

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting  
Monday, April 14, 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. Pastor Ried Martin offered invocation.

Members present at roll call: Commissioners Walker, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: None. (Commissioner Petersen's seat is currently vacant.)

Others present: Kristen Millard, Terry L. Bode, Martha Munch, Don Havlicek, Jodi Cole, Ralph Bain, Tom Lindeman, Jim Woudenberg, Barbara Bailey, Eileen Burr, Susan Farrell, Sandy Carlton, Pat Bennett, Cliff Lazarus, Pam Allen, Tom Snyder, Mary Ellen Snyder, Gisela Peek, Rev. Ried Martin, Nikki Belyou, Carol Zeigenfuss, Ron Finegood, Susan Kinnard-Heethee, Melissa Zimmerman, Shirley E. Tuttle, Janet Barror, Martha Schoolcraft, Susan Day, Beth Wellman, Donna Huhn, Nanci Bach, Jeanne Urbanski, Michael Urbanski, Angela Kirshman, Susan Maguire, Jason Kirshman, Charles Logie, Tom Czerwinski, Patricia Henrichs, Bob Clingenpeel, Roberta Murray, Carl Gruno, Judy Guevara, Chris Jastifer, Rhonda Waldrof, Ryan Jeltrema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the March 24, 2008, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the agenda with the addition of a 1:05 p.m. agenda item entitled *Montcalm Area Amateur Radio Club*. Motion carried.

At 1:05 p.m. Don Havlicek & Larry Outman, representing the Montcalm Area Amateur Radio Club, were in attendance to request the use of the northeast corner of the Mid Michigan District Health Department parking lot on June 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> to participate in an emergency preparedness exercise.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to allow the Montcalm Area Amateur Radio Club to use the Mid Michigan District Health Department parking lot on June 28 & 29, 2008 for the purpose of emergency preparedness training. Set up can begin on after hours on Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> if necessary. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered.

Mike Urbanski addressed the board regarding the need for a written adoption policy at the Animal Shelter.

Susan Day addressed the board and stated that she was not allowed into the Animal Shelter today to view the animals in the kennels.

Jodi Cole addressed the board regarding the criticism of the Animal Shelter. She feels that pet owners are not being responsible and therefore the animals are paying in the end. She does not think these problems are the fault of the animal shelter, or the officers. She feels education is the problem. She would like to see a humane shelter, peaceful euthanization and education for pet owners.

Sue Maguire addressed the board regarding the lack of written adoption policies and the short amount of time that animals are held within the shelter. She would like to see all policies reviewed and the hours of operation increased.

Eileen Burr addressed the board regarding the Animal Control policies and stated that they need to be revised. She stated that volunteers are available but are not being utilized.

Janet Barror addressed the board regarding the Animal Shelter's adoption policies. She feels they are unfair and need to be reviewed.

Angie Maguire-Kirshman addressed the board and urged them to look for the most qualified candidate when hiring a new Animal Control Director.

Jean Urbanski addressed the board regarding Rolling Rescue, which is a volunteer animal rescue transport network. She also stated that she was not allowed in the kennels today.

Susan Farrell addressed the board regarding the Animal Shelter. She would like the County to stop selling animals for research and adopt written policies. She would also like to see peaceful euthanasia.

Bunny Body read from a letter written by Rolling Rescue. She commended the new policies that Chris Hyzer has implemented at the Animal Shelter.

Jim Woudenberg, R & R Research addressed the board regarding animals he obtains from the shelter going to medical research. He also stated that rescue groups need to keep up their end of the contracts they sign to have animals spayed and neutered.

Public comment was interrupted to deal with scheduled agenda items.

At 1:42 Ronald Finegood was in attendance. He is a candidate for 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judge. He introduced himself to the board and discussed his qualifications.

At 1:51 p.m. Tom Czerwinski, Executive Director for Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan, was in attendance to give the board an update on the Single Point of Entry for long term care services. Mr. Chuck Logie, Executive Director for the West Michigan Long Term Care Connection was also in attendance. They are the corporation that acts as the single point of entry for the AAA of Western Michigan. Mr. Logie gave the board a written annual update and informed them that because of the West Michigan Long Term Care Connection, fewer people are being sent to nursing homes and instead are being allowed to stay in their own homes. Mr. Czerwinski and Mr. Logie were thanked for their presentation.

Public comment resumed.

Pat Henrich asked the board to take advantage of this opportunity hire a competent Director for the Animal Shelter.

Mary Ellen Snyder from Safe Haven addressed the board and suggested an interim director to be appointed and an advisory board be utilized until polices can be developed. She encourages the board to have all of the vaccinations made, have the animal spayed and neutered and then have the animals adopted for a fee of near \$125. She stated that Safe Haven's goal is to have every animal live. Every animal that goes to R & R Research dies.

Sandy Carlton addressed the board regarding spay & neutered contracts not being honored. She stated it is the responsibility of the Animal Shelter staff to follow up on the contracts, not just keep the deposit. She addressed the fact that the number of Class B dealers are dwindling. Right now there are only 5 counties in Michigan that have contracts with Class B dealers. She encouraged the board to not renew their contract with R & R Research.

Ralph Bain addressed how cats are handled at the shelter. He stated that cats should be held for 5 days so they have a chance to be reclaimed or adopted. He believes they are immediately euthanized or given to research.

Pam Allen addressed the board regarding selling animals to research. She also addressed the method of euthanization and asked the board to consider injection.

Bunny Bode provided the board with a letter from MSU regarding the difference between animals obtained from Class A and Class B dealers for medical research. She stated that she is not opposed to animals being used for medical research, however animals that come from Class A dealers prove to be much more effective.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with the Smith Housing Consulting Contract between Marilyn M. Smith and the County of Montcalm. Smith Housing Consulting is the grant administrator for CDBG programs through MSHDA. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the Smith Housing Consulting Contract and authorize Chris Hyzer to sign it. Motion carried.

Marilyn Smith provided the board with a resolution for participation in the PIP (property improvement program). This item will be placed on the next agenda.

A request to hold a gathering at the flag pole of the Administration Building to observe the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2008 was received from Pastor Curt Mudgett from the Trinity Church in Stanton.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Caris to allow Trinity Church to use the flag pole at the Administration Building on May 1<sup>st</sup> in observation of the National Day of Prayer. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve consent agenda items 4 through 6 and move stated action:

County Clerk	Resolution 2008-06	Place on file
Controller	Montcalm County Recreation Plan Approval	Place on file
Controller	OHSP Revised Approved Budget	Place on file

Motion carried.

John Kroneck entered at 2:20 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to accept the bid from Russell Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$2,875.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to send out bids for pest management for County facilities. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to place the April 14, 2008 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to provide funds for the 2008 weed control program from Dickerson Lake which will be reimbursed from a special assessment spread on the 2008 tax roll. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the Sheriff to fill the Confidential Aide position with a candidate and allow the individual to start no earlier than May 12, 2008 with funds to come from contingency. Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to amend the motion to change the date to allow the new employee to start to no earlier than May 19, 2008. Roll call vote on amendment: Ayes: Commissioners Johansen, Carr, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: Commissioners Retzloff, Paepke and Baker. Amendment carried. Original motion carried as amended.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the tuition request from Mark Bellinger in the amount of \$250.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to pay Karen Sheets a one time stipend of \$1,500 for performing responsibilities outside her role as a case manager. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to hire a seasonal worker from May 1, 2008 to October 31, 2008 at an hourly rate up to \$12.00 to maintain the County Parks. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to have the Controller seek bids for a commercial grade zero turn mower. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the Billing and Accounts manager job description as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow Emergency Services to fill the Billing and Accounts Manager I effective immediately. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve Montcalm County Emergency Medical Service Standards for Waiver of Payments and allow immediate implementation. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 041408 in the amount of \$454,941.27. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the April 14, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard provided the board with a brief Circuit Court collections update. Since beginning collections in 2004 her office has collected \$183,000 in bad debt. Of that, \$63,000 has gone to victims for Restitution.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with copies of the EMS contract. Mr. Hyzer went over the changes that were made to the contract. He would like to get the contract signed as soon as possible. The board decided to review the contract and have it added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Hyzer informed the board that only one resume was received for Dan Petersen's vacant commissioner seat. The only applicant was Tom Lindeman.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to appoint Tom Lindeman to the District 2 County Commissioner seat vacated by Commissioner Petersen. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioner Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered and none were given.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to adjourn at 2:45 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman