

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 10, 2008

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. Commissioner Johansen offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Walker, Petersen, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: Commissioner Retzlöff.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Bunny Bode, Rhonda Waldorf, Beth Wellman, Heather White, Susan Day, Sandy Carlton, Roberta Murray, Clifford Lazarus, Joe LaFurgey, Mike Ingram, Jeanne Urbanski, Mike Urbanski, Jim Woudenberg, Terri Layman, Lori Hansen and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the February 25, 2008, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Sandy Carlton from Greenville addressed the board regarding \$1,500 being transferred from the Animal Shelter spayed/neutered line item to the vehicle maintenance line item on November 5, 2007. Ms. Carlton stated that she was a member of the committee that adopted the spayed and neutered law. She stated that the provision specifically designated that any spayed/neutered forfeiture money is to be used for public education regarding having pets spayed and neutered and nothing else. She assumes that the board was not aware of this law, therefore she is asking that the board review this law and restore any money that was transferred out of this line item for expenses that are outside of the scope of the provision.

Rhonda Waldorf addressed the board regarding dogs either being removed from the shelter, or euthanized, prior to being available for adoption by the public. She specifically addressed two dogs that were supposed to be available for adoption on March 4th. She stated that March 4th was the first day these dogs were to be available for adoption, therefore a rescue group showed up at the shelter that morning, prior to the shelter even opening, and when they inquired as to adopting the dogs they were informed that the dogs had already been euthanized. She asked the board if there was any proof that these dogs were actually euthanized.

Ms. Waldorf stated that she would like to see a citizen group involved in the hiring of a new Animal Control Director. She would also like to see more volunteers allowed to work at the Animal Shelter. She stated there are plenty of people in Montcalm County that are willing to volunteer their time to the shelter. She would really like to see the citizens and the board work together to improve the conditions at the shelter.

Kristen Millard provided the board with a PA 116 application for Sackett Ranch, Inc., however she has not received responses from the Planning Commission or the Conservation District yet. Therefore, she would like to hold off on action until the March 24, 2008 board meeting. The application will be put back on the March 24th agenda.

A request to adopt a resolution proclaiming July 13 – July 19 as Road Rage Awareness Week was received from R.O.A.R.R. (Reaching Out Against Road Rage). Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Johansen to adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-05 PROCLAIMING JULY 13 – JULY 19, 2008 “ROAD RAGE AWARENESS WEEK”**:

It is with urgency that we continue to persist on getting the message out that “Road Rage Kills” and Only We can prevent it. We must continue to educate our public through our billboards, brochures, literature as well as presentations to our high schools and college students, driver education classes with seminars, conferences, forums, workshops, and by any mean necessary.

WHEREAS, Reaching Out Against Road Rage (R.O.A.R.R.), a non profit (501c3 tax exempt) organization located in Muskegon County, has a mission, which consists of the three P’s: prevention of Road Rage; protection and support of victims against Road Rage; and the promotion of live by saving lives; and

WHEREAS, to achieve this mission R.O.A.R.R. is promoting awareness and education on the prevention of Road Rage; working in an effort to reduce the number of incidents; and advocate support and assistance to victims and their families in their recovery process; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines Road Rage as “an assault with a motor vehicle or other dangerous weapon by the operator or passenger(s) of another motor vehicle or an assault precipitated by an incident that occurred on a roadway”; and

WHEREAS, a study done by the AAA Foundation indicates that an average of at least 1,500 men, women, and children are injured or killed each year in the United States from the violent acts of Road Rage; and

WHEREAS, R.O.A.R.R. understands that to solve a problem, we must first be aware of the problem. Road Rage is a growing problem in Michigan as well as in our country; and

WHEREAS, R.O.A.R.R. recognizes that young and older drivers face roads of death because of rage in other drivers and themselves; and

WHEREAS, we must stop the killing, injuries, and mental anguish; we must work together as a community; and reprogram the destructive attitudes and behaviors that cause Road Rage.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the organization R.O.A.R.R. Board of Directors, Kay Shabazz, President, and other individuals and organizations are partnered in a “Road Rage Awareness Campaign” to bring closure to the escalating Road Rage problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners support and adopt the week of July 13-19 as “Road Rage Awareness Week”.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that July 13-19, 2008, “Road Rage Awareness Week” and promoting prevention of a dysfunctional act to improve traffic safety.

Motion carried.

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission provided the board with notice of the Post-Harvest Research and Demonstration Storage project planned in Entrican. Comments must be received by March 27, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the correspondence from the WMRPC on file. Motion carried.

A request to use the Administration Building foyer on March 17th was received from Ryan Tarrant, campaign manager for Dave Camp. Congressman Camp would like to use the foyer of the Administration Building to announce his reelection campaign. Moved by Commissioner Paepke,

supported by Commissioner Caris to allow Congressman Camp to use the foyer of the Administration Building on March 17th for the announcement of his reelection. Motion carried.

The West Michigan Regional Planning Commission provided the board with notice of a feasibility study for building a farm-based ethanol and biodiesel manufacturing system in Montcalm County. Comments are due back no later than March 31, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the correspondence from WMRPC on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve consent agenda items 6 – 7 and move stated action:

Scott Minard	Dodge Report, February 2008	Place on file
Marcia Walker	Montcalm Alliance 2008 Budget	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Johansen to place the February 27, 2008 CIS Oversight Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Walker to replace Donald McCrackin with Dale Linton as the Road Commission representative on the Parks & Recreation Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Walker to allow the Parks & Recreation Commission to excuse or reduce the rental fee of \$100 per day to Edgerton Upper Elementary for their fishing fieldtrip to Krampe Park, April 28 & 29, 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Baker to appoint Michael Balars as the liaison from the Montcalm County Parks & Recreation Commission to the West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Walker to accept the Bogart Construction bid for the tear down and rebuild of a bunkhouse at Ford Lincoln Park. Motion carried with Commissioner Carr voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the February 28, 2008 Parks & Recreation Commission minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the March 10, 2008 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to accept the resignation of Kevin Weaver as the Director of Animal Control. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to adopt the 2009 budget calendar as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 031008 in the amount of \$209,402.31. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the job description, as presented, for the Director of Animal Control with the addition of “Communicates and corresponds with the County Board of Commissioners to review activities and discuss matters such as budget, schedules and programs.” Motion carried with Commissioner McCrackin voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the March 10, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to enter into Executive Session at 1:53 p.m. for the purpose of pending litigation. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris, McCrackin, Walker and Petersen. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The board returned to open session 2:07 p.m.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with a copy of the annexation process provided by Paul Kluwe, Village of Edmore Manager. This will be before the board at their next meeting.

Public comments were offered. Karen Waldorf asked that all of the animals in the shelter be placed on petfinder.com. She stated that this is a free site and volunteers would be more than willing to help with this process. She also addressed the current method of euthanasia being used at the shelter. She stated that there is an officer at the shelter that is certified to do the lethal injections, and she feels this method would be much more humane than the current method being used.

Ms. Waldorf reiterated that she would like to see some kind of proof as to what happens with animals that were supposedly euthanized. She stated that there is not any kind of proof that the two dogs in question were euthanized. In fact, she believes that they were alive when the rescue group showed up to adopt them, but they will never be found.

Sandy Carlton stated that she is happy the board is hearing from this group today because these are the same problems the shelter has had for the last 10 years. She stated that all of the previous directors have left for similar reasons. She asked the board to take their time in hiring a new director. She asked the board to seriously consider the contract with R&R Research and asked the board members to ask themselves why only 5 counties in Michigan do business with R&R.

Bunny Bode stated that she is encouraged about the changes occurring at the Animal Shelter since talking with several of the commissioners. These are changing times and she feels the board is conscious of the problems and will do their best to find a suitable director.

Susan Day stated that the Animal Shelter needs to allow more time for dogs to get adopted out. She works with Save Haven and has great success finding dogs new homes.

Heather Waite stated that she feels it would be better if the shelter would give animals the vaccines needed to keep them healthy. She thinks that more animals would be adopted if their vaccines were up to date.

Commissioner Johansen provided each of the board members with a brochure for a presentation on Wind Energy that will take place on March 13, 2008 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Montcalm Community College.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to adjourn at 2:23 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman