Sheriff positions to the personnel complement, effective August 27, 2007; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an increase in the Sheriff's 2007 personnel complement by 1.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff starred position and 1.0 CSO starred position, effective August 27, 2007; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve a budget adjustment in the Sheriff's 2007 operating budget estimating additional revenue from civil process fees and increasing appropriations for salaries in the amount of \$37,371, to cover the cost of the two new FTEs, commencing August 27, 2007.

PARKS AND RECREATION - Keller Golf Course Building Replacement and Course Improvement

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Bennett – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2007-256)

WHEREAS, Keller Golf Course was constructed in 1929 and has been the host site for numerous PGA and LPGA events; and

WHEREAS, The golf course clubhouse and pro shop have not kept pace with contemporary standards for high quality golf facilities; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department has proposed improvements to the golf course and construction of a new clubhouse/pro shop at a total estimated cost of \$10,050,000; and

WHEREAS, This proposal has been presented to the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission and the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Given the unique site characteristics and potential impacts of construction on the golf course revenue, a pre-design study is proposed in order to clarify the program elements, evaluate building site alternatives, prepare schematics, verify cost estimates and establish a construction phasing plan; and

WHEREAS, The Public Works, Parks and Solid Waste Committee recommended an appropriation of \$100,000 from the 2007 General Fund Contingent Account to conduct a pre-design study for Keller Golf Course and Clubhouse; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to transfer up to \$100,000 from the 2007 General Contingent Account to the Keller Golf Course Redevelopment project for a pre-design study for Keller Golf Course and Clubhouse improvements; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to issue a Request for Proposals for consulting services to conduct the pre-design study.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS - Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Bob Kelly Programs, LLC

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

Commissioner Rettman asked if this is already included in the 2008 budget, or will all the costs be incurred in 2007?

David Twa, County Manager, said the agreement runs through December 2008, so it is included in the 2008 budget.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2007-257)

WHEREAS, The Community Corrections Department wishes to contract with Bob Kelly Programs, LLC, to provide domestic abuse programs for men and women probationers; and

WHEREAS, The funds are available in the existing Community Correction's budget to cover the cost of the programs; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an Agreement, for the term June 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, at a County cost not to exceed \$50,000, with Bob Kelly Programs, LLC, 7034 Goodview Avenue South, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, to provide domestic abuse programs for men and women probationers; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any necessary amendments and renewals, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney.

DISTRICT COURT - State Grant for Problem-Solving Courts

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

Commissioner Rettman asked if this is already included in the 2008 budget; if not, would it reduce the levy?

David Twa, County Manager, said this is a grant request.

Commissioner Rettman asked if it would offset any levy.

Julie Kleinschmidt, Director, Budgeting and Accounting, said this would be ongoing continuation of grants that we are already receiving. Generally, they are in the 2008 budget, and it is not new money so the levy could not be reduced. However, if we do not receive the funds, either the service would need to be cut or the levy would need to be increased.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2007-258)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Departments of Human Services, Community Corrections, and the County Attorney's Office are partners with the Second Judicial District Court in the Adult Substance Abuse, Juvenile Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problem-Solving Courts; and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota has made grant funding available for the existing Problem-Solving Courts; and

WHEREAS, The Second Judicial District is preparing to request funds to help pay for the costs it, and its partners, incur; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is a partner with the Second Judicial District in the Problem-Solving Courts; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ramsey County District Court Second Judicial District to request grant funding, on behalf of Ramsey County, from the State Court Administrator's Office, to continue funding of a portion of the costs incurred by the County for Problem-Solving Courts (Adult Substance Abuse, Juvenile Substance Abuse, and Mental Health) in the following amounts:

- a. Adult Substance Abuse Court - \$269,500
- b. Juvenile Substance Abuse Court - \$131,250
- c. Mental Health Court - \$107,250

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Reinhardt – Support for rewriting the Federal Clean Waters Act by Congressman Oberstar

Commissioner Reinhardt said this item is for information and possible direction to staff, and is for support for rewriting the Federal Clean Waters Act (Act) by Congressman Oberstar. As Vice Chair of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee, she mentioned this following the most recent NACo Conference.

Congressman Oberstar is one of the original authors of this Act. Because of a recent court action, it was determined that clarification is needed to make sure that the original intent was clearly included in the statute. Congressman Oberstar's contention is that is simply what is happening -- that it does not expand any authority, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), or does anything additional to what was already there. There are folks saying the opposite that in fact, even the water in the rain gutter is somehow going to come under the Corps' jurisdiction. The reality of this may be somewhere in the middle.

Commissioner Reinhardt would like the correct information – what is it really going to do; how is it going to impact us; is it going to impact us in Minnesota? This subject is being painted black or white, but the reality is somewhere in the gray area; nobody seems willing to talk about what is going to happen if this legislation passes. Because of Congressman Oberstar's 20+ years of leadership in this area, she believes he knows what he is doing. There may be some things we would prefer to have clarified in a different way. In general, getting more information to make sure we are cleaning up polluted waters in our country, that the wetlands are protected, when in fact, this particular federal legislation has been credited with much of the positive environmental progress made over the last 20 years, and to continue --- that makes sense.

(Continued)

Commissioner Reinhardt said she would like a discussion about this. Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, has been trying to weed out what the real impacts are and has obtained information from the County's federal lobbyists to present to the Board for discussion. Commissioner Reinhardt would like to have a resolution come forward to the next Board meeting that would support the efforts of Congressman Oberstar when it comes to cleaning up polluted waters and to protect the wetlands. The Corps has never had enough money to be able to do the job it is supposed to do. In her opinion, a lot of the permitting problems and the timelines have very little to do with the Act, and has everything to do with the fact that they don't have enough staffing to get the job done. It would be very important in the proposed resolution for the Board to support increased funding to the Corps to get the job done in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Ortega said this discussion has come up several times before the NACo Transportation Steering Committee, taking up 45 minutes out of a 3-hour meeting, always resulting in an impasse. This is a complicated piece of legislation. He would follow Commissioner Reinhardt's lead because of the time she has spent on it, but he pointed out that there is a lot of controversy. He doesn't know where NACo stands on this.

Commissioner Reinhardt said NACo is very much opposed to rewriting the Act. About two hours were spent at the last Environment Committee on this, and it was very controversial.

Commissioner McDonough said there has been a lot of discussion at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) about this, and it has been very divisive, especially from some of the northern counties and rural farm counties about their perceived interpretation of how they see this moving forward. Commissioner Reinhardt's approach is important because there hasn't been leadership on this; it has been polarized and is seen as either black or white, but the reality is that it is somewhere in the middle. We need to begin moving toward the middle to find out what this really is. It is a good thing to do, to recognize that the associations Ramsey County belongs to, and other counties might not yet be there, but that the discussion has to get to that level.

Ms. Speiker said she could not add much more than was already commented on by Commissioners Reinhardt, Ortega, and McDonough. She had received more background material from the County's Federal lobbyists and wanted to provide more written material to the Commissioners. Congressman Oberstar has asked several times for a sense of what position the County Board might want to take, whether it is support or recommendation for AMC to study, or some other decision. AMC has talked about the possibility of putting together a study group that might look at an independent review of the legislation.

Ms. Speiker emphasized that these discussions are very political in nature. It has become hotly contested because it is something that has become a key debate point between the Congressman and his past and expected challenger; much of the support has come from the Heritage Foundation. Commissioners in the NACo organization who have been most opposed to this have come out of the western water rights states. That is a whole different discussion from anything the County necessarily gets into because it has to do with the difference between how water rights are defined here and in the west. It is a complicated issue, fraught with a lot of political discussion.

Commissioner McDonough repeated that he is very much in support of this. It needs to be made clear that we are trying to push the discussion to a level for a true understanding about this. What comes back to the Board needs to recognize the positions of NACo and AMC, and it is the intent to try to move that discussion into a productive one and move away from polarization on this issue.

(Continued)

Commissioner Rettman said a lot more information is needed when this returns to the County Board. She would like to hear of any financial impact on the County. She read from the documentation that the request is to support the rewrite of the Clean Waters legislation with the caveat of some addition to the Army Corps. She asked for clarification on a discussion for a study, not necessarily taking a stance.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she requested Ms. Speiker to put this together with the subject being to support the rewrite of the Federal Clean Waters Act by Congressman Oberstar. Ultimately, she believes there would be something within this Act rewrite that the County could support. There may be things the County may not support, and that is the idea behind getting more information. She is trying to push for support, but she, along with all the Commissioners, need more information. By September 11, the information should be available. It may put the County in conflict with NACo, and there has been a lot of discussion at AMC as well.

Ms. Speiker said she believes that because of the Supreme Court decision, there is going to need to be a rewrite of the Clean Water legislation. That may happen in this Congress or further out. In some ways, the County Board's stance has been very pro-environmental issues. In talking with other intergovernmental relations colleagues throughout the country and within Minnesota about this legislation, we know that the current Minnesota legislation is actually more stringent than either the existing Federal Clean Waters Act, or the rewrite. For the Board to have a good understanding, there needs to be more analysis of the work for what the Board might support.

Commissioner McDonough said he shares some of the same concerns with Commissioner Rettman because he was not quite clear where we were going with this. He wanted to hear from Commissioner Reinhardt her intentions, and get a better sense of what she is trying to accomplish. After hearing her comments, he felt it was important to make his comments. As long as this comes back from the perspective of pushing the conversation to a productive level, it is the right thing to do. If coming back just to say we are going to support Congressman Oberstar on this, he would have some concerns about why we would need to be out in front of the policy that our state and national association have already taken a position against. We have to walk carefully with this to make sure it focuses on the conversation laid out by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Commissioner Ortega said the debates, meetings, and conversations at the NACo Transportation Steering Committee led to paralysis. This committee has a representative from nearly every county. He seconded Commissioner Reinhardt's action; we need to move forward. There is a Supreme Court ruling and the issue would be addressed with or without us, and we need to do our homework. Commissioner McDonough will be the new president for the State's association, and it makes sense to move forward.

Commissioner Rettman asked that a link be sent to the Commissioners for the Supreme Court ruling. Similar to the intra- and inter-state commerce in regard to solid waste and other issues, the reality is: what was that ruling, how does it impact, and does it reach to states that are more stringent? There can be over-arching state requirements as well. She suggested a legal analysis be obtained.

Ms. Speiker said she would provide a link or the written material.

Commissioner Reinhardt said at the last NACo Conference, attorneys argued both sides of this. That could also be provided for information. She said this is very contentious. Just this discussion today will get the attention of AMC and probably NACo; a reality check is needed about this. The fact is that this will be rewritten. Hopefully, this will get the discussion going in order to make a reasonable decision as far as what we want to see in it; what we can support; what we don't support. She said she read through the ruling, and it is very confusing. Reading through all the documentation, it seems straightforward.

(Continued)

What Congressman Oberstar is saying seems to make sense, but, it all comes down to interpretation, and how it is going to be implemented. If the implementation and interpretation are different, it goes further than what is in statute right now. This needs to be balanced, and for what makes the most sense for Ramsey County.

Commissioner Reinhardt said direction to staff would be to gather more information and return on September 11, 2007 with a resolution on the rewriting of the Clean Waters Act.

Commissioner Ortega seconded the motion.

Chair Bennett asked if staff are being requested to write a resolution prior to the Commissioners' input from the information to be provided.

Commissioner Reinhardt responded affirmatively; there would be a resolution with the information attached.

Chair Bennett said that would leave staff making a decision.

Commissioner McDonough suggested if the timing is not critical to put this off for a week or two.

Commissioner Reinhardt said there is time before the September 11 meeting for staff to put together materials. She would like to take any action before September 18, when some Commissioners would be in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Parker suggested that discussion could be held September 11, with direction to staff to return with a resolution for approval on September 18. That is the usual process and people might be more comfortable to read the information prior to a resolution.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that would be fine.

ADJOURNMENT

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Bennett - 7. Also present were David Twa, County Manager; Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office; and Pat O'Connor.

RE: John Jane Properties LLC et al v. Ramsey County et al.

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-259)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ramsey County Attorney to proceed with a settlement as discussed in this Executive Session.

There being no further business, the Executive Session was adjourned.