

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 Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the January 17, 2006 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 January 10, 2006 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

PARKS & RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Harding Ice Arena refrigeration system retrofit and concrete floor replacement

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-028)

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2002-351, the Ramsey County Board adopted a policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA), with the direction to staff to return in a workshop format at a future date to determine the final criteria for use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements; and

WHEREAS, The policy requires a department to request input from parties likely to be interested in the project regarding use of a PLA; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department is planning a project to retrofit Harding Ice Arena’s refrigeration system and to replace the concrete rink floor; and

WHEREAS, The Department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The responses were as follows: The Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommended that a Project Labor Agreement was needed on this project and Associated Builders and Contractors recommended that a Project Labor Agreement was not needed on this project; and

WHEREAS, Based on past County Board direction the Parks and Recreation Department recommends the use of a Project Labor Agreement for the Harding Ice Arena project; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Parks and Recreation Department shall include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the project to retrofit Harding Ice Arena's refrigeration system and replace the concrete rink floor.

PARKS & RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Aldrich Arena refrigeration system retrofit and concrete floor replacement

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-029)

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2002-351, the Ramsey County Board adopted a policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA), with the direction to staff to return in a workshop format at a future date to determine the final criteria for use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements; and

WHEREAS, The policy requires a department to request input from parties likely to be interested in the project regarding use of a PLA; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department is planning a project to retrofit Aldrich Arena's refrigeration system and to replace the concrete rink floor; and

WHEREAS, The Department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The responses were as follows: The Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommended that a Project Labor Agreement was needed on this project and Associated Builders and Contractors recommended that a Project Labor Agreement was not needed on this project; and

WHEREAS, Based on the past County Board direction the Parks and Recreation Department recommends the use of a Project Labor Agreement for the Aldrich Arena project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Parks and Recreation Department shall include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the project to retrofit Aldrich Arena's refrigeration system and replace the concrete rink floor.

PARKS & RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Roadway reconstruction at Island Lake County Park

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-030)

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2002-351, the Ramsey County Board adopted a policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA), with the direction to staff to return in a workshop format at a future date to determine the final criteria for use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The current policy requires a department to make a recommendation regarding the use of a PLA on a project and to request input from parties likely to be interested in the project regarding use of a PLA; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department is planning a project for roadway reconstruction at Island Lake County Park; and

WHEREAS, The Department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The responses were as follows: Associated Builders and Contractors stated that a Project Labor Agreement was not needed on this project for the following reasons: cost higher to taxpayer, eliminates competition and violates open competition. The Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommended that a Project Labor Agreement was not needed on this project for the following reason: does not meet minimum qualifications; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Department based on the responses received from interested parties that a PLA not be used on this project; and

WHEREAS, The County Board has taken all of the project factors and recommendations into account; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Parks and Recreation Department shall not include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the roadway reconstruction at Island Lake County Park project.

PARKS & RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Roof replacement, Parks and Recreation Administrative/Maintenance Center

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-031)

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2002-351, the Ramsey County Board adopted a policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements (PLA), with the direction to staff to return in a workshop format at a future date to determine the final criteria for use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The current policy requires a department to make a recommendation regarding the use of a PLA on a project and to request input from parties likely to be interested in the project regarding use of a PLA; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department is planning a project to replace the roof of the Parks and Recreation Administrative/Maintenance Center, 2015 North Van Dyke, Maplewood, MN; and

WHEREAS, The Department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The Associated Builders and Contractors and the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council stated that a Project Labor Agreement is not needed on this project; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Department based on the responses received from interested parties that a PLA not be used on this project; and

WHEREAS, The County Board has taken all of the project factors and recommendations into account; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Parks and Recreation Department shall not include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the roof replacement project at the Parks and Recreation Administrative/Maintenance Center, 2015 North Van Dyke, Maplewood, MN.

MEDICAL EXAMINER – Agreement for Medical Examiner Transcription Services

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution, amended to state that the contract would be paid for with the existing Medical Examiner's budget, and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-032)

WHEREAS, The caseload for the Ramsey County Medical Examiner has increased substantially within the past year, and the Department clerical staff has been reduced by one third resulting in an unanticipated workload for transcription of autopsy tapes; and

WHEREAS, The current contract amount for transcription services is inadequate to maintain the volume of autopsy reports needed by the Department; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an amendment to the agreement between Ramsey County and Eggleston Medscribe, 3501 Douglas Drive N, Minneapolis, MN 55422, for an additional amount of \$30,000, resulting in a contract total not to exceed \$40,000, to be paid from the current Medical Examiner's budget, and to extend the term of the Agreement to December 31, 2006; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the amendment on behalf of Ramsey County, in a form to be approved by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney's Office.

MEDICAL EXAMINER – Equipment to Expand Capacity of Medical Examiner's Cooler/Freezer

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-033)

WHEREAS, The present storage capacity of the cooler/freezer area at the Medical Examiner facility is no longer adequate to manage the increased caseload of the Ramsey County Medical Examiner; and

WHEREAS, The storage capacity system can be increased from 16 to 31 by the purchase of storage equipment allowing for deceased individuals to be stored with dignity while awaiting final disposition; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Medical Examiner and Property Management are recommending the purchase of the storage equipment for the Medical Examiner facility; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Capital Improvements Committee has recommended the project be funded through the CIP contingency account; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a transfer of appropriation not to exceed \$41,800 from the Ramsey County Capital Improvements Program Contingent Account to the Medical Examiner's storage capacity increase project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder in an amount not to exceed the available funding.

PUBLIC WORKS – Right of Way acquisition responsibilities for transportation improvements on County Road J between Airport Road and Naples, Joint Powers Agreement with Anoka County

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-034)

WHEREAS, Medtronic Corporation will commence construction of a new office development on or about April 1, 2006, just off of I-35W and State Highway 10 in the City of Mounds View; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has acted as the lead agency for transportation improvements, coordinating and overseeing plan development and right of way acquisition and has identified a number of transportation improvements for County Road J between Airport Road/State Highway 10 and Naples Street including a new bridge at I-35W; and

WHEREAS, A Joint Powers Agreement has been prepared to properly delegate the authority to Ramsey County to acquire necessary right of way on behalf of Anoka County and also provides for Anoka County to assume responsibility for the physical removal of buildings and other site improvements on residential and commercial properties acquired for the project; and

WHEREAS, Funding for planning and design, construction and property acquisition is to be provided in full by the State of Minnesota; Now, Therefore, Be it

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Joint Powers Agreement between Anoka County and Ramsey County delegating authority to Ramsey County for the purchase of right of way on their behalf and identifying responsibilities for removal of buildings and other site improvements to Anoka County, subject to final revisions and approval by the County Manager and County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreement between Anoka County and Ramsey County on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the acquisition of easement and/or fee title property rights necessary for County Road J reconstruction improvements.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – Grant Award for Building Lives – West Side Young Offender Project

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-035)

WHEREAS, Since June 2002, Ramsey County, through Workforce Solutions, has provided case management and employment services to at-risk youth, gang members, and incarcerated youth residing in a specific enterprise zone in the City of St. Paul under a United States Department of Labor Youth Offender Demonstration Program grant; and

WHEREAS, In May 2003, the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs issued a Request for Proposal for reentry services to Young Offenders; and

WHEREAS, In September 2003, Workforce Solutions submitted a proposal on behalf of Ramsey County, to the State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety, for the Building Lives–West Side project, which is an expansion of the geographically limited Building Lives project; and

WHEREAS, In October 2003, Workforce Solutions received notice that Ramsey County was awarded \$54,000 for the Building Lives–West Side project; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2004, following a Request for Proposals process, the Ramsey County Board approved the selection of Guadalupe Alternative Programs as the Building Lives–West Side vendor (Resolution 2004-273); and

WHEREAS, In November 2004, Workforce Solutions received notice that Ramsey County was awarded another \$50,000 for the Building Lives–West Side project for the period from January 1 through December 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, In November 2005, Workforce Solutions received notice that the State was renewing the grant for the Building Lives –West Side project for the period January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, in the sum of \$60,00; and

WHEREAS, By County Board resolution, the County Board must accept all grants in excess of \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions has recommended an amendment to the agreement with Guadalupe Alternative Programs for continuing services for the Building Lives–West Side project for 2006; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the receipt of the \$60,000 Grant from the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, for the Building Lives–West Side, and other grants for the Building Lives–West Side project; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, for \$60,000 for the Building Lives-West Side project, and any future grant agreements or amendments for the Building Lives-West Side project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute a contract amendment with Guadalupe Alternative Programs, 381 East Robie Street, St. Paul MN 55107, for aftercare services with an employment and training component for the Building Lives-West Side project for the period from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, and any subsequent amendments to the agreement with Guadalupe Alternative Programs for services related to the Building Lives-West Side project, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting.

COUNTY MANAGER – Metropolitan Region of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Joint Powers Agreement

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Parker. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2006-036)

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Homeland Security has made grant funds available to the State of Minnesota for the purpose of improving regional preparedness for terrorist events and other large-scale emergencies; and

WHEREAS, From these federal funds, the State of Minnesota has made available a \$500,000 grant to the Twin Cities metropolitan region, and it appears likely that similar regional grants will be made available in the future; and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota has defined the metropolitan region as the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, and Washington, and the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will act as the fiscal agent for these regional grants; and

WHEREAS, The emergency managers and homeland security directors in the metropolitan region desire to comply with the grant terms by establishing the Metropolitan Region of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Joint Powers Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Joint Powers Agreement is to provide for the joint exercise of powers for regional coordination of emergency management activities; and

WHEREAS, The joint exercise of power pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement is intended to supplement and complement but not supplant joint and individual powers for regional planning, coordination of training and the purchase of equipment; and

WHEREAS, Membership in the Metropolitan Region of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Joint Powers Agreement does not prohibit Ramsey County from unilaterally applying for, receiving and expending grant funds made available for these purposes in the future; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves membership in the Metropolitan Region of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Joint Powers Agreement and authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Joint Powers Agreement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board designates the Director of the Ramsey County Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security as the Ramsey County representative to the governing board of the Joint Powers Agreement.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) for County Owned Buildings

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

Commissioner Parker said the purchase of the automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) is a good idea. Her concern is about training and having people who know how to use the AEDs.

Caroll Niewolny, Human Resources, Occupational Health and Safety Manager, said the units are basic and simple to use, needing little or no training. A unit was brought to the Senior Management Team meeting for a simulated cardiac arrest followed by the department heads using the unit with not much training. The unit ‘talks’ the user through the process. Employees interested in the training will receive 15-20 minutes of training where they will learn the location of the units in their respective facilities, how to access them, and then what to do. Currently, there are two training units, and negotiations are taking place for more, depending on the number of units purchased. Philips Medical Systems will be providing Ramsey County with the training units. A standardized procedure will be developed. Buildings will not be provided units until they have a designated coordinator, of which one of their responsibilities will be training. There will be a set procedure for training.

Commissioner Parker asked if there would be some indication where these units are kept in the buildings where the public comes in.

Ms. Niewolny said that is one of the issues to be addressed and the reason for the request for cabinets. The cabinets are large, visible, and will have signs saying “AED”. Part of the guidelines is that people in a building would have to know the location of the cabinets, whether they are employees or from the community.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the signage and the units would be in different languages.

Ms. Niewolny said these units are available in over 200 languages. She was at the Medtronic plant, and it was interesting to hear the units ‘talking’ in multiple languages. Ramsey County’s order would be in the English language with the understanding that there would be somebody that could speak English and could understand and use the unit within a 3-4 minute response time. There is not an area where she is aware that would not be the case. However, she had not addressed whether Ramsey County would have units in another language, with the understanding that these units would be in County buildings of which there are people who can speak English and who could respond.

Commissioner Rettman would like to know who is on the committee. The County talks about accessibility, and ADA standards also mandate this in making these units language-proficient. That should be re-explored, especially when located in public areas. The manual cites that somebody has to be on site, somebody who knows all the procedures, and is available. But, that individual might not be available, and you would want volunteers to use it. A lot of safety factors are that volunteers from the public can use it, and that it is easy to use. If the language is a barrier, then it is not user-friendly.

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Ms. Niewolny said the Advisory Group would look into the language issue. The Advisory Group includes Bruce Thompson, Property Management; Judd Freed, Director, Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Sandy Rooney, Public Health; and Dr. Neal Holtan, Public Health.

Chair Bennett said these are expensive units. Several companies in Ramsey County make these units, including Medtronic. He hoped that when the Request For Proposals (RFP) goes out that the companies in Ramsey County receive them.

Ms. Niewolny said the proposal put together was not for an RFP; it was with Philips Medical Systems, who has a contract with the State. There is no defibrillator program with Guidant or Medtronic. They did bid on the contract, but Philips got the State contract. The pricing provided to the Board was under the State contract.

Chair Bennett asked the name of the supplier.

Ms. Niewolny said Philips makes the AEDs in a plant in Seattle.

Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2006-037)

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is the number one cause of death in the United States today; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is a public entity concerned for the health and safety of both its customers and employees; and

WHEREAS, The most effective treatment for a victim of sudden cardiac arrest is the rapid application of defibrillation; and

WHEREAS, Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been available for general use for many years, and when used by the general public is a proven lifesaving technology that requires minimal to no training; and

WHEREAS, Following an AED presentation by AWAIR, the County's health and safety committee, the Senior Management Team requested the establishment of an ad-hoc AED Advisory Group (including representation from Human Resources-Employee Health and Safety, Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Property Management, and Public Health) to develop a balanced and comprehensive defibrillation program employing AEDs in County owned buildings; and

WHEREAS, Guidelines for use of AEDs in County facilities were developed by the AED Advisory Group and have been approved by the Ramsey County Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, The guidelines for such a program were based on existing national standards from the U. S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the American Heart Association, the U.S. Department of Human Services, and the U.S. General Services Administration, which identifies the optimal response time for application of defibrillation as within 3-4 minutes; and

WHEREAS, Philips Medical System, a company that has provided AEDs for Ramsey County for the past four years under a Minnesota State Contract, completed a needs assessment for AEDs in all County owned facilities; and

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WHEREAS, The AED Advisory Group recommended to the Senior Management Team the purchase of 59 new AEDs and 60 wall-mounted cabinets based on Philip's site assessments and subsequent review and modification by the AED Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, The Senior Management Team unanimously recommended the Countywide purchase, installation, and implementation of AEDs and an AED program; and

WHEREAS, The Property Management Department has identified available funding in their department budget for nineteen (19) AEDs and nineteen (19) cabinets for buildings they manage including: RCGC-East, RCGC-West, Juvenile Family Justice Center, Law Enforcement Center and Suburban Courts; and

WHEREAS, All purchases will be processed through Property Management and additional funding is needed to purchase AEDs and cabinets for buildings not managed by Property Management; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the purchase of fifty-nine (59) new Automatic External Defibrillators and sixty (60) wall-mounted cabinets for the purpose of implementing a Countywide AED program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the transfer of \$56,160 from the 2006 General County Contingency Account to the Property Management budget to purchase forty (40) new Automatic External Defibrillators and forty-one (41) wall-mounted cabinets to supplement funding for the AEDs that will be purchased from Property Management's Internal Services Fund.

RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT – Letter of Understanding for Rock-Tenn Company

Commissioner Reinhardt said the letter in the documentation for Rock-Tenn Company is to be signed by the Mayor of the City of St. Paul, the President of the St. Paul Port Authority, the Chair of the Ramsey County Board, and Bill Pulkrabek, Chair, Washington County Board of Commissioners. The Rock-Tenn Company is looking at alternatives for energy for their facility to keep the jobs and the facility in Ramsey County. This letter states Rock-Tenn is appreciated and encouraged to look into the options. If this goes further, the State of Minnesota would be involved as well as the other listed authorities.

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

Commissioner Rettman said there has been a great deal of work done on this among staff and Rock-Tenn Company. They have been a vital company to the area. They pay good wages and provide good benefits and have an excellent workforce. Whether they use RDF, District Energy or whatever, the waste stream needs to be accommodated. They do a phenomenal job of taking cardboard and making it into something of beauty and reusing it over and over again. The area cannot afford to lose them; whatever the County needs to do to step up to the plate. It is excellent that Washington County has also seen this as important. It is vital to keep them in St. Paul and Ramsey County, doing what they do best.

Commissioner Rettman thanked Rock-Tenn for reaching out about a partnership in this area. She believes the Port Authority has some financing tools they can use which makes it very exciting that this is a real possibility of a new energy source for the County.

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Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Bennett – 7.
Nays – 0. (2006-038)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has an adopted and approved Solid Waste Master Plan for 2005 – 2024 (Resolution No.2004-424); and

WHEREAS, The Master Plan contains a number of policies on waste processing, which includes the production and use of refuse derived fuel (RDF), including a policy that states “Consistent with the State hierarchy, Ramsey County continues to affirm processing of waste into energy or by composting as the preferred MSW management strategy (over landfilling) for waste that is not reduced or recycled. This policy applies both to MSW generated throughout the County and specifically to waste generated by public entities”; and

WHEREAS, Rock-Tenn Company owns and operates a paper recycling mill in the City of Saint Paul on a 40 acre site, employing about 500 people in livable wage jobs, and which handles about 1,000 tons per day of paper recovered for recycling; and

WHEREAS, Rock-Tenn is a large energy consumer, and currently purchases steam from the High Bridge electrical generation plant, but will lose that energy source when the High Bridge plant converts its fuel source in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Rock-Tenn has expressed interest in working with others to develop a biomass-fueled, possibly RDF, electrical generation facility at its Saint Paul location, and has requested a letter of understanding from various parties related to such a project. Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the letter of understanding to Rock-Tenn to be signed by the City of Saint Paul, the Saint Paul Port Authority, Ramsey County and Washington County, and authorizes the Chair to sign the letter and send it to Rock-Tenn on behalf of Ramsey County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said that staff is almost through with the items that will be coming to the Board, except for specific things including eminent domain legislation. Dave MacMillan, Assistant County Attorney, and Tim Mayasich, Public Works, have been helping with that item. There are also other proposals that relate to economic development. Those will be brought forward over the next several weeks. The session begins at the beginning of March.

Commissioner Parker said that a meeting was held last week with the Ramsey County Legislative Delegation. It was one of the best-attended meetings that have been held. She suggested doing the same thing again next year. The informal setting and format worked very well.

Commissioner Reinhardt updated the Board on her trip to Washington, D.C. While attending the Indoor Air Quality Symposium, she met with the County’s Delegation members as a follow-up to the meeting held in December regarding the high priority of Targeted Case Management and the Budget Reconciliation Act vote to Ramsey County and Hennepin County. There was a joint letter as a result of the joint meeting that the two County Boards held that really laid out the numbers.

The two critical meetings were with Senator Coleman’s Office and Representative Ramstad’s Office. In both cases, she felt very encouraged. They were also disappointed because they had

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been given assurances that Targeted Case Management was not going to be part of the final bill, when, in fact, it ended up being there. Negotiations go on and what they thought was going to happen, did not come to fruition. There is, however, another opportunity. She was able to get some ideas about what Senator Coleman's Office thought was important as far as getting the message out about what a real high priority this is for all the counties in Minnesota and what it means as far as dollars and services, especially when it comes to children in need of protection. They brought up the fact of all the problems with methamphetamine (meth) and that Senator Coleman is having a Town Forum later this month. They understood that when one talks about children in need of protection, and the fact that in Ramsey County, 60% of our cases involve meth, that there is a direct connection between Targeted Case Management dollars and meth prevention and what is being done in that area, and trying to protect children. Without these funds, there will be a serious negative impact. That was one thing his staff brought up and wanted the County to make sure that was commented on by Bill Hansell, President of NACo, who will be speaking as part of that Town Forum on meth prevention.

In regard to discussions with Representative Ramstad's Office, Commissioner Reinhardt said they talked a lot about the compromise and what they are trying to do. She encouraged his Office to look at the numbers and get back to appropriate people from Ramsey and Hennepin Counties to follow up on those numbers. That message was going to be taken back to Representative Ramstad. All along, he had been in opposition to the Budget Reconciliation Act and in the final vote, he voted for it. It was important that he understood the true impact in Minnesota and in Hennepin and Ramsey County.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that in Senator Coleman's Office, a staff person pointed out that they have heard that Targeted Case Management and these cuts is "frosting on the cake". Commissioner Reinhardt responded that it is not "frosting on the cake, but it is not even the cake – this is meat and potatoes – survival for the people impacted by these cuts". When you speak of children in need of protection, that is survival. That is the message that all of the Minnesota counties have been taking out to Washington, D.C. It is critical.

Commissioner Bennett said the meth conference held last week was very successful, and there was great attendance.

Commissioner Bennett said he and Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, have been meeting in regard to Medtronic and the problem with the legislation. They have the new language that will work and he believes the bill is out of the Revisor's Office. A copy of the bill will be received today. They met with several legislators, including the Speaker of the House. The Speaker said this will be the number one bill. It needs a 60% affirmative vote and must come out of the House first. The Speaker has told his staff it will be introduced on the first day, will be pre-heard and voted upon on the first day. It should be out of the House and to the Senate on March 3rd.

Commissioner Ortega requested clarification that this will be just the correct language to meet the original intent.

Commissioner Bennett said everything in the intent is there – it is the language that was changed to get to the intent. The language did not work for bond counsel and the Finance Department, so the language needed to be changed. The outcome is the same.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported on:

- The Indoor Air Quality Symposium she attended in Washington D.C., sponsored by NACo on the Tools for Schools Program. A staff person from the White Bear School District also attended. The information will be shared with the school districts, municipalities and others across the County. This is an easy to use tool kit to help with indoor air quality.

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Commissioner Carter reported on:

- The Walk-A-Mile Program in which she and Commissioner Reinhardt participated. The closing ceremony was last week. She recognized and thanked the Community Action Programs for their role in providing the opportunity for policymakers and constituents from the community to come together to understand the challenge of low-income families who use our services.
- She thanked Commissioner McDonough for his services on the Children's Collaborative, especially during the transition from the Children's Initiative and during the creation of this new Collaborative. His leadership has been key to this Collaborative. Commissioner McDonough is rotating off the Collaborative and Commissioner Carter will now represent the County Board on this Collaborative. She thanked Commissioner Rettman who preceded her on the Collaborative. Mayor Coleman, his Policy Director Nancy Holman, and the Director of the St. Paul Public Schools have joined this Collaborative. The Collaborative helps ensure that children and families are safe and provided for.
- The events yesterday celebrating, commemorating and recommitting to the work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Central High School, Concordia University, and the breakfast at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Commissioner Rettman reported on:

- The City of St. Paul Planning Commission meeting regarding the Phalen-Atlantic rezoning. She commended the Public Health Environmental staff who had put together excellent documentation for the Planning Commission. The request of the Planning Commission is to continue to have a conditional-use permit rather than a non-conforming permit. The non-conforming tentacles are very broad. There had been 78,000 site visits to the East Side site alone; 23,000 for wood waste. This is a vital site and should continue to be a permitted use, no matter the zoning. This is centrally located and its use is awesome, competing with the Midway site in its use.
- Commissioner Carter, Commissioner Ortega and herself attended the Honor Roll hosted by the City of St. Paul. Many of the district councils nominate people who have provided great service to the councils and their neighborhoods.
- She spoke at the annual meeting at the Polish American Club about many of the good things being done by the County, among them: 800 MHz and the cost-sharing plan of the Dispatching Center; the status of immigrants and the work being done by Public Health; yard waste sites throughout the County; linking trails, especially the Bruce Vento Trail, to downtown, and the Trillium Trail connecting to McCarron's, the Gateway Trail; and Como Park.

Chair Bennett reported:

- The Metropolitan Emergency Services Board met, with Commissioner McDonough representing Ramsey County on the Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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