

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, May 12, 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 David Kingsbury from the Crystal Community Church offered invocation.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Sandra Carlton, Bunny Bode, Eileen Burr, Tonija Mikula, Ken Snow, Ryan Jeltema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the April 28, 2008, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

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

Public comments were offered. Sandy Carlton addressed the board regarding the four dogs that were reportedly rescued from a home in Six Lakes. The Daily News stated that the four dogs were adopted, however she has discovered that two of those dogs went to R&R Research. She wants an explanation as to how misinformation is getting out of the Animal Shelter.

Ken Snow, mayor of the City of Greenville, read a letter to the board regarding the recent request to provide a letter of support regarding the abandonment of the Mid-Michigan Railroad from milepost 103.20 at Lowell to milepost 78.50 in Greenville. As the City of Greenville is currently working with a developer of the 400,000 plus square foot warehouse on the former Electrolux property, and it is still unclear as to whether the tenant of the property will be in need of rail transportation, therefore Mr. Snow is asking the board to take no action at this time regarding the abandonment of the aforementioned rail line.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with correspondence from the West Michigan Planning Commission regarding the CEDS strategy update. If any additional projects need to be included the forms are due back by July 1, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Johansen to place the correspondence from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with the Central Services Cost Allocation Agreement with MAXIMUS. The fee will be \$11,000 per year. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve the Central Services Cost Allocation Agreement with MAXIMUS for the next three years in the amount of \$11,000 per year. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer presented the board with Eagle Scout Resolutions 2008-09 through 2008-12, honoring Troy A. Thornburg, Brandon T. Benedict, Donato M. Maffin and Tyler M. Towersey, respectively. Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-09 for Troy A. Thornburg; RESOLUTION 2008-10 for Brandon T. Benedict; RESOLUTION 2008-11 for Donato M. Maffin; and RESOLUTION 2008-12 for Tyler M. Towersey.** Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Baker, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve consent agenda item 4 and move stated action:

County Clerk

Resolution 2008-07

Place on file

Motion carried.

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

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the Maintenance Department to purchase a commercial grade mower (Gravely 260M, 27HP, Air Cooled) from Nelson Speed Shop for \$6,699.00. Motion carried with Commissioner Lindeman voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 051208 in the amount of \$230,960.74. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to hire Patricia Lentz as the Animal Control Director, pending the passing of the criminal background check by the Sheriff and the formalization of the contract between Patricia and the Board of Commissioners. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioner Lindeman, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the May 12, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer updated the board on the county-wide photo ID project he and the clerk are working on. They are in the process of purchasing a card printer for the county-wide ID's.

At 1:25 p.m. Troy A. Thornburg was in attendance to be presented with a resolution for obtaining the level of Eagle Scout. Commissioner Johansen presented Troy with Resolution 2008-09 and congratulated him on his achievement.

At 1:30 p.m. Toni Mikula, Volunteer Services Assistant for United Way & Volunteer Connections, was in attendance to offer Volunteer Connections services in the area of Animal Control. She provided each board member with packets of the services they provide. Volunteer Connections is known for volunteer coordinating and recruitment and Ms. Mikula feels the organization may be a very helpful avenue for the Animal Shelter. She would like the opportunity to meet with either Chris Hyzer or the new Animal Control Director to discuss what services they may provide to the county.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to enter into Executive Session at 1:36 p.m. for the purpose of Pending Litigation or Settlement Strategy. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: Commissioner Lindeman. Motion carried.

The board returned to open session at 1:46 p.m.

Discussion took place regarding providing a letter of support for the West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition to connect Ionia, Lowell and Greenville via a trail. Commissioner Baker stated that the letter of support is just to protect the corridor from being sold off into separate pieces. A letter of support does not mean that it must be used as a trail, just that the corridor should be protected.

Mayor Snow stated that in another month the City of Greenville will know more regarding whether the tenants of the former Electrolux warehouse will be in need of rail transit or not. They have a meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the City of Greenville will most likely be sending Washington D.C. a letter of protest regarding the abandonment of the rail line. He stated that as mayor, Greenville's economic development is very important to him, therefore he feels it is premature to support the rails being turned to a trail at this time.

Chairman Carr stated that he feels the City of Greenville has been a little remiss at asking the Board to delay their letter of support. He stated that the City should have come forward much sooner. He is especially concerned since the request to delay the letter of support is coming from Mayor Snow, and City Manager George Bosanic, but not from the City Council as a whole.

Commissioner Lindeman asked Mayor Snow if he has received any communication from Rails to Trails. He stated that he was not aware of anything, but that doesn't mean that Mr. Bosanic has not received something that was not presented to the full council.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to invite representatives of West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition and the Greenville City Council to the next board meeting to discuss the topic of a letter of support for the Greenways Coalition. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Sandy Carlton addressed the board regarding her attendance at board meetings for the last 32 years. She stated that changes to the Animal Control division have been very small since she first began attending meeting and there have been very few advancements. She also stated that only 5 counties in the State are still using Class B dealers. She encouraged the board to not renew their contract with R & R Research.

Bunny Bode addressed the board and stated that she is not an animal rights person, nor an animal rights activist. She stated her greatest concern is the reputation of this county. She feels her involvement at the Board of Commissioners meetings has been misinterpreted and she feels that the board would rather she not attend their meetings.

Eileen Burr addressed the board. She stated that each applicant the board interviewed for the Animal Control Director is appalled at what has been happening at the shelter, therefore the board should take notice of that.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen supported by Commissioner Lindeman to adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Motion carried.

---

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

---

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman