

MONTCALM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Monday, December 15, 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 from the Crystal Community Assembly of God offered invocation.

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

Others present: Chris Hyzer, Nan Hagerman, Michael Urbanski, Jeanne Urbanski, Mary Ellen Snyder, Rhonda Waldorf, Beth Wellma, Steffhanie Stoll, Sandra L. Carlton, Susan Farrell, Gisela Peek, Chris Heyboer, Ronald Blanding, and Ryan Jeltema.

Moved by Commissioner McCrackin, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the December 1, 2008, regular meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Gisela Peek addressed the board asking them to consider not using R&R Research. She wants the Board to boycott the open house offered by R&R Research tomorrow.

Susan Farrell addressed the board regarding R&R Research. She stated that she is a resident of Montcalm County and a business owner, therefore it was a hardship for her to attend today's meeting. She asked the board to not renew their contract with R&R Research.

Mike Urbanski addressed the board and stated that he understands there has been many items of correspondence sent to the board over the contract with R&R Research. He wants the board to know that he has no control over this. He hears this issue is happening all over the nation.

Mary Ellen Snyder, Safe Haven Humane Society, addressed the board regarding the number of low income families Safe Haven has been able to help with the costs of spade and neutering their animals. She estimates 70 to 80 surgeries are performed a month. This costs Safe Haven \$1,600 to \$2,000 a month. They operate on donations and have heard that the donations from some sponsors may stop if the county continues their contract with R&R research.

Chris Heyboer addressed the board regarding the County's contract with R&R Research. She stated that the board's continued use of R&R is a put down to her.

Sandy Carlton addressed the board and asked them to seriously consider not attending the open house at R&R Research. She feels it is a conflict also for board members to attend. She asked the board to not renew their contract with R&R Research.

Beth Wellma addressed the board and stated that she is pleased to see all the good changes happening at the Animal Shelter. She asked the board not to sign another contract with R&R Research.

Rhonda Waldorf addressed the board regarding the upcoming R&R Research contract. She is glad to see all the positive things happening at the shelter.

Correspondence was received from the WMRPC regarding a Wastewater System Improvement project in the Village of Edmore. Comments are due to the WMRPC by December 30, 2008. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the correspondence from WMRPC on file. Motion carried.

A proposed Resolution for the Krampe Park Grant was received. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Johansen to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-21:**

“RESOLVED, that the County of Montcalm, Michigan does hereby accept the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and that the County of Montcalm does hereby specifically agree, but no by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide thirteen thousand nine hundred fifty (\$13,950) dollars to match the grant authorized by the DEPARTMENT.
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available to the DEPARTMENT for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of said Agreement.
4. To regulate the use of the facility constructed and reserved under this Agreement to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said Agreement including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of the Resolution.”

Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer presented the board with a Resolution approving a 12 year time extension for Sietsema Farms. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve and adopt **RESOLUTION 2008-22:**

Whereas, the Howard City/Pierson Township Subzone is currently designated as a Renaissance Zone pursuant to Public Act 376 of 1996, and;

Whereas, this Renaissance Zone subzone is slated to expire in 2011, and;

Whereas, the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act, 1996 PA 376, has been amended by 2006 PA 440 to permit extending the duration of time for one or more portions of a Renaissance Zone;

Whereas, Sietsema Farms Feed, a Michigan-based company, intends to purchase/develop approximately 21.2 acres of land in the Township of Pierson Subzone, and;

Whereas, Sietsema Farms Feeds. has requested that the Renaissance Zone on its proposed property/location be extended in duration by an additional 12 years, so that the new expiration date would be 2023, and;

Whereas, the extension of the Renaissance Zone duration on Sietsema Farms Feeds property is necessary to increase economic development, and expand business and employment opportunities in Pierson Township and the Howard City area and the surrounding communities for years to come, and;

Whereas, the County of Montcalm and the Township of Pierson are the “qualified local governmental units” that originally applied for the Pierson Township Subzone designation, and;

Whereas, the County of Montcalm supports applying for a 12 year time extension for 21.2 acres of property that Sietsema Farms Feeds intends to or has purchased in the Pierson Township Subzone.

Parcel #59-015-002-001-40

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the land described by the legal description shall be granted a Renaissance Zone time extension with various state, local and county taxes being waived on the property for a period of 15 years beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2023.

Motion carried.

The Great Start Collaborative sent correspondence requesting that a county commissioner be appointed to their board. Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to appoint John Johansen to the Great Start Collaborative. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to approve consent agenda items 5 through 8 and move stated action:

Scott Minard	Dodge Report, November 2008	Place on file
Controller	Employment Agreement, Richard Kerr	Place on file
Controller	Collective Bargaining Minutes, November 21, 2008	Place on file
Controller	Transfer of Ownership from WMSRDC	Place on file

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to have the grant administrator sign the 2009 Grant application for remonumentation. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner, Johansen, supported by Commissioner Walker to have legal counsel review the proposed articles of incorporation , by laws, and resolution for forming a county-wide transit authority. Moved by Lindeman, supported by Caris to table any action on this motion until the first regular board meeting in January. Roll call vote: Ayes: Commissioners Walker, Retzloff, Johansen, Carr, and Caris. Nays: Commissioners Paepke, Baker, McCrackin and Walker. Motion Carried.

Moved by Commissioner Johansen, supported by Commissioner Lindeman to place the December 15, 2008, Economic Development & Physical Resources Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Retzloff to allow the Controller to purchase a Cannon DR-5010C Scanner with a price not to exceed \$2,900.00 and make the following budget adjustment to pay for the purchase of the new scanner.

Decrease	11722-900000	Advertising	\$250.00
Decrease	11722-801000	Consultants	\$500.00
Decrease	11722-933000	Office Equipment Repair	\$400.00
Decrease	11722-809000	Dues and Subscriptions	\$250.00
Decrease	12282-801000	Consultants	\$1500.00
Increase	19043-999000	Transfer to Other Funds	\$2900.00
Increase	44669-699000	Transfer from Other Funds	\$2900.00
Increase	441723-980001	Office Equipment	\$2900.00

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to approve warrant number 121508 in the amount of \$140,179.71. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Caris, supported by Commissioner Paepke to place the December 15, 2008 Finance and Personnel Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that Judge Miel will be performing a swearing in ceremony on December 23, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. for anyone interested in attending. The ceremony will take place in the Circuit Courtroom.

Chris Hyzer informed the board that the service award banquet has been scheduled for noon on January 22, 2009, at Maxfields Restaurant.

Moved by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Paepke to approve the amended and restated pension plan document, as presented, and allow for proper signatures. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Retzloff, supported by Paepke to place the December 15, 2008, Pension Trust Committee minutes on file. Motion carried.

Public comments were offered. Jeanne Urbanski asked the board to do the right thing when making their decision on the contract with R&R Research.

Beth Wellma asked the board not to attend the open house offered by R&R Research.

Moved by Commissioner Walker, supported by Commissioner McCrackin to adjourn at 1:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Kristen Millard, County Clerk

Patrick Q. Carr, Chairman