

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, September 24, 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. Pastor Curt Mudgett 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, Roberta Murray, John Kroneck, Ryan Jeltema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the September 10, 2007, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve the agenda with the addition of #4 under New Business entitled *Commission on Aging Letter*. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. John Kroneck, Substance Abuse Advisory Council Director, informed the board that on November 2nd the Substance Abuse Council will be holding a summit for underage drinking. He invited the Commissioners to attend.

Kristen Millard provided the board with a list of Democratic nominees for the Montcalm County Board of Canvassers. Ms. Millard recommends the appointment of Gail Hamblin for a four year term. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to appoint Gail Hamblin to the Board of Canvassers for a four year term, effective October 1, 2007. Motion carried.

An amendment to the Purchase of Service Agreement with AAAMM was received. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to authorize Chairman Carr to sign the amendment to the Purchase of Service Agreement with AAAMM. Motion carried.

Health Options Provider Services for FY 2008 was received from HHS. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Walker to allow Chairman Carr to sign the Health Options Provider Services for FY 2008 from HHS. Motion carried.

The OHSP Grant for FY 2008 was received from Lt. Karl Kluwe. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to accept the Office of Highway Safety Program (OHSP) grant in the amount of \$8,500 for safety belt enforcement and allow Lt. Kluwe to submit the grant via the internet. Motion carried with Commissioner Petersen voting no.

Kristen Millard provided the board with three P.A. 116 Farm Land and Open Space Preservation applications for Sackett Enterrpise & Earl and Rachel Burkholder. The properties in question are located in Fairplains & Evergreen Townships. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve P.A. 116 Farm Land and Open Space Preservation applications, 2007-3, 4, & 5 for Sackett Enterrpise, and application 2007-6 for Earl and Rachel Burkholder. Motion carried.

At 1:13 p.m. several Sheriff Deputies and command staff entered the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve consent agenda items 7 through 17 and move stated action:

DNR
AAAMM

Oil and Gas Lease Auction
Contract Amendment (51.76)

Place on file
Place on file

Jerry McCoy	Retirement Notice	Place on file
Controller	Jerry McCoy Employment	Place on file
Controller	Dave Feldpausch Employment Agreement	Place on file
MDEQ	Air Quality Review Applications	Place on file
MMDHD	Connecting Point Newsletter, August 2007	Place on file
Central Dispatch Authority	Minutes, August 9, 2007	Place on file
MMDHD	Minutes, July 25, 2007	Place on file
Conservation District	Minutes, August 14, 2007	Place on file
Planning Commission	Draft Minutes, September 17, 2007	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Petersen to appoint Carl Paepke as a Board of Commissioners representative to the Substance Abuse Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the September 10, 2007 Health & Human Services Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to lower the Edmore Base price to \$65,600 with price to be effective immediately and to extend the contract with Mark Stevens, of Prudential Preferred Realtors of Howard City and the Controller/Administrator to be able to sign the listing agreement. Motion carried with Commissioner Retzloff voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Paepke to appoint Marcia Walker and Dan Petersen to the Safety Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the September 24, 2007 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Franz Mogdis, Bill Barnwell and Bill Burden entered at 1:20 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow EMS to offer a new employee sign on bonus during the next 90 days (beginning 10/1/07) of up to \$1,000, for the recruitment of full time paramedics. Bonus to be paid upon acceptance of employment and subject to a 2 year commitment to Montcalm County at full time status and to allow EMS to advertise statewide with amount not to exceed \$960.80. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to allow the Montcalm County Jail to enter into a contract with Justice Benefits Inc. to calculate and submit a billing to the Federal Government to recover all benefits due to Montcalm County for housing of foreign born prisoners who are eligible to allow for the appropriate signatures. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 092407 in the amount of \$307,710.28. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the September 24, 2007 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to enter into Public Hearing at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of the 5 – 10 Year Economic Plan. Motion carried.

Franz Mogdis was in attendance. He explained that this Plan has been a work in progress for the past year and this is the final step prior to submission.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with the budget adjustment for FY 2007. Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to adopt the proposed budget amendments as presented by the

Controller/Administrator and also to allow the Controller/Administrator to adjust lines as needed without charging the total expenditure level in each fund. Motion carried.

Commissioner Paepke opened discussion regarding employee smoking at the building entrances. He feels it is very detrimental to employee's health as the smoke seeps into MSU extension. He stated that one woman walked through the smoke at the east entrance and had to sit down because the smoke effected her so much. He feels that something needs to be done. Either there needs to be a distance requirement or smoking on county property must be eliminated.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to refer the issue of setting the distance of smoking from the entrances to county buildings to the Health and Human Services Committee. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer read a letter of resignation from Diane Murray, Commission on Aging Director. Ms. Murray is asking the board to immediately release her from her position and forego the 30 day notice requirement in her contract.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to accept the resignation of the Commission on Aging Director. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Petersen, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Caris, McCrackin and Walker. Nays: Commissioner Carr. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to close the public hearing on the 5 -10 Year Economic Plan at 1:41 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to adopt the CDBG Grant Application and allow the Controller to draft **RESOLUTION 2007-19** for the 5 – 10 year Economic Plan.

The board recessed at 1:42 p.m.

The board reconvened at 1:51 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to enter into Public Hearing at 1:51 p.m. for the purpose of the FY '08 Budget. Motion carried.

A letter from the POAM, Montcalm Chapter, was given to each Commissioner supporting Sheriff Barnwell's request to reinstate the deputy positions lost in 2002. Mike Williams, Vice-President of the POAM, addressed the board regarding the proposed budget and the board's denial to reinstate the deputy positions that were eliminated. He stated that the Sheriff has generated over \$1.7 million worth of revenue since 2002.

Mr. Williams read from a 2005 Daily News article which stated that the county's auditor advised the board that the desired range for fund balance is 10-15% of expenditures. By reinstating the officers lost the county's fund balance would only decrease from 16.9% to 16%, which is still over the recommended range that the county should have on hand. Mr. Williams stated that there is no financial reason to keep fund balance over the recommended range. He does not feel the board is making public safety a priority.

Sheriff Barnwell addressed the board and stated that it is his obligation to try to restore the positions back to the level they were at in 2002. He stated that one of the positions was restored last year and this year he is requesting that the other 2 positions be restored. In hopes of restoring these positions, Sheriff Barnwell stated that he came up with the idea to generate more revenue by renovating the jail and taking in more lodgers. The projection for FY 08 is \$600,000 in revenues for housing out of county inmates. He stated that the jail has shown a consistent pattern of generating revenue to support the additional officers.

Sheriff Barnwell asked the board to rethink their budget decisions and priorities. As a compromise, he stated that he would even be happy if the board would reinstate the positions effective January 1, 2008.

Rich Waite, President of the POAM, addressed the board and stated that the POAM is here in support of the Sheriff, as well as the citizens of the county. He informed the board that people have to wait 30 – 60 minutes for a police report and the citizens of this county deserve better than that.

Les Lillie, Eureka Township Supervisor, addressed the board asked if there is anything in the budget for the county wide transit proposal. Commissioner Petersen stated that there was not additional money allocated for county wide transit. The sub-committee continues to meet but he does not see anything happening this year.

Chairman Carr commended Commissioner Caris and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget. He stated this was one of the toughest budgets the Finance Committee has had to deal with in many years.

Chairman Carr addressed the audience members and informed them that 56% of the capital expenditures in the FY '08 budget are going to the Sheriff Department. He explained that the Finance Committee did not give the Sheriff's request an absolute no, instead it was a "we'll look at it again in January." The board is taking a conservative approach so that the positions we currently have can be maintained and if all goes well, hopefully we can put more deputies back on the road.

Chris Hyzer provided the board with a budget summary. He went over the highlights of the FY 08 budget and informed the board that FY 08 would start with a fund balance of 14%.

Commissioner Johansen informed the board that he just came from the Legislative Luncheon and learned that just the issue of the Child Care Fund could be a \$300,000 hit to the General Fund if the state shuts down. While he would like to make a motion to put two more officers on the road, he can't in good conscience do that. He cautioned Mr. Williams that he needs to be careful when mixing the General Fund revenue and expenditures with Enterprise Funds. Mr. Johansen stated he is more worried about 2009 than he even is for 2008.

Commissioner Retzloff informed the audience that Judge Simon came before the Finance Committee today and informed them that the county is taking a \$114,000 hit in the Child Care Fund and he is asking for another \$115,000 in next years budget already. He would rather see the board be cautious than to put deputies on and then have to lay them off.

Commissioner Paepke stated that the board is very proud of the departments in Montcalm County and was very proud of the way the departments handled the cuts in 2002. He also stated that he is very proud of this county for not ending up in the financial position that a neighboring county is in right now.

Chairman Carr stated that he appreciates the Sheriff Department doing what they can to generate revenues. However, not every office can raise revenue. He cautioned them not to tie bar revenue to expenditure because the expenses for the Sheriff Department and the Jail far outweigh the revenue that is being generated. He asked them to be patient with the board as they work through the end of the calendar year. The reinstatement of two positions will be reevaluated by the finance committee after the first of the year.

Discussion took place Emergency Manager position and where it will fall in the Organizational Chart. Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen that the Emergency Manager position, that begins 11/1/07, will report to the Health and Human Services Committee. Motion carried.

The Finance and Personnel Committee will make the determination on where the position will be located.

Mike Williams addressed the board again. He stated that the board's lack of action today speaks volumes about their lack of support for road patrol and public safety.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to close the public hearing at 2:26 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2007-18 BUDGET RESOLUTION – GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.** Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Commissioner Paepke passed out tourism booklets on Sault Ste. Marie, Canada to the board. He stated that Canada uses different methods of advertising and they seem to be successful. He has committee members going through the booklets to see if there are a ways to change what we are doing. He stated that very little is printed about Montcalm County.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to adjourn at 2:34 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman