

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 5, 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 Petersen, Retzloff, Johansen, Paepke, Baker, Carr, Caris and McCrackin. Members absent at roll call: Commissioner Walker.

Others present: Kristen Millard, Roberta Murray, Ryan Jeltrema and Chris Hyzer.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve the October 22, 2007, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen 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 5 and move stated action:

Motor Vehicle Accident Comm.	October 22, 2007 minutes	Place on file
Controller	West Mich. Strategic Alliance Letter	Place on file
County Clerk	Resolution 2007-19	Place on file
County Clerk	Resolution 2007-20	Place on file
Controller	Outpatient Treatment Services Agreement	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Paepke, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the October 4, 2007 Solid Waste Management Planning Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to revise the sale price for the Edmore Ambulance Base to \$52,500. Motion carried with Commissioner Retzloff voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the November 5, 2007 Economic Development and Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Petersen to place the Emergency Manager's office in the old Operation Manager's office. Motion carried with Commissioner Caris voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to transfer up to \$1,500 from Forfeited Spayed/Neuter line item (70-277000) to Vehicle Repair line item (14302-932000-AC203) to outfit the car for use for the census taker. Motion carried with Commissioner Petersen voting no.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the snow plowing bid for the 2007-2008 season with Moore's Landscaping. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to allow the Prosecuting Attorney to post the position of the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney I with PAAM. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 110507 in the amount of \$186,346.18. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Baker to place the November 5, 2007 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard informed the board that Jan Wyckoff's position on the Jury Board has expired. Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to re-appoint Jan Wyckoff to the Montcalm County Jury Board for a 6 year term, term expiring in April 2014. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer presented the board with a proposed Resolution commending Jerry McCoy for recently being selected as Professional Emergency Manager of the Year.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Petersen to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2007-21:**

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy faithfully serves as the Montcalm County Emergency Manager; and

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy's passion and dedication for Emergency Management is well known in the community; and

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy is a strong advocate for fostering effective working relationship with Emergency Management Personnel and preparing them for potential major events; and

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy is a leader among his peers by serving as the vice-president of the Region IV Board; and

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy demonstrates a willingness to assist other jurisdictions with emergency management; and

WHEREAS, Jerry McCoy was recently selected as the Professional Emergency Manager of the Year by Michigan State Police.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners commends Jerry McCoy for his honors and thanks him for his service to Montcalm County and to the State of Michigan.

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzliff, supported by Commissioner Petersen to enter into Public Hearing at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of the CDBG funding. Motion carried.

Marilyn Smith was in attendance and explained how the allocated funds would be used.

At 1:45 p.m. Sheriff Bill Barnwell and Undersheriff Bill Burden were in attendance to discuss re-establishing a Sheriff sub-station in Howard City. Sheriff Barnwell informed the board that originally he had two possible locations for the sub-station. Reynolds Township has offered the use of their building at no charge, but there is currently not a garage for the vehicle. The Village of Howard City has also offered their building and garage, but it would cost \$350 to set the office up and \$30 per month for the phone bill. The Sheriff has decided to accept the Township location for use as a sub-station.

Chairman Carr stated his concern with establishing a sub-station in Howard City when many townships within the county have had to sign contracts with the Sheriff's Department for dedicated police coverage. He asked Sheriff Barnwell to give him a response to give to those townships that have entered into

contracts with the Sheriff's Department for police coverage. Why do they have to pay for dedicated coverage when Reynolds Township will be getting coverage for free? Sheriff Barnwell stated that he is not offering Reynolds Township dedicated patrols. He is merely providing a starting and stopping point for his officers. Three officers will be assigned to the Howard City sub-station. They will begin and end their shifts there and be allowed to use an office to write their reports. However, just because there is a sub-station in Howard City, it does not mean that officers will be dedicated to that area. They will leave the area as needed. He stated he is merely offering better managed coverage.

Sheriff Barnwell stated that he has heard complaints out of the panhandle area for years on the lack of police presence. He feels those complaints are valid and the use of a sub-station is a better way to deploy patrols. He stated that there are four to six townships that can be serviced better by utilizing a sub-station. Sheriff Barnwell stated that this is an operational decision and since he will be able to establish the sub-station and operate it for free, the board does not have a say in the decision to establish the sub-station.

The Sheriff was asked if Eureka Township offers the Sheriff a location to deploy officers if he would be willing to do that. The Sheriff stated that he is giving those townships with contracts a higher level of service than he can by just running a sub-station without a police coverage contract. He is not getting extra people, he is just utilizing a better way to deploy the officers he has. He stated that the Townships like the dedicated patrols that they get with their contracts and he does not feel this arrangement will impede the current contracts.

Chairman Carr stated that he feels this is an issue of consistency with other townships. He is also concerned with moving toward a de-centralized system since the County just moved the ambulances from sub-stations to a central location because the Ambulance Director informed the board that sub-stations didn't work. Sheriff Barnwell stated that the Ambulance Department is very different from the Sheriff's Department and he is sure the sub-station will work out favorably.

The Sheriff stated that since there is not a garage at the Reynolds Township location available the officers will take their vehicles home and will report to the sub-station from there. He currently has three officers that live in that area of the county and they will be the ones assigned to the sub-station. It is possible he will have to pull an officer from another area of the county to cover the sub-station occasionally.

Commissioner Petersen commended the Sheriff's efforts. He feels that if the county were in a better financial position this would be an option that could be utilized throughout the county.

Commissioner Baker stated that he feels that an officer starting out their shift in Howard City is more productive. He feels the panhandle is left out and he feels the Sheriff is doing a good job utilizing the staff he has.

Commissioner Caris encouraged the Sheriff to establish the sub-station on a 6 month trial basis if he expects the board to help him in the future should he encounter any problems with the sub-station.

Chairman Carr asked at what point the board is involved with the decision making on the sub-station. He stated that if officers must travel from one side of the county to the other to cover the sub-station, and additional fuel is used, it has just become a money issue and he will expect to see the Sheriff back in front of the board for use of those funds.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Johansen to close the Public Hearing at 2:06 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzlaff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve and adopt
RESOLUTION 2007-22 COUNTY ALLOCATION CDBG FUNDS:

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

WHEREAS, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners recommends that Montcalm County continues to make applications for county allocation funds for housing rehabilitation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners is requesting the application not to exceed \$300,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners authorizes Marilyn Smith to prepare the application for funding through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Housing Resource Fund.

Public comments were offered and none were given.

Moved by Commissioner Petersen, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to adjourn at 2:08 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman