

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker (late), Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Bennett – 7. Absent – 0. Also present were David Twa, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Bennett requested a Moment of Silence for the victims of the incident at Virginia Tech yesterday.

#### AGENDA

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Agenda of the April 17, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 6. Nays – 0.

#### MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Minutes of the April 10, 2007 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Commissioner Carter requested the Minutes be amended to remove a duplicate of page five and that on page 7, in the report about juvenile detention alternatives, the third sentence should read "All intend to support the mission, guiding principles and purpose of detention statement, focused on reducing the inappropriate use of detention and the disproportionate representation of youth of color."

The amendments were accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0.

#### TOUR OF UNION DEPOT CONCOURSE

Chair Bennett said the County Board meeting started one hour later than usual so the Commissioners could attend a tour of the Union Depot Concourse.

Commissioner Ortega said about one month ago, a tour of the Union Depot Concourse was provided for the Legislators. The St. Paul Chamber of Commerce requested a subsequent tour. People representing the Chamber and some suburban Legislators attended this tour. All present spoke enthusiastically about the Union Depot and what it means to the East Metro Region. There were opportunities to speak with the Chamber members about the Concourse, which is the heart of the transit system in this regional area, and about how critical it is. This is a beautiful, historical building that "sells" itself. The function this building will provide in the future for our cities, the County and the East Metro, is huge.

#### BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – National Volunteer Week

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Chair Bennett said the resolution declares the week of April 15-21, 2007, as Volunteer Week in Ramsey County. On behalf of the County Board, he thanked all the volunteers who spend many hours on the many varied projects.

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Cory Hinz, Recreation Services Program Assistant, representing the Volunteer Coordinating Council, said that 2006 was a spectacular year for volunteers in Ramsey County. There are wonderful coordinators and leaders. The program has grown from seven to nine different departments. There has been a significant increase in volunteer hours, and a major increase in the number of volunteers in Ramsey County.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the number of volunteers is close to 4000, and covers all facets of the County's work.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-148)

WHEREAS, April 15-21, 2007, has been named National Volunteer Week; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners realizes the significant role that volunteers play in providing services to citizens and saving tax dollars, and appreciates the work that volunteers provide; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby declares the week of April 15-21, 2007, as Volunteer Week in Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby thanks all its volunteers for the vital role they play in providing services to Ramsey County citizens; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board hereby accepts the 2006 Report on Volunteerism in Ramsey County, as prepared by the Volunteer Coordinating Council.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Agreement with Twin Cities RISE!**

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-149)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections Department has had the advantage of working with the Twin Cities Rise! program for the last 18 months as part of the Bush Foundation Grant; and

WHEREAS, In order to continue to meet the need and the service they have been providing to our inmate population, Ramsey County Correctional Facility will enter into an Agreement for Services with Twin Cities Rise!; and

WHEREAS, Contractor will provide "Empowerment" classes for up to 24 inmates; "Individual Coaching" sessions for up to 24 inmates; access to the "Core Program" in Minneapolis or St Paul; access to the community transition and job search center upon their release; support for up to one year after release to inmates from RCCF who have completed the "Empowerment" program and are enrolled in the Awali Place East program; documentation on participants and outcomes as agreed on with RCCF in the outcome indicators; and

WHEREAS, The County will pay the Contractor \$40,000; payment will be 11 monthly payments of \$3,333.33 and one payment in December 2007 of \$3,333.37. The funding source is a trust fund from the Ramsey County Correctional Facility canteen funds; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an Agreement with Twin Cities RISE!, 800 Washington Ave. North, Minneapolis, MN 55401, for the period of March 1, 2007 through February 28, 2008, in the amount not to exceed \$40,000; payable in 11 monthly payments of \$3,333.33 beginning in March 2007, and one payment in February 2008 of \$3,333.37, to provide empowerment classes to inmates at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility and access to community programs after their release; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute any necessary amendments to the Agreement, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make any necessary budget adjustments.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Agreement with the Council on Crime and Justice

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-150)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections is requesting a contract with the Council on Crime and Justice to partner in working with inmates at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility to provide services relating to parenting and family education. Many of our inmates are parents, however have very little information and knowledge of how to parent and the issues relating to custody, visitation, and parental rights; and

WHEREAS, Contractor will provide: Seven series of the “Families in Focus Curriculum” during the term of the agreement. Each series will be made up of 12 sessions of the “Families in Focus” parenting curriculum. Each session will be for a two-hour duration. Up to 25 inmates may participate in each session; and

WHEREAS, The County shall pay the Contractor the sum of \$25,000 for all seven series of the “Families in Focus Curriculum”. Payment will be made in eleven (11) monthly payments of \$2,083 and one (1) payment of \$2087. The funding source is a trust fund from the Ramsey County Correctional Facility canteen funds; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an Agreement with Council on Crime and Justice, a non-profit corporation, 822 South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100, Minneapolis, MN 55415, for the period of April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008, in the amount of \$25,000; payable in 11 monthly payments of \$2,083 and one payment of \$2,087, to provide “Families in Focus Curriculum” to inmates at the Ramsey County Correctional Facility; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute any necessary amendments to the Agreement, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make any necessary budget adjustments.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Renewal of Volunteers of America Building Lease for Woodview Detention Center

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-151)

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Volunteers of America Regional Corrections Center for Women is to provide up to 50 beds for the secure custody, supervision and a variety of programming options to adult women who are under sentence by the Ramsey County Court; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is the owner of the Woodview Detention Center, which is being used by the Volunteers of America for the Regional Corrections Center for Women; and

WHEREAS, The existing lease for the rental of the Woodview Detention Center from Ramsey County to the volunteers of America expired December 31, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the Volunteers of America mutually desire to continue the existing rental relationship; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Sixth Amendment to the Lease with the Volunteers of America of Minnesota, 1771 Kent Street, Roseville, MN 55113, for their rental of the Woodview Detention Center from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2008, at an annual rate of \$150,000, to be paid monthly at a rate of \$12,500; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Sixth Amendment to the Lease for the Woodview Detention Center on behalf of Ramsey County.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Ramsey County Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project: Phase II Design/Build Services

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-152)

WHEREAS, On December 20, 2005, the County Board approved the 2006-2011 Capital Improvement Plan and the 2006 Capital Improvement Program Budget, including funding for the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project in the amounts of \$4,200,000, \$10,700,000, and \$2,933,460, for 2006, 2007, and 2008 respectively; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, On May 16, 2006, the County Board accepted and approved the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project Preliminary Schedule and Estimated budget and Financing Plan and authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals for a Design/Build team for the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, On July 18, 2006, the County Board approved a contract with M. A. Mortenson Company for Phase I Design/Build services for the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project; and

WHEREAS, M.A. Mortenson Company has submitted a Guaranteed Maximum Price (“GMP”) of \$16,842,060 for the Project that is within the Project budget; and

WHEREAS, Based on a review of the Design Development documents and drawings, the design prepared by the Mortenson Design/Build Team meets the immediate and mid-term functional needs of the facility; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a Phase II agreement with M. A. Mortenson Construction Company, 700 Meadow Lane North, Minneapolis, Minnesota, with a Project Gross Maximum Price of \$16,842,060 for the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Phase II agreement, subject to final approval by Community Corrections, Property Management, Budgeting and Accounting, and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to execute agreements up to \$35,000 each for ancillary professional services required for the completion of the Correctional Facility Renovation and Expansion Project within the limit of the funds available; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary payments, budget adjustments, and execute change orders and amendments to the agreements provided the cost is within the project budget.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Project Labor Agreement for Ramsey County Correctional Facility Expansion and Renovation Project

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-153)

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2002-351, the Ramsey County Board adopted a policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements (“PLA”), with the direction to staff to return in a workshop format at a future date to determine the final criteria for use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of Project Labor Agreements; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The policy requires a department to request input from parties likely to be interested in the project regarding use of a PLA; and

WHEREAS, Community Corrections and Property Management departments are planning a project to expand and renovate the Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, The department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The only response received was from the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council; and

WHEREAS, The response recommended use of a Project Labor Agreement and stated as reasons: “We believe that this project meets the bar for approval. Size of project and completion on time is a consideration. Also multi-craft, life safety issues, and community security are a consideration.”; and

WHEREAS, Based upon the only response received, Property Management and Corrections concur with the recommendation of the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades council and recommend the use of a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The County Board has taken all of the project factors and recommendations into account; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That a Project Labor Agreement be used on the Correctional Facility Expansion and Renovation project.

**COUNTY MANAGER – Cancellation of Board Meeting**

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Carter, Bennett – 6. Nays – 1 (Rettman). (2007-154)

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, May 15, 2007, several Ramsey County Board members will be attending County Board-related meetings in various parts of the Country; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Home Rule Charter states that the Ramsey County Board must meet at least two times per month, and meetings are scheduled for May 1, May 8 and May 22, 2007; and

WHEREAS, It is therefore requested that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners cancel the Board Meeting of May 15, 2007; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby cancels the May 15, 2007 Ramsey County Board Meeting.

**COUNTY MANAGER – Ramsey County Goals and Critical Success Indicators**

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

***(Continued)***

Commissioner Rettman suggested a change on line 47 of the draft resolution under Critical Success Indicators: “The public is able to access County information and services through a variety of means including mail, telephone, in-person and transact business electronically.”

Maker and seconder accepted the amendment as friendly.

Commissioner Parker said a member of the Ramsey County Library Board of Trustees brought to her attention that libraries are not specifically mentioned in the Goals, which seemed to be an oversight. She said libraries do fit in a variety of the goals; and adding them to the document would strengthen it. She referred to line 76 of the resolution: “Goal: Proactively deliver services that improve the quality of life for children and families, and individuals with special needs.” She said libraries improve the quality of life for all residents of the community, and suggested the following sentence be listed as an additional bullet under the critical success indicators of this goal: “The Ramsey County Libraries continue to be accessible and serve all residents of the County.”

Maker and seconder of the motion accepted the amendment as friendly.

Roll Call on the resolution as amended: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Bennett – 7. Nays – 0. (2007-155)

WHEREAS, On February 13, 2007, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners held a Strategy Session to review the Ramsey County Mission (Mission, Values Statement, Operating Principles), Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, The Board retained the Ramsey County Mission in its original form but developed a revised set of Ramsey County Goals; and

WHEREAS, On February 20 and March 19, 2007, the County Manager and department heads met to develop Critical Success Indicators for each of the Ramsey County Goals that indicate what life in Ramsey County will look like 3-5 years from now if the County is successful in moving toward these Goals; and

WHEREAS, Departments will report performance measures under the Critical Success Indicators in the County budget; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the following Ramsey County Goals:

**Goal:** Be a leader in financial and operational management.

**Goal:** Promote multi-modal transit and transportation solutions that effectively serve our citizens.

**Goal:** Prevent crime and improve public safety.

**Goal:** Be a leader in responding to the changing demographics in Ramsey County.

**Goal:** Proactively deliver services that improve the quality of life for children and families, and individuals with special needs.

**Goal:** Protect our natural resources and the quality of our environment.

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the following list of Ramsey County Critical Success Indicators pertaining to each of the Ramsey County Goals:

**Goal:** Be a leader in financial and operational management.

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Critical Success Indicators:

- All County resources are professionally and effectively managed (finances, capital assets, staff, technology).
- Business support services enable the effective and efficient delivery of high quality county services.
- Information (for internal and external use) is accurate, available, and protected and makes use of technological advances.
- Facilities are functional, safe, and accessible.
- The public is able to access County information and services through a variety of means, including mail, telephone and in person, and also transact business electronically.
- Effective partnerships with public and private systems result in improved benefit to the community.

**Goal: Promote multi-modal transit and transportation solutions that effectively serve our citizens.**

Critical Success Indicator:

- A variety of safe and effective transportation options benefit the community.

**Goal: Prevent crime and improve public safety.**

Critical Success Indicators:

- The response to criminal behavior is effective.
- Prevention strategies are effective in reducing criminal behavior.
- The County is prepared for emergencies and responds effectively.
- Vulnerable children and adults are safe.
- Over-representation of people of color in the criminal justice system is reduced.

**Goal: Be a leader in responding to the changing demographics in Ramsey County.**

Critical Success Indicators:

- Disparities in access and outcomes for diverse populations are reduced.
- Services are culturally sensitive and responsive to diverse populations.
- County services adapt to meet the needs of the aging population.
- Staff reflect the demographics of the working age population of the County.

**Goal: Proactively deliver services that improve the quality of life for children and families, and individuals with special needs.**

Critical Success Indicators:

- The basic needs (food, shelter, health care) of residents are met.
- Residents with special needs are healthy and safe in the community.
- Cultural and recreational services are accessible and available.
- Partnerships increase the number of children who go to school ready to learn.
- The Ramsey County Libraries continue to be accessible and serve all residents of the County.

**Goal: Protect our natural resources and the quality of our environment.**

(Continued)

Critical Success Indicators:

- Services that support environmental stewardship are provided for residents and property owners.
- Natural resources are managed to sustain and enhance the environment.
- Policies and practices reflect sound environmental principles.
- The impact of waste on the environment is minimized.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH – Mothers First

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Commissioner Rettman said the Mothers First program seems to be working. She referred to line 16 of the draft resolution “WHEREAS, This grant will enable 80 additional families to be served and to reduce the levy support of the current program by \$265,000”. Does that mean if this is supported, would there be a corresponding budget authority reduction to spend that and the \$265,000 would no longer be available in Human Services?

Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services, said during the course of the year, the Department gets lots of surprises in the budget, usually they are on the negative side, sometimes they are on the positive side. The intent is to use the money to fill a hole in the Department’s budget for sex offender hold costs, where they are under-budgeted because it had not been budgeted. The amount will be at least \$400,000, and perhaps as much as \$600,000 for the hold of sex offenders awaiting commitment proceedings. That was a bill the State sends to the County that has never been budgeted for.

Commissioner Rettman cited the Executive Summary -- 100% was levied at \$565,000 in 2007 for Mothers First. If there is a reduction, there should be a corresponding reduction of the levy – if the State says there would be a reduction of \$265,000 because it came through with the money. She would not be in support of making that nexus in saying the Department has other holes to fill because it doesn’t decrease the levy.

Mr. Martin said he understands the concern. The Department’s perspective is that during the year whenever they have holes to fill with new expenditures they don’t anticipate, they don’t bring those to the Board because the direction from the County Manager and Budgeting and Accounting is the Department should try to find money to cover those items. At the end of the year, if the Department is short (and fortunately, they haven’t been short on the expenditure side for at least the past five years) they have to come in to request money. Their ability to cover holes is because they have other parts in the budget where they don’t spend as much levy dollars as anticipated.

David Twa, County Manager, said when we “settle up” at the end of the year on the budgets, particularly if they are over in some areas and under in others, as long as it is within the entire budget authority given to the Departments, they make those adjustments internally. The Board sees those reports as part of the final settlement of the budget. That was the intent here, although it showed reducing the levy support for this program, those dollars would remain in the budget, and if in fact, dollars are needed to settle-up some areas – in Human Services, there are a number of programs in which the County has very little ability to control the costs directly. They try to do their best to project what those costs would be, but sometimes it can be more.

Commissioner McDonough pointed out that those levy dollars would not go to any expenditures not approved by the County Board, especially in Human Services, what is provided is demand-driven.

Commissioner Rettman said she is trying to change the paradigm about what consistently happens. A majority of the County Board, in voting for the budget, increased the levy for Human

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Services specifically for those types of things. Consistently, if we make a reduction, it doesn't mean that the spending authority of the Department has been modified. She is trying to get at that we continue to edge up, not saying if we do get that, we can reconsider whether or not that dollar amount should be going there. That is what she is trying to change; otherwise it is paradoxical.

Commissioner Reinhardt said this is not finding money. The County works hard to make a case at the Legislature, and staff works hard to try to cover all the needs and to access funds wherever they are available. The County Board appreciates that staff tries to go to every source possible before coming to the levy. Part of the cuts from the Budget Reconciliation Act were at the federal level, but in fact, we didn't come close to filling that hole. Part of the cut was covered, which was close to \$4 million.

Mr. Martin said the exception would be that for the first three years on Mothers First, the County had been getting State dollars for the program. The State announced that the County would no longer get funding. The Department felt that was an important program, and reordered priorities in the Department and reduced other services in order to continue Mothers First. Then, when the Department presented its 2007 budget to the Board, the Board increased the levy to cover some of the loss already referred to. Mothers First had already been paid for by the Department having cut other services, rather than by an additional levy.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that is important – it wasn't an increase via levy; in fact, it was covering the much larger cut.

Commissioner Rettman said from her vantage point, the County went to the Legislature – they heard the call and she felt there should be a corresponding levy reduction to say this is what the Legislature did. It had always been federally or state funded. There will never be enough money in this world.

Commissioner Parker said she understands both sides of this. Commissioner Rettman sees this as money the County hadn't anticipated and, therefore, there should be that much money available to spend. She also understands that the County doesn't do that every time there are shifts because there are many of those that occur during the year. She suggested that Mr. Martin return to the Board detailing how that \$265,000 is going to be allocated and why it went to the programs chosen by the Department.

Commissioner Carter said this is a different source of funds than were talked about at the Legislature; this is coming from the Department of Human Services. As we spoke then and today to the Legislature about the impact of cuts on services, we have been discussing what happens should we get additional dollars through the Legislature, and our desire and commitment is to look back at ways in which, because those dollars are covered, we can then cut the levy. This, however, is not directly related to that commitment. These are dollars that have been applied for from the Department of Human Services and we were not committing to make cuts as a result of that grant. She appreciated what Commissioner Rettman has said, but she wanted to make clear where these dollars are coming from. It would be a good idea to hear specifically where the dollars saved would go.

Mr. Martin said he would like to use the dollars to reinstate cuts, but the Department doesn't have the money to do that. There are a lot of areas under-funded in the Department. One that is very significant that they did not request more money for 2007 is the commitment holds for sex offenders being held for commitment proceedings. The County has to pay 10% after they are committed, but about two years ago, the Legislature decided not to appropriate money for the actual cost while the commitment process is going forward. And, the numbers blossomed very significantly, going from almost none to 10-12 being held at once. They are expensive holds. The

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County has to pay 100% if someone is in a sex offender hold until their commitment process runs through. For that account, the Department is short more than \$400,000 for 2007, and that is the line that he would draw to use this one.

Commissioner Parker said that explanation is satisfactory to her, and she understands that is something the County has no choice but to pay.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Carter, Bennett – 6. Nays – 1 – Rettman. (2007-156)

WHEREAS, In 1999, the Minnesota legislature mandated that counties provide an assessment and appropriate services to children who were reported subject to prenatal exposure to alcohol abuse; and

WHEREAS, Through 2006, the majority of the funding came from state and federal sources; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, the entire program has been funded by local levy; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services has offered a grant that will enable Ramsey County to finance 47% of the current program and expand services to an additional group of families; and

WHEREAS, This grant will enable 80 additional families to be served and to reduce the levy support of the current program by \$265,000; and

WHEREAS, In order to fully implement the grant program the Community Human Services Department requests:

- to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the St. Paul/Ramsey County Public Health Department for nursing services as part of the Recovery Support Program,
- to enter into an agreement with the Wilder Child Guidance Clinic for Parenting Education and Children's Programming as part of the Recovery Support Program,
- to enter into an agreement with Wilder Research for evaluation of the Recovery Support Program, and
- to enter into a lease agreement with Community Action Partnership for additional office space at the Bigelow Building; and
- an increase of 3.0 Social Worker II starred positions,

WHEREAS, In order to implement the needed nursing services, the St. Paul/Ramsey County Public Health Department requests an increase of 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse starred position; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Recovery Support Program Grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services in the amount of \$854,682 for the period April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves an increase in the complement of the Community Human Services Department of 3.0 FTE Social Worker III starred positions; and Be It Further

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RESOLVED, The Board authorizes an increase in the complement of the Public Health Department of 1.0 FTE Public Health Nurse starred position; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the St. Paul/Ramsey County Public Health Department and the Community Human Services Department for nursing services as part of the Recovery Support Program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to enter into agreements with Wilder Child Guidance Clinic for Parenting Education and Children's Programming, in an amount not to exceed \$48,750, Wilder Research for evaluation, in an amount not to exceed \$77,699, and a lease addendum with Community Action Partnership for additional office space, at a total cost of \$7,187 through August 31, 2008, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to enter into subsequent grant renewal agreements with the State of Minnesota, and to approve budget adjustments as necessary

COUNTY MANAGER – Ramsey County Commissioners' Salary Ordinance for 2008

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Commissioner McDonough read the following statement: "I want to say thank you to all the citizens who have shared their thoughts by email, telephone calls, in person, and by writing letters. As with many policy and budget decisions this Board must make, your opinions have varied from support of, to definite opposition. Your opinions do matter and are given a great deal of consideration. The decisions we make and the votes we take can be based on emotion, political will, facts and citizens input. My experience not only as a County Commissioner, but in my personal and professional life have shown me that all these components in varying degrees are a part of the decisions we make. I am confident decisions that are made based on facts and evidence hold up to future scrutiny. The responsibility to determine and approve salaries can be emotionally charged and politically difficult."

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following ordinance and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman said that resoundingly, every person she had contact with, had asked her not to support this increase. Her vote shall be that way.

Chair Bennett said the input received from the public would be made part of the public record.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Parker, Reinhardt, Carter, Bennett – 6. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2007-157)

WHEREAS, The provisions of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter relating to compensation for the Board of Commissioners state that:

- a) The Board may determine the annual salary of its members by passage of a salary ordinance;
- b) The salary ordinance must be passed by July 1 of the year prior to the effective date of the ordinance; and
- c) The ordinance shall not become effective until the first business day of the following year (January 1, 2008); and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Charter requires that per diem payments be made to the County and that, with the exception of fees, payments and other compensation paid to an officer of the Association of Minnesota Counties, the County will not add these payments to the Commissioners' salary when payments are received from the various boards, committees and other governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, The current annual salary of the Board of Commissioners is \$63,948 for County Board Members, and \$66,097 for the County Board Chair; and

WHEREAS, The County Commissioners should be paid an equitable and fair wage for the work that they do; and

WHEREAS, An equitable and fair salary will attract high-quality individuals to run for elected office; Now, Therefore, The Board of Commissioners for the County of Ramsey Does

ORDAIN, That the annual base salary for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2008 shall increase to \$80,000 for County Board Members and to \$82,500 for the County Board Chair; and Be It Further

ORDAINED, It is the intent of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners that future salary increases for the Board of Commissioners continue to use the County's practice of determining an adjustment by between 50% and 100% of the change in the Consumer price index (CPI-U) for the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area for the most recent year for which the CPI-U information is available; and Be It Further

ORDAINED, With the exception of fees, payments and other compensation paid to an officer of the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Board voted to decline fees, payments and other compensation paid to County Board members in exchange for representing the County on outside boards, committees and other governmental agencies and any subcommittees thereof, and that any funds received by the County would remain within the County's General Fund; and Be It Further

ORDAINED, That the Commissioners are eligible to receive fees, payments and other compensation paid from the following boards, committees and other governmental agencies and any subcommittees thereof, such amounts to be remitted to County Treasury and thereafter paid to board member;

Association of Minnesota Counties (if serving as an Officer)

and Be It Further

ORDAINED, That all appointments of County Commissioners to various boards, committees and other governmental agencies shall be ratified by County Board resolution before per diem shall be paid; and Be It Further

ORDAINED, That any subsequent new appointments or changes in appointments to new or existing boards, committees or governmental agencies, and any subsequent establishment of new per diem rates or increase in current per diem rates shall be ratified by County Board resolution before per diems shall be paid; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

ORDAINED, That any increase in per diems or new per diems which are approved by the above described process, shall be included in the next annual salary ordinance, and Be It Further

ORDAINED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners shall be allowed to receive actual and necessary expenses for attendance at conferences, seminars, etc., in connection with their official County Commissioner duties as do all other Ramsey County employees; and Be It Further

ORDAINED, That unless a valid referendum petition is filed within 30 days after the publication of this ordinance, this ordinance shall:

- a) Become effective on January 1, 2008, and replace the previous salary ordinance (Ordinance 2006-215 and
- b) Continue in effect throughout calendar year 2008 and subsequent years until changed by a subsequent County Board Ordinance.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, said there has been little legislative activity this past week because the House is working on completion of its tax bills and continued hearings on individual bills. Leadership in both the House and Senate are looking at how they might pair up the bills on both sides to begin to have conference committee. The House conferees for the transportation bill have been named. The updated legislative tracking sheet has been distributed electronically. In terms of Ramsey County's bills, that has not changed much over the last week. One of the busiest areas for staff has been in the area of transportation.

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, said a transportation rally at the Capitol last week was attended by approximately 2000 people. There has been a lot of feedback on the transportation bill, with a good editorial in yesterday's paper about how the gas tax is less now than when first implemented. There is a lot of interest on what to do but the Governor appears entrenched not to increase the gas tax, especially at 10¢. There is sentiment that a lot of Republican members may come on board, and a couple Democrats would vote against it if it were reduced down to 5¢. The conference committees haven't met yet so it is not known how much they are going to be willing to come down from where they are. It is evident that the Governor would veto a lot of bills. Staff are not hopeful for a timely end to this session.

Ms. Speiker said there is talk about a special session.

An Eastern Transportation Alliance Meeting has been tentatively set for April 30 at 6:00 p.m. Final notification, with location, will be sent to all Commissioner offices and staff. This is open to the public, and notification will also be sent to the St. Paul Chamber.

Ms. Speiker said the House and Senate have set April 21 as the date for spending targets.

Chair Bennett asked about the smoking ban bill from the House.

Mr. Riley said the smoking ban has passed off the floor of the Senate but it is in the House Ways and Means Committee. One amendment to the bill allows a business to appeal to a county board, which will probably be stripped out on the floor, or at least in conference committee. It is not on the Senate side.

Chair Bennett said that provision is similar to the County's 50% restaurant/liquor factor.

Commissioner Parker had heard appeals could be to either a city council or county board.

Mr. Riley said the bill doesn't allow smoking in bars or restaurants, but it gives the owner of a facility the option to appeal for exemption, to county boards for sure, and possibly to city councils.

Commissioner Ortega asked if that appeal would be done case by case.

*(Continued)*

Chair Bennett responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman said if there were an ordinance in place, the case-by-case appeal would not be needed; it would be automatic.

Mr. Riley said this would supersede ordinances, and would be statewide.

Commissioner Rettman asked if that would be the case if a county has already adopted an ordinance.

Mr. Riley responded not unless it was stricter.

Commissioner Ortega said this is more about the fact that the legislature should decide one way or the other on the issue; it needs to be done statewide. It is ridiculous for the County Board to act as a “court of appeals” on legislation. If that is taken out, what is next?

Mr. Riley responded it would be a strict ban, statewide, with no exemptions.

Chair Bennett said follow-up is needed because the County doesn’t license liquor establishments except at the Fairgrounds and for the Town of White Bear. The question is to whom the appeal would be made.

Mr. Riley said staff would follow-up and report back to the Board on that.

Ms. Speiker said in the Senate, when things got to the floor, anything that clouded the bill was taken off.

#### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- On the first meeting of the new Joint Powers Board on Healthy Families that she attended with Rob Fulton, Director, Public Health. This group is a metro alliance of seven counties, to make sure anyone with a child is given the opportunity for access to services at hospitals, whether it be regarding drug abuse, domestic violence, etc. This is predicated on Dakota County’s concept. It is possible that the entities could be in competition for the same money for these services. Everyone on this Joint Powers Board would be getting the same data to show money is saved in the process.
- The plumbers union held their annual event, “Water’s Off”. Contractors and the union shop donate materials for this program.
- On the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Jackson Street Roundhouse she and Commissioner Reinhardt attended.

Commissioner Reinhardt said it was incredible to hear all the history and stories. Over 3000 people attended the celebration on Saturday, and at least that many on Sunday. The newspaper did a nice job of publicizing this event.

Commissioner Rettman said the resolution from the County Board was very much appreciated.

- On a Capital Region Watershed event and open house for a discussion about water quality.
- She and Commissioners Carter, Parker and Reinhardt, are involved in the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. The Head Start Agency has started a day care at the job corps site.
- On a tornado drill/triage, search and rescue, and her CERT training in Falcon Heights. Additional training is ongoing. Falcon Heights now has 80 trained volunteers for the 3000-member community, with the goal of having 500 trained individuals.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- She was at the Capitol for several hours over several days. The e-waste bill is moving forward. The timing is good with Sunday, April 22 being Earth Day. E-waste is all about the environment and electronic waste. This bill should be at the Governor's desk for signing by Earth Day. A lot of compromise has been made with the manufacturers; some who will not take any responsibility for this. The County has responsibility for the environment through solid waste.
- She participated in the AMC Board meeting, as did other Commissioners.
- On the Children's Collaborative with Commissioner Carter, where progress is being made.
- On the Eastern Transportation Alliance Meeting. Everyone seems to be on the same track in getting something done.
- 12-half days or 6-full days will be needed for the budget hearings. She asked the Commissioners to respond to her memo regarding the schedule for this two-year budget for 2008-2009.

Commissioner Parker reported:

- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mounds View Town Hall Meeting, which was well attended. The community was updated, and awards given to citizens as active volunteers in the previous year.
- At the AMC Board meeting when she reported on what is going on in Ramsey County, several people approached her regarding the Eastern Transportation Alliance to be added to the mailing list for that group. People are recognizing that this is a concern.

AMC has been talking about the State's Historical Society, which will be putting together a statewide effort for the State sesquicentennial. They would like a designated representative from each county.

David Twa, County Manager, said the Citizens League has been involved in this 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and has asked for assistance from his office, but that is up to the Commissioners.

Chair Bennett asked if someone is needed for both committees?

Mr. Twa responded affirmatively. The Citizens League is doing a survey based on what they see as issues. Dave Verhasselt, Public Communications Manager, has been working with them on that piece. They are actively involved in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as well.

Commissioner Parker requested an update at a future meeting on what the different groups are planning to do, and what Ramsey County's role would be.

Mr. Twa said that could be done.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- Many meetings she had attended have already been reported.
- The Children's Collaborative is in the process of moving forward, closely examining the manner in which it does its work. The St. Paul Children's Collaborative, Children's Mental Health and Ramsey Family Suburban Collaborative are the three main collaboratives. They are moving toward systems integration, and examining whether to continue the grant making mode, and if not, how to reinvent that work. A workshop may be held to share with all the Commissioners what that would look like by the end of 2007.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Ortega reported:

- Earlier in this meeting he provided a report on the Tour of the Union Depot Concourse by the St. Paul Chamber.

Commissioner Reinhardt said each tour seems to be attended by twice the number of people as before. People are gaining a better understanding about the Depot and its beauty, and more people will want to attend a tour.

Commissioner Carter agreed. Commissioner Ortega did a splendid job introducing those in attendance, and it was spectacular to see the doors open from the head house going into the larger part of the Depot. We are educating and unfolding for the entire community what this vision really is.

Chair Bennett echoed those comments. He believed people did not realize that with the Light Rail stopping on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, how far it is to the other end; about one and one-half blocks. If it could be down at the same level to make it seamless -- why not? Ramsey County saw that vision, and it is now being made apparent to others.

Commissioner Ortega said the Post Office has continued to do a great job in cleaning up the building, and he thanked them many times. He was told that they would have the windows uncovered for future tours.

Commissioner Parker asked if the black paint could be removed from the windows.

Commissioner McDonough thought the paint could be removed.

Commissioner Ortega said Terry Speiker had asked about the skylights.

Ms. Speiker said the tour was fun, and the Post Office staff is very much into this. They had said they would uncover the windows and look into how the paint might be removed from the skylights, which has been there since World War II.

Commissioner Reinhardt explained that the windows and skylights were painted as part of the war effort, because the Depot had been seen as a target.

Commissioner Rettman cautioned that the paint is likely lead-based.

- On meetings with the Chamber regarding Central Corridor and other ongoing discussions.
- On the Transportation Rally at the Capitol, where he spoke with Congressman Oberstar, who is not wavering in support of the Ramsey County's vision for transit and for the Union Depot.

Commissioner Parker felt that at the Rally, the message shifted in a positive way, to the importance of the economy and for jobs. The unions got that message across, loud and clear, that it is not just from the perspective of use of the roads, but that a lot of money would come into the economy as a result of this transportation funding.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner McDonough reported:

- He had attended a number of meetings – AMC, Workforce issues, transit and transportation.
- He sits on the Cost Allocation Committee for the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board, where there is good news on a proposal the Governor has proposed in his public safety budget. A lot of the regional costs Ramsey County has been costing-out per radio through users in the metropolitan area, are being proposed to be assumed and taken over by the state, which Ramsey County has been advocating for doing for a long time because this 800 MHz system is a state system. It is now in both House and Senate bills. If it passes, a lot of the costs that Ramsey County pays on a per-radio basis to the regional system that all the users in the metropolitan community pay, would go away, at least for the time being.

#### BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Bennett reported:

- He attended the AMC Board meeting.
- He attended the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board Meeting, as well as other meetings.
- On one of the events hosted by Shoreview, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year as a city, attended by about 150 people, honoring all former mayors and council members, as well as all 50-year residents.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Bennett declared the meeting adjourned.

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board