

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 11, 2007

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. Reverend Kurt Hoffman from the Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Stanton offered invocation.

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

Others present: Kristen Millard, Chris Hyzer, Eric Halvorsen, Allen Kohn, and Shelly Strautz.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Caris to approve the May 29, 2007, 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 and none were given.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve consent agenda items 1 through 14 and move stated action:

MSHDA	Closeout of Grant #MSC-2002-0766-HOA	Place on file
Road Commission	Letter RE: Road Funding, Senator Cropsey	Place on file
Road Commission	Letter RE: Road Funding, Representative Emmons	Place on file
Road Commission	Pierson Township Contract	Place on file
County Controller	POAM Agreement	Place on file
County Clerk	Resolution 2007-16, Bonds Kent Hospital	Place on file
Montcalm Alliance	2007 Budget (5-30-07) and Objectives	Place on file
Ionia Montcalm DHS	Minutes, April 19, 2007	Place on file
Montcalm Center	Minutes, April 21, 2007	Place on file
EightCap, Inc.	Minutes, March 23, 2007	Place on file
COA	Minutes, April 26, 2007	Place on file
Solid Waste Mgmt	Minutes, May 24, 2007	Place on file
CAMWC	Minutes, April 2, 2007	Place on file
Human Serv. Coalition	Minutes, May 1, 2007	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Petersen to approve the Controller's office space recommendation to house the IT Director in the old jury room and to add an additional doorway to the Controller's office hallway with funds coming from the current maintenance budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Petersen to accept the Abilita retainer agreement at \$550 per month for 24 months and have the Controller/Administrator sign the agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the June 11, 2007 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

At 1:15 p.m. Eric Halvorsen, Chairman of the Soldiers Relief Commission, was in attendance to request that the Board increase the millage rate for the Soldier's Relief Fund. Mr. Halvorsen informed the board that when he became a member of the Soldiers Relief Commission in March he discovered that there was

only \$110 left of the \$3,900 collected to assist veterans. He stated that requests for assistance far surpass \$3,900 and he feels it is necessary for the board to increase the millage rate from .001 mill to .1 mill. Mr. Halvorsen stated that his tax bill is only \$.02 for the Soldiers Relief Fund. He does not think it is realistic to expect the Soldier Relief Commission to operate and help the veterans on such limited funds.

Mr. Halvorsen was asked to explain the difference between the Soldiers Relief Commission and the Veteran's Trust Fund. He stated that there is very little difference between the two. The Soldiers Relief Fund is funded by millage levied by the Board of Commissioners and the Veterans Trust Fund is funded by the interest earned off of a \$50 million trust fund set up to help veterans. The only other difference is the length of time the veterans served during war time that qualifies them for assistance. Mr. Halvorsen stated that the Veteran's Trust Fund will only offer assistance to veterans once every two years. It is his hope to set up guidelines within the Soldier's Relief Commission so that assistance can be offered once per year.

The Soldiers Relief Fund helps veterans with food, utilities, heat, rent, mortgage payments and sometimes insurances. Mr. Halvorsen explained that he has had to turn away requests for assistance because there have not been funds available.

Chairman Carr stated that in the past the board has agreed levy whatever is needed but that the Commission has never shown the board the need for additional funds. He explained that .001 mill would raise approximately \$1,500 annually, .01 mill would raise approximately \$15,000 annually and .1 mill would raise approximately \$150,000 annually. Mr. Halvorsen estimates that somewhere between \$15,000 and \$30,000 would be sufficient to meet the requests for assistance that the Commission receives on an annual basis.

Mr. Halvorsen also addressed per diem and mileage for members of the Commission. He explained that Commission members have been drawing a wage of \$125 for every six months and a straight \$57 for mileage. He would like the mileage eliminated unless a voucher is submitted. Chairman Carr informed Mr. Halvorsen that the topic of per diem and mileage should be directed to the Probate Judge.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to increase the Soldiers Relief Commission levy to .02 mill, which will raise approximately \$30,000 annually. Motion carried.

At 1:30 p.m. Tim Hanson, Scott Hanson, James Durga and Jesse VanderBand were in attendance to be presented with a resolution acknowledging their accomplishment of reach the rank of Eagle Scout. The resolutions were presented by Commissioners Petersen and Paepke.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to purchase of two Motorola HT1250 portable radios from Chrouch Communications in the amount \$1,790.00 for the Sheriff Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the original bill submitted by Dave Feldpausch for full training reimbursement in the amount of \$603.16 for the Accounting I class that was requested by the department head. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the 2007 Drain County At-Large **RESOLUTION 2007-17** as submitted by the Drain Commissioner:

WHEREAS - The Drain & Lake taxes assessed against the County of Montcalm at Large, as shown on the County Drain Commissioner's - Special Assessment Rolls - for the year 2006, has not been accredited to the respective Drain & Lake Funds, for which they were assessed. Said Special Assessments total - Drains \$105,979.46 and Lakes \$754.31.

WHEREAS - The sums so assessed should be transferred from the General Fund of the County to the respective Drain & Lake Funds for which they were assessed.

NOW THEREFORE - Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners here assembled in regular June session for the year of 2007 that the sum of \$106,733.77 be transferred from the General Fund of the County of Montcalm to the respective Drain & Lake Funds for which such assessment was made. The County Controller of Montcalm County shall be and is hereby authorized to make such transfer.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the bid specifications as presented for MFR rescue vehicle and send out for bids. (Attached to Finance Committee minutes)
Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to combine the position of senior probation officer and juvenile court administrator into one position and adding one (1) juvenile clerk to the staffing control summary in the 2007 adopted budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve warrant number 061107 in the amount of \$246,403.51. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the June 11, 2007, Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that Mary MacMillen has been hired as the new IT Director. She will start on June 22nd. He also informed the board that the county has received an MEDC grant in the amount of \$30,000. The purpose of the grant is to help Montcalm County identify development opportunities. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Allen Kohn, former County Commissioner, addressed the board and thanked them for the job they are doing. He also stated that he is very pleased to see that the board has a minister.

He asked for clarification on the 911 surcharge on the phone bills. He wants the board to look into lowering the rate from the 20 percent because when he was on the commission the board promised to lower the rate once the equipment was paid for. Chairman Carr informed Mr. Kohn that an Authority has been formed for Central Dispatch and explained that the number of land lines are decreasing and being replaced with cell phones, therefore revenues have decreased. However, there is legislation in the works to put a 911 surcharge on cell phones also.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to adjourn at 2:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman