

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting
Monday, June 9, 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 Todd Brooks offered invocation.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Mike Urbanski, Jeanne Urbanski, Roberta Murray, Franz Mogdis, Carolyn Kane, Ron Finegood, Linda Huckins, Janice, Bob and Christine Heyboer, Ryan Jeltema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Caris to approve the May 27, 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. Janice, Bob and Chris Heyboer addressed the board and requested policy changes for the Animal Shelter. The Heyboer's explained a bad experience they had with R&R Research and asked the board to not renew their contract with them. They also stated that there are plenty of volunteers willing to help out at the Shelter.

Charles Rhines, President of Mid Michigan BioOil, Inc. addressed the board and expressed Mid Michigan BioOil's intent to establish a business in Montcalm County. He explain that in the beginning the new venture will only employ 40 people but over time could expand up to 400. Mr. Rhines asked the board to continue their support of the City of Greenville's efforts to keep the section of railway open. He also stated that Mid Michigan BioOil could use as many as 750 rail cars per day.

A request to place Steve DeWitt and Linda Huckins on the Community Corrections Advisory Board was received from Kevin Everingham. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to appoint Steve DeWitt and Linda Huckins to the Community Corrections Advisory Board. Motion carried.

The announcement of Funding Award Grant #MSC-2008-0765-HOA was received by the Office of Community Development. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve the MSHDA grant # MSC-2008-0765-HOA and authorize Chairman Carr to sign it. Motion carried.

Jerry McCoy provided the board with the Homeland Security Grant Program Intergovernmental Agreement between the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and Montcalm County. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the Homeland Security Grant Program Intergovernmental Agreement and allow the Controller to sign it on behalf of the County. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with a copy of the Comprehensive Community Corrections Plan and Application for Fiscal Year 2009. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to support the admission of the Community Corrections Grant for Fiscal Year 2009. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve consent agenda items 5 through 7 and move stated action:

Scott Minard
Scott Minard
AFSCME

Dodge Report, May 2008
Building Permits by Township, May 2008
Contract Re-Opener

Place on file
Place on file
Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to accept the Four Seasons bid for pest management with a cost of \$1,836 per year. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to allow the Controller to seek bids on the connection of the water line from the Village of Edmore main water line to the former Edmore Ambulance Base and also be allowed to go ahead with the project if cost projections do not exceed \$5,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the June 9, 2008 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow EMS to begin accepting credit card payments utilizing PayGOV LLC and absorb the convenience fees. Motion carried with Commissioner Lindeman voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow the Equalization Department to purchase a Disto A6 measuring device with a cost not to exceed \$650.00. Funds are to be transferred from 1271-704000 (Wages-Full Time). Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to rescind the following motion from the May 7, 2008 Board of Commissioners meeting: "Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to allow MSU Extension to refill the Accounting Systems Coordinator with an Administrative Aide beginning July 21, 2008 and allow OJ Wing to work up to 20 hours a week from June 9th until July 18th. Motion carried."; and to accept the resignation of OJ Wing effective July 18th and allow MSU Extension to refill her position with an Administrative Aide beginning July 21, 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 060908 in the amount of \$249,798.51. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the June 9, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that in the past rescue groups were not charged for the spayed/neuter deposit at the Animal Shelter. The previous director had waived the fee, but it has come to his attention that only licensed shelters can be waived from paying the fee. Therefore, effective immediately, all rescue groups will be charged the fee.

Chris also informed the board that Connie Patten-Kratt retired from District Court last week after 34 years of service. The board would like to acknowledge and comment Ms. Patten-Kratt's for her years of service to Montcalm County and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that two physicians are willing to serve as deputy medical examiners. Dr. Solarewicz would be the primary Deputy Medical Examiner and Dr. Fahlen would act as a backup when Dr. Solarewicz is unavailable.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to recommend to Dr. Banner to appoint Dr. Solarewicz and Dr. Fahlen as Deputy Medical Examiners. Motion carried.

At 1:30 p.m. Carolyn Kane and Franz Mogdis were in attendance to answer questions on the Rails to Trails proposal brought before the board in April. Ms. Kane explained that they are merely seeking a letter of support that states should the rails be abandoned, then the Board supports that property being used as a trail, instead of being broken up and sold to individuals.

Chairman Carr explained to Ms. Kane that the board did send a letter in support of Greenville's effort to keep the line open in hopes that a company would come into the area that would utilize railway service.

Franz Mogdis informed that board that the Surface Transportation Board approved the petition for exemption filed by Mid-Michigan Railroad, Inc. to abandon approximately 24.70 miles of rail line in Kent, Ionia and Montcalm Counties, subject to trail use. The decision was signed June 5, 2008. Anyone interested in appealing this decision has until June 19th, at which time they must file a \$1,300 filing fee, and have proof of financing rail maintenance, that could be as much as \$250,000 a year to keep the railroad open.

Mr. Rhines stated that BioOil will not be able to come into the area without rail service. He stated that productivity in Indiana and Ohio doubled when his company came into the area due to the trickle down effect. He stated that it is the desire of BioOil to keep the railroad open and even expand on rail service to the area. He would like the board to continue to re-affirm statements of objection to the abandonment of the rail. He stated that he has spoken with four other Greenville area businesses that will benefit from the rails being put back in service. He does not want to see the railroad property go into private ownership or the trail banking system.

Mr. Rhines also stated that the City of Greenville was not properly noticed on the petition filed by Mid-Michigan Railroad. The City received the first notice in November, 2007, which turned out to be an invalid filing, but they did not receive notice when the petition was re-filed in February, 2008.

Commissioner Johansen addressed Mr. Rhines and stated that if private industry does not step up to appeal the Surface Transportation Board's decision then the county's hands are tied. While the county does promote economic development, the county does not have the funds to maintain the railroad.

Ms. Kane stated that Greenville had two chances to argue the filing for abandonment of the rails. First in November and then again in February.

Mr. Mogdis stated that the notice issue is between the Surface Transportation Commission and the City of Greenville. Greenville needs to take it up with them. He explained that trail banking is a way to protect that corridor for future possible use. If it is sold off to individual landowners there is no way to ever recover that corridor.

Mr. Mogdis explained that the Coalition is merely seeking a letter from the Board of Commissioner that states their support for the development of a trail on property that is no longer used as a railroad.

Commissioner Baker stated that the businesses that desire to preserve the railroad need to step up and put money forward.

The board will hold off any action on this issue until after the June 19th filing deadline for appeals with the Surface Transportation Board.

Public comments were offered. Jeanne Urbanski addressed the board regarding the spayed/neuter fees that the county wants to charge rescue groups that are not licensed shelters. She stated that spayed/neuter certificates take some time to return to the Animal Shelter because the animals are in transport and then have to be placed. She stated that she and her husband have personally donated over \$95,000 to spayed/neutered programs in the past two years. She would like the board to please look at the spayed/neuter policy and give those rescue groups more time to turn in their certificate before fines are imposed.

Ms. Urbanski also stated that a chocolate lab that was just pulled out of the shelter last week has Parvo.

Mike Urbanski addressed the board regarding the \$7,000 that is sitting in the spayed/neuter program. He explained that the program isn't working if money is accumulating in that account because spayed/neuter deposits are not being returned. He stated that Animal Shelter workers have done nothing to enforce the laws. He wonders if the workers are going to enforce the law uniformly or just single out certain individuals and rescue groups.

Gwen Stromp from Kent County addressed the board regarding R&R Research getting dogs from the Shelter for free. She also stated that injections of barbiturates for euthanasia are still not being given.

Ron Finegood, candidate for 8th Circuit Court Judge, addressed the board and is asking for support from the board members.

Commissioner Caris asked Chris Hyzer to follow up on why photos of animals for adoption have not been in the Daily News for two weeks.

Commissioner Johansen updated the board on the 5 year plan that MDOT has for Montcalm County.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to adjourn at 2:31 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman