

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 28, 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 Jerry Carlson from the Assembly of God in Sheridan offered invocation.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Sandy Carlton, Jeanne Urbanski, Bunny Bode, Michael Urbanski, Eileen Burr, Gwen Stromp, Gisela Peek, Dorothy Oliver, Jim Woudenberg, Marilyn Smith, Roberta Murray, Randy Sherburne, Jane Sherburne, Ryan Villet, Carolyn Kane, Ryan Jeltema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the April 14, 2008, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

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

Public comments were offered.

Richard Reeves addressed the board regarding the Trails presentation that the board will hear today. He is a land owner on the rail that is proposed to be turned to a trail and is a supporter of the project.

Ryan Villet addressed the board and informed them that he will be seeking the Republican nomination for the 70<sup>th</sup> District State Representative seat. Some of the issues he is concerned about are: the state budget, economic development, and school funding. He will have an announcement in the paper later this week.

Jean Urbanski addressed the board regarding euthanasia of animals being part of animal shelter employees job description, however much of the euthanasia is being done by R&R Research. This is not in their contract with the county and she would like the board to look into it.

Jim Woudenberg, R&R Research, addressed a letter the board received at the last meeting from MSU regarding animals used for medical research. Mr. Woudenberg referred to letters from MSU and the University of Michigan that he presented to the board in 2004, both of which are in support of obtaining unwanted animals from Class B dealers.

Gwen Stromp, Kent County, spoke regarding the form of euthanasia used at the Animal Shelter and the contract with R&R Research. She stated that Montcalm County is not keeping up with the times and she would like the contract with R&R Research discontinued.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with correspondence from the West Michigan Planning Commission regarding the Fred Meijer Flat River Trail and Baldwin Lake Beach Improvements projects. Comments are due back by May 8, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the correspondence from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission on file. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received from Marilyn Smith, Smith Housing, regarding the PIP (Property Improvement Program). Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Walker to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-07**:

WHEREAS, Montcalm County is interested in continuing efforts to provide affordable housing opportunities for its low and very low income residents; and

WHEREAS, Montcalm County Board of Commissioners recognize Montcalm County is participating in the MSHDA Property Improvement Program (PIP) funding; and

WHEREAS, Montcalm County Board of Commissioners desire to use PIP-Plus Funding, a new funding source from MSHDA with PIP and CDBG funds; and

WHEREAS, Said Board of Commissioners understand the MSHDA will pay administration of 10% or up to \$2,000 administration for each PIP-Plus loan processed in Montcalm County; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Commissioners understand that MSHDA would require the PIP-Plus funding draw's to be requested through Roscommon County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners authorize Smith Housing, their Housing Director to administer PIP-Plus funds in partnership with Roscommon County.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve consent agenda items 3 through 4 and move stated action:

|            |                                    |               |
|------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Controller | DNR State-owned Mineral Lands Sale | Place on file |
| Controller | Transfer of Ownership              | Place on file |

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the April 14, 2008 Health and Human Services Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the Emergency Manager to move to the office adjacent next to the planner and the EOC in the lower level of the Public Safety Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to allow the Director of Commission on Aging to authorize Greg Ray Construction Company to install the patio door at the Commission on Aging for \$2,500. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the April 28, 2008 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

At 1:26 p.m. Richard Reeves, Equalization Director, was in attendance to present the Board with the Annual Equalization Report for 2008 State Equalized and Taxable Values for each of the 23 units in the count.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve the Equalization Report for 2008, and adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-08, A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2008 COUNTY EQUALIZATION REPORT AS SUBMITTED WITH THE ACCOMPANYING STATEMENTS:**

WHEREAS, the Equalization Department has examined the assessment rolls of the 20 townships and 3 cities within Montcalm County to ascertain whether the real and personal property in the respective townships and cities have been assessed in accordance with MCL 209.5 and 211.34; and

WHEREAS, based on its studies and review, the Equalization Department presented to the Equalization Committee the 2008 Equalization Data that equalized the township and cities valuations by adding to or deducting from the valuations of the taxable property in the 20 townships and 3 cities, and amount which represents the 2008 State Equalized Value; and

WHEREAS, the Equalization Committee has reviewed the data; and

WHEREAS, the attached report is the result of the foregoing process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm, that the accompanying statements be, and the same hereby are, approved and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Montcalm as the equalized value of all taxable property, both real and personal, for each of the 20 townships and cities in said County for a property value equalized at \$2,217,444,377 for real and personal property values equalized at \$137,200,310 for a total equalized value of real and personal property at \$2,354,644,687 pursuant to Section 211.34 MCL, of 1948, as amended.

and allow Chairman Carr to sign the accompanying documents. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Johansen to allow District Court to hire a District Clerk I in the District Court Probation Department and allow for a three week training period. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the Sheriff to hire Sue Gilbert with her pay to start at the 2<sup>nd</sup> year pay level for the Confidential Administrative Aide. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to increase line item 11481-704000 in the amount of \$1,500 for reclassification of a juvenile court employee with funds to come from contingency. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 042808 in the amount of \$1,001,422.36. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the April 28, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

At 1:45 p.m. Dave Guikema, MSU Extension Regional Director, was in attendance to discuss the filling of the MSU Montcalm Extension Director position. He explained that Linda Hyck will be the acting Director for a period of 5 to 6 months so the position can be posted and a candidate selected.

At 2:00 p.m. Carolyn Kane from the West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition was in attendance to request a letter of support to connect Ionia, Lowell and Greenville via a trail. Ms. Kane explained that they are requesting letters of support from the 16 local units of government within the 37.5 mile railroad

corridor to assist in acquiring funding and resources to develop the corridor into a multi-use recreational trail. This connection will provide the West Michigan Communities with a recreational trail corridor of 120 continuous miles from Owosso to Lowell to Greenville to Alma.

Commissioner Lindeman stated that he has spoken with George Bosanic, Greenville City Manager, regarding this proposal and informed the board that Mr. Bosanic would like to see the board postpone any action today because a prospective buyer of the Electrolux property would like to possibly establish rail service. This topic will be put on the next agenda.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that the Edmore Ambulance Base is in the process of being re-zoned. To accommodate the time it is taking for the re-zoning, there may be a need for an extension on the purchasing agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the Chairman to sign an extension to the purchasing agreement on the Edmore Ambulance Base, if needed. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Baker to approve the EMS Collective Bargaining Agreement and authorize the proper signatures. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Bunny Bode addressed the board and thanked them and Chris Hyzer for returning a mother dog to her puppies.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to adjourn at 2:35 p.m. Motion carried.

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Kristen Millard, County Clerk

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Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman