

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2007

1:00 PM

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Carr at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Ken Kraft from the First Baptist Church in Stanton offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Walker, Petersen, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris, and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: None.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Chris Hyzer, John Berchtold and Ryan Jeltema.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the February 12, 2007, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the agenda with the addition of #5 under New Business entitled *MDOT* and #2 under Old Business entitled *NIMS Training*. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered and none were given.

Correspondence regarding HB 4315, P.A. 598 of 2006 and HB 4317, P.A. 499 of 2006 which allows county boards to expand the number of road commissioners was received from Dale Linton. Mr. Linton currently serves on the Road Commission for Montcalm County and stated that while the Road Commission is not entirely opposed to adding one or two additional members, they want the financial impact of adding those members to be a consideration. At this time, Mr. Linton does not feel it would be in the best interest of the County to add any additional members. Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the correspondence from Dale Linton on file. Motion carried.

An application for MDOT Specialized Services funding for 2008 was received from Diane Murray, Commission on Aging Director. The amount requested in the grant is \$13,749 for volunteer driver mileage reimbursement. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the MDOT Specialized Services grant application and authorize Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

Sheriff Barnwell provided the board with a resolution congratulating and honoring the Montcalm County Sheriff's Mounted Division. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2007-01**:

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Posse has a long history with Montcalm County dating back to the 1800's, AND;

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Posse, now officially known as the Montcalm County Sheriff's Mounted Division, is used to assist the Sheriff in apprehending wanted or escaped prisoners and other duties as the Sheriff empowered them to do, AND;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Sheriff's Mounted Association was established in early 1960's to serve as an association of the individual counties' mounted divisions and regularly conducts individual and team competitions between the mounted division, and is currently active in 31 counties, AND;

WHEREAS, the Mounted Division now augments the Sheriff's Office as citizen volunteers during searches for lost people, public events such as fairs, parades and festivals, AND;

WHEREAS, the Mounted Division, during the 2006 Fall Campout, which took place in Otsego County, had several members receive various marksmanship and equestrian awards, both as a team and as individuals, AND;

WHEREAS, the prestigious High Point Team Horse Event Traveling Trophy was awarded to the first place Montcalm County team for the third year in a row, resulting in the trophy being retired to Montcalm County forever.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners congratulates and honors Montcalm County Sheriff's Mounted Division members; William Christensen, Bobby Kirt, Craig Buchholz, Terie Biddinger, Kim Fouts, Joann Pyle, David Pyle, Mark Founts, Raymond Kollenda, Robert Parks, Jeff Hawkins and Brian Biddinger on this notable competition and thanks the team for their service to Montcalm County.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve consent agenda items 4 through 15 and move stated action:

Judge Simon	RDSS Agreement	Place on file
Jerry McCoy	EMS Services Report	Place on file
City of Greenville	Stanton – Greenville Route	Place on file
Goodwill Industries	Addendum to Recycling Service Agreement	Place on file
Bank of New York	Weatherby Drain Bonds, Series 2002	Place on file
CAMWC	December 11, 2006 minutes	Place on file
Behavioral Health Board	December 12, 2006 minutes	Place on file
Conservation District	January 9, 2007 minutes	Place on file
Grievance Review Comm.	February 12, 2007 minutes	Place on file
MMDHD	December 20, 2006 minutes	Place on file
Ionia Montcalm DHS Board	January 18, 2007 minutes	Place on file
Montcalm Housing Comm.	January 16, 2007 minutes	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the February 26, 2007 Law Enforcement and Courts Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to reconsider the original design plan and approve the following layout plan to the old commissioner's room that is attached to the Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes. Scott Minard will be the project coordinator for planning and construction of the public viewing area. Motion carried with Commissioners Carr and Retzloff voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to have the Finance Committee look into accepting the bid of Tingley & Associates for \$4,100 for survey work on the Krampe Park grant application. Motion failed.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to accept the bid from Tingley & Associates for \$4,100 for survey work on the Krampe Park Grant application. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to place the February 26, 2007 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard addressed the board at 1:30 p.m. regarding the allocation of space in the Administration Building. She is asking that the board permanently assign the space next to her office (the former Controller's office) to her department. Prior to the Clerk taking possession of that space the janitorial room will need to be relocated and restorations will be needed. While the Clerk understands there will be time and money constraints she would still like to have the space officially allocated to her.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Caris to allocate the old Controller's Office on the second floor of the Administration Building to the County Clerk's office. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow Kevin Wheeler to attend the MAACO 2007 Spring Conference (April 17 – 19) in Traverse City and to increase the employee training line item 14302-956000 by \$500. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow Commission on Aging permission to hire a temporary, full-time employee to fill in for the full-time case manager, while she is on leave, with a pay rate of \$10.63 and the employee will be able to start two weeks prior to the leave. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the County Clerk to hire a permanent part-time office assistant in the court office for 32 hours a week and also allow her to use the 8 additional hours that were budgeted as needed. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to have the Controller send a letter to the Register of Deeds to have employee evaluations turned in within the next thirty days. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the following budget adjustment to cover the additional hours need for the Prosecutor's office:

Increase	12671-704001	Wages Part-time	\$ 400
Decrease	12671-706000	Wages-Overtime	\$ 200
Decrease	12672-729000	Printing	\$ 200

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 022607 in the amount of \$343,959.57. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the February 26, 2007, Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard informed the board that two PA 116 applications were received for properties in Day Township. The applications have been sent out for comments and will be on the next Board agenda for approval.

Chairman Carr addressed the board regarding the development of a county employee directory. He would like the board members to have a hard copy of the directory that includes photo's and names of employees in each department. He proposes that the directory be updated on an annual basis. An electronic copy of the directory would also be kept on the county's shared drive but not posted to the internet. Discussion also took place on using the employee photo's to develop a standardized employee ID badge. Estimated costs for both projects would be approximately \$2,000.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to allow the County Clerk to proceed with the issuance of county-wide employee ID's and authorize expenditures up to \$2,000. Motion carried.

Chairman Carr would like to invite Dean Petersen, MDOT, to attend a board meeting to get his observation and opinion as to the viability of county-wide transportation in Montcalm County. Chairman Carr would like commissioners to get their questions to Mr. Petersen prior to the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to invite Dean Petersen, the MDOT representative, to a board meeting to address questions and concerns dealing with county-wide transportation. Motion carried with Commissioner Petersen voting no.

At 2:06 p.m. Franz Mogdis, Montcalm Alliance, was in attendance to discuss the role of Montcalm Alliance and whether Montcalm Alliance can represent, or act on behalf of, Montcalm County. Chairman Carr referred to Resolution 2003-01, which designates Montcalm Alliance as the county economic development contact, and asked the board members for clarification to that resolution.

Chairman Carr stated his concern that Montcalm Alliance has pledged "Montcalm County's" support to projects and grant applications. He does not feel that Montcalm Alliance can act on behalf of Montcalm County for numerous reasons. He stated that Montcalm County is no bigger player in Montcalm Alliance than any other member of the Alliance. Therefore, he does not believe the Alliance should be allowed to use Montcalm County's name.

Commissioner Retzloff stated that he had several concerned constituents contacted him regarding Montcalm Alliance's support of the proposed Crystal Lake Village. His constituents thought that Montcalm County was in favor of the formation of the village, when in fact the County Board did not take a position in the matter.

Franz Mogdis addressed the recent letters he wrote in support of Sietsema Farms. He informed the board that he wrote the letters under the direction of John Berchtold. He was contacted by Mr. Berchtold and informed that Sietsema Farms were in need of a letter of support prior to the next scheduled board meeting, therefore he wrote the letters and mailed them to the State.

John Berchtold stated that a request for a letter of support for Sietsema's grant application was received in between board meetings. The deadline was prior to the next board meeting, therefore Mr. Berchtold sent the request on to Mr. Mogdis for him to write a letter of support.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to notify Montcalm Alliance that they do not have the authority to speak on behalf of Montcalm County without approval of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried with Commissioners Baker and Petersen voting no.

Clarification on the motion: The intent of the motion is to have Montcalm Alliance come to the Board of Commissioners to obtain permission prior to writing letters pledging support on behalf of Montcalm County. If requests are received in an untimely manner and there is not sufficient time to bring the issue before the board prior to the deadline, then a letter of support will not be executed. It is not the intent of the motion to impede the economic development of Montcalm County. The intent is to allow the Board of Commissioners have the ability to say yes or no to projects.

Discussion took place on NIMS training. Commissioner McCrackin addressed the board regarding the scheduled NIMS training. He just wanted all of the board members to be aware that each of the board members must complete this training either on line or at one of the scheduled classes on March 8 or March 31.

Public comments were offered. Mark Rambo gave kudos to the county for having board minutes and agendas available on-line. He attended the meeting today because he saw that Montcalm Alliance was on the agenda. He feels there have been hundreds of successful projects and the board needs to be careful not to change policies based on one bad experience. Mr. Rambo stated there should be a management

role and a leadership role and he believes the board needs to take the leadership role and leave the management role to the Alliance. Howard City Village supports Montcalm Alliance and does not want to see them constrained so that they can't function properly. He feels that the motion that was passed puts too much constraint on the Alliance.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to adjourn at 2:44 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman