

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: - 0. Also present was Terry Speiker, Acting County Manager.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the June 17, 2008 Board Meeting, with the withdrawal of item 10.6, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner McDonough moved approval of the Minutes of the June 3, 2008 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – PY2008 Local Unified Plan, Contracts, Funding, and Program Operation Authorizations

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-202)

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota has designated Ramsey County as Workforce Service Area #15 under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (“WIA”); and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development requires local Workforce Service Areas to submit a Local Unified Plan for the WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker and the State Dislocated Worker Programs; and

WHEREAS, Both the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the local Workforce Investment Board (“WIB”) are required to approve and sign the Local Unified Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County WIB has approved and signed the PY2008 Local Unified Plan for WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker and Minnesota Dislocated Worker Programs; and

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota has made allocations to Ramsey County out of PY2008 funds as follows: \$907,024 for WIA Adult; \$815,220 for WIA Dislocated Workers; and an estimated allocation of \$1,371,835 for the Minnesota State Dislocated Worker Program; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions subcontracts with third party vendors for the provision of some services provided under the Local Plan; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions periodically seeks to sign revenue generating service agreements as a subcontractor to other Workforce Service Areas to provide services to dislocated workers, adults and youth; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions periodically applies for grants to serve groups of laid-off workers throughout the year and receives funds to serve these workers in the form of Special Conditions Addenda to the Local Plan; and

WHEREAS, As a result of receiving funds in the form of Special Conditions Addenda to the Local Plan to serve groups of laid-off workers, Workforce Solutions may subcontract to other Workforce Service Areas and/or third party vendors; Now, Therefore Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the PY2008 Local Unified Plan for the Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) Adult and Dislocated Worker and the Minnesota Dislocated Worker Programs (“PY2008 Local Unified Plan”); and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the PY2008 Local Unified Plan; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute modifications and amendments to the PY2008 Local Unified Plan; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the acceptance and expenditure of PY2008 Federal funds for WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs and PY2008 State funds for the Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute the PY2008 WIA Master Contract with the State of Minnesota, and amendments to the Master Contract, for operation of WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs and Minnesota Youth and Dislocated Worker Programs, including amendments related to changes in funding, and to execute the required certification forms, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute any amendments to subgrantee service agreements for PY2008 with HIRED, Employment Action Center and Goodwill/Easter Seal using WIA Adult Program funds and any amendments to subgrantee service agreements for PY2008 with HIRED, Employment Action Center, Goodwill Easter Seal and Lao Family Community of Minnesota, using Minnesota Dislocated Worker Program funds, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute grantee revenue generating services agreements for PY2008 with Federal, State, Local and/or nonprofit workforce development program providers, where Ramsey County, through Workforce Solutions, is the grantee or grantor, subject to prior approval by Budgeting and Accounting and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute License Agreements for skill assessment and training software; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make temporary cash loans as needed from the County General Revenue Fund to the Workforce Solutions budget in order to cover program expenses until grant funds are received, with repayments to be made upon receipt of grant funds.

PARKS AND RECREATION – North Kohlman Marsh Protection Open Space – Agreement for construction and long-term maintenance of stormwater ponds and infiltration swale

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-203)

WHEREAS, The City of Maplewood is reconstructing Kohlman Lane including new curb and gutter, paving and storm water drainage structures; and

WHEREAS, Existing storm water from Kohlman Lane drains unimpeded into Kohlman Lake and the Keller Chain of Lakes; and

WHEREAS, A segment of the proposed newly improved roadway is adjacent to the North Kohlman Marsh Protection Open Space Site, owned by the County; and

WHEREAS, The City of Maplewood is required by the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District to address storm water management as part of the road reconstruction project; and

WHEREAS, The City has requested permission from the County to construct two small storm water ponds and one infiltration swale on the County Open Space Property and to direct roadway storm water drainage via storm sewer inlets and pipes to these areas; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department has worked with the City to determine the location, size and shape of the proposed storm water ponds and infiltration swale and the proposed storm water ponds and infiltration swale are consistent with parks open space use and the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department believes the treatment of storm water runoff will benefit Kohlman Lake, the Keller Chain of Lakes and Keller Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, The City will be responsible for all costs associated with the design, construction, planting and on-going maintenance of the two storm water ponds and the infiltration swale; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an Agreement between Ramsey County and the City of Maplewood which allows the City to construct two storm water retention ponds and one infiltration swale in the North Kohlman Marsh Protection Open Space and to perform on-going maintenance of these features in the future; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Agreement.

(Continued)

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Expansion of Adult Substance Abuse Court Project

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-204)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Community Corrections has partnered with the Second Judicial District in the Adult Substance Abuse Court project; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Human Services has made grant funding available for expanding project services to probationers supervised by Community Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Grant funding will provide for an additional FTE (case aide) for the Adult Division. This position will be starred and will be eliminated when grant funds end; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the grant award from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for expansion of services in the Adult Substance Abuse Court in the amount of \$200,000; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes Community Corrections to add 1.00 FTE (Community Corrections Case Aide), which will be a starred position and will be eliminated when the grant funding ends; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the grant agreement and any necessary amendments or renewals and any contracts necessary to implement the grant, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Day Training and Habilitation Services

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-205)

WHEREAS, Northeast Contemporary Services has proposed a location change to their adult service Day Training and Habilitation (DT&H) site at 2825 North Fairview Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Contemporary Services is proposing to move this site to 2770 Cleveland Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113; and

WHEREAS, The provider anticipates moving in September of 2008; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Contemporary Services has reported that the new location offers improved parking access and a more reasonable lease term and rate than their current agreement; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, There will be no changes to service delivered or numbers served as a result of the move; and

WHEREAS, The service team for the Developmental Disabilities Section has reviewed the rationale for the proposed move and supports the request; and

WHEREAS, Counties must review and submit need determination applications for changes of address under Minnesota Statutes, Section 252.28 and Minnesota Rules, part 9525.0036; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the submission of the Application of Need Determination to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for Northeast Contemporary Services to relocate to 2770 Cleveland Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the Need Determination.

COUNTY MANAGER – Reinstating an Environmental Response Fund from Additional Mortgage Registration and Deed Taxes per Authorizing Legislation

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-206)

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 383A.80 permits Ramsey County to impose mortgage registration and deed taxes of .0001 on mortgages and deeds relating to real property in Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Legislation requires that any mortgage registration or deed taxes imposed by Ramsey County be deposited in a Ramsey County Environmental Response Fund to be used for activities detailed in Minnesota Statutes 383B.81; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has directed the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to administer the Environmental Response Fund under prior legislative authorization; and

WHEREAS, The authority to impose these taxes was effective from enactment through December 31, 2007 and

WHEREAS, The legislature has reinstated the authority to impose these taxes through December 31, 2012; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners imposes a mortgage registration tax equal to .0001 of the principal amount of the mortgage, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board imposes a deed tax equal to .0001 of the amount, generally considered the fair market value of the property being transferred; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The taxes are effective for mortgages and deeds presented on or after July 1, 2008; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The taxes collected are placed in the Environmental Response Fund Account; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The HRA develop background information for review and policy discussion concerning future administration of the Environmental Response Fund.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Approval of abatements by the County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Ortega introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2008-207)

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. Sec. 375.192, Subdivision 2, gives the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners final approval for abatements not delegated to the Department of Property Records and Revenue; and

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2007-297, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has delegated to the Director of the Department of Property Records and Revenue the authority to grant final approval for routine abatements and not of significant amounts; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reduction in taxes and any penalty and interest of abatements with reductions of significant amounts of \$10,000 or more as noted on the exhibit on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, With regard to the abatements on the exhibit previously mentioned, members of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby disclose that they do not have a financial interest in any abatement therein, nor any familial relationship with any abatement applicant therein.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Employment and Alternative Services Infrastructure Project

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

Commissioner Rettman referred to the second paragraph of the Executive Summary: “disperse the funds up to four of the current employment and alternative providers.” There are funds only for three projects. She asked if the Department has made a determination on the provider.

Don Jones, Director of Administrative Services, Community Human Services, was present representing Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services. Mr. Jones said the seven-county metro group was alluded to in a recent Board Workshop. Tim Hammond, Contract Manager, Community Human Services, also present at the meeting, may have more detailed information on the four key providers, and which might be funded.

Mr. Hammond said four proposals have been submitted with the Request For Solicitation of Interest, three would be selected with some approval from the State.

Commissioner Rettman asked that information about the four agencies be provided to all the Commissioners – are they suburban, city, metro wide.

(Continued)

Mr. Hammond said the information would be provided to all the Commissioners. All the applications of the grant and what they would do in the development of the infrastructure would be metro wide, applicable to all seven counties.

Commissioner Rettman said she would like to see better outcomes than just that the County is getting money. This is to implement training paths, legal/financial, and job tools, but how many people would be expected for service? It would be nice to know that and what we are getting on outcome-based performances.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7.
Nays – 0. (2008-208)

WHEREAS, On May 13, 2008, the Board held a workshop to review efforts to improve employment services for adults with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, As part of that effort, the seven metropolitan counties have worked together to create employment services infrastructures to increase employment and wages; and

WHEREAS, The seven counties have focused on the goal of individuals being employed in the general work force along side others in the general work force and working in their own independent jobs; and

WHEREAS, The metropolitan counties collectively distributed a solicitation of interest in the fall of 2006 and selected 14 providers metro-wide to develop one-to-one center-based employment services; and

WHEREAS, Four of those providers operate in Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception the Department of Human Services has taken a keen interest in the work of the seven county group as it has paralleled state objectives, particularly that of the department's Pathway to Employment (FTE) project; and

WHEREAS, This is a request to contract with and accept a grant for up to \$75,000 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (Pathway to Employment project) and disperse the funds to up to four current Employment and Alternative Services providers; and

WHEREAS, The seven counties jointly solicited proposals from the existing fourteen providers for this additional money; and

WHEREAS, Four have responded and their proposals are being reviewed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this funding is to have providers create and expand employment service infrastructures to improve community employment outcomes. Examples of these efforts include:

- Implement the "Learning Paths" workforce development methodology used by Fortune 100 companies to create custom training for employers and job seekers;

(Continued)

- Training legal and financial professionals to help persons with disabilities launch their own businesses; and
- Job development tools to cultivate non-traditional work options and community partnerships;

and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County would act as fiscal host on behalf of the seven metropolitan counties; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the grant of up to \$75,000 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the development of employment and alternative services infrastructure; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign the agreement between the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to sign agreements with community vendors to implement the employment and alternative services infrastructure project.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Tony Bennett – Condolence to the family of Richard A. (Dick) Wedell

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

Commissioner Bennett read the resolution of condolence to the family of Richard A. (Dick) Wedell), into the record.

Commissioner Bennett said he knew Dick since about 1975 when he himself moved to Shoreview; they met through their mutual involvement in hockey. Dick had been active for some time in Lake Region Hockey. Dick was a great one for calling people on the phone. Any time anything was controversial or he was interested in something, he would call people to get their sense of things. They had been on the same side and on opposite sides of things but he and Dick always had a kind word for each other, and always communicated, even when campaigning against each other. His wife Peggy is a super lady.

Commissioner Bennett said Dick will be missed in the community, and condolences go out to the family. Dick served well on the County Board, with a passion for parks. He would have loved to attend the ribbon cutting for the new 113 acres along Rice Creek, which now completes the 16-mile Rice Creek Path through the former Twin Cities Army Ammunitions Plant. Dick chaired the Vento Commission Committee that worked on some of the ideas for future plans at the Arsenal site.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she knew Dick very well. He truly was an environmental advocate, which was only one of his passions that benefited the Shoreview community, Ramsey County, and the State of Minnesota. When the recycling program began at the municipal level, Dick wagered with the Mayor of White Bear Lake that Shoreview would recycle more per capita than the City of White Bear Lake. That competition continued for a couple of years, and showed true community spirit. Because of that competition, recycling in both cities increased. Dick was a wonderful man, and he will really be missed.

Chair Parker shared a story of Dick when local governments first started broadcasting their meetings. Dick challenged the audience: “if anyone out there is listening, call this number and I’ll buy you a pizza”, and, someone did. He had a fun way of interacting with the public. He will certainly be missed.

(Continued)

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 7.
Nays – 0. (2008-208)

WHEREAS, Richard A. (Dick) Wedell was born April 17, 1931 and grew up in the Macalester-Groveland area of St. Paul, attended Monroe High School, graduated from the University of Minnesota with a business degree in 1954, served two years in the Army, and in 1956, married Peggy; and

WHEREAS, Dick and Peggy have three daughters, Linda, Lisa and Laura, and a son, Michael; and

WHEREAS, Dick loved the City of Shoreview, and was known as a “visionary” who brought city services to his community long before other communities did so; and

WHEREAS, Dick wanted to create a community that would be the very best place to raise a family; and

WHEREAS, Dick was instrumental in providing parks and trails to the City, and was key in getting the Shoreview Community Center built in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Dick led efforts to provide youth activities and sports, especially hockey; and

WHEREAS, Dick was always interested in politics and served on the Shoreview Planning Commission, served on the Shoreview City Council from 1968 to 1977, was elected Mayor of Shoreview from 1978 to 1991, and served on the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners from 1993 through 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dick passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, and his family, friends and community will sorely miss him; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby extends its sympathy to Peggy Wedell and Dick’s entire family, and thanks them for sharing their husband and father with the residents of Ramsey County and the City of Shoreview.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Ramsey County Commissioners’ Salary Ordinance for 2009

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following Ordinance and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Chair Parker said that as required by the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter, a public hearing was held prior to approval of the Salary Ordinance, which will be in effect for 2009.

Commissioner Bennett cited a graph in yesterday’s newspaper. That graph indicated Ramsey County’s 2009 salary but the other counties’ salaries were their 2008 salaries. Ramsey County is the only one of the seven counties that has to pass the ordinance before July 1. The other counties can approve their salaries later in the year.

Gail Blackstone, Director, Human Resources, concurred with Commissioner Bennett’s comments. The graph is from the data Human Resources had provided for the Board documentation. The graph showed a dotted line going out to the top end for the Ramsey County Commissioners; everybody else was lined up for 2008.

(Continued)

Commissioner Bennett requested clarification that the 2009 salary information for other counties is not yet known.

Ms. Blackstone responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt pointed out in the documentation that the intent is to be a year behind Ramsey County employees and treated the same; that is the way the Charter works.

Commissioner Bennett added that that is not something the County Board has done in the past.

Roll Call: Ayes – Ortega, Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Parker – 6. Nays – Rettman - 1. (2008-210)

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; and
- 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, 2009); and

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 \$80,000 for County Board Members, and \$82,500 for the County Board Chair; and

WHEREAS, Over the period of January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008 Ramsey County employees will receive two general wage increases of 1.5% in March and 1.5% in July; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners that future salary increases for the Board of Commissioners be set at a rate that matches the general increase in wages given to employees in the previous year; and

WHEREAS, An increase of 3% for the Board of Commissioners will result in a salary increase equivalent to the combined general wage increases given to employees in the calendar year 2008; Now, Therefore, the Board of Commissioners for the County of Ramsey Does

ORDAIN, That the annual salary for the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners for calendar year 2009 shall increase by 3% to \$82,400 for County Board Members and by 3% to \$84,975 for the County Board Chair; 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

(Continued)

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

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, 2009 and replace the previous salary ordinance (Ordinance 2007-157); and
- b) Continue in effect throughout calendar year 2009 and subsequent years until changed by a subsequent County Board ordinance.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Bennett reported:

- On the Grand Opening of the Rice Creek North Regional Trail, also attended by Commissioner Parker and Commissioner Reinhardt. The park is a sight to see. The man who runs the 1500 acres that the National Guard has, knows where all the bluebird nests are, and where every duck and otter lives; there are coyote there, and many deer. It is much like being out in the country. The 16 miles of the Trail is now complete.

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- The Grand Opening at Rice Creek was fabulous.
- She presented to a public policy group at the Bigelow Building. A mixed age group of people is trying to do some positive things to enable them to move out of poverty, or out of difficult situations. This was an incredible group of motivated people. Some of the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) board members attended.

(Continued)

- She attended the 39th Annual Luncheon for People Incorporated. This organization helps people with mental illness and has been an incredibly strong advocate within Ramsey County and in the State working in this area. Gail Dorfman, Hennepin County Commissioner, was honored with an award for the work being done in that county. When Commissioner Dorfman spoke, she talked about the fact that they were trying to, in many ways, replicate what Ramsey County is doing in some of our programs, especially when it comes to jobs.
- She has spent a great deal of time on Electronic Real Estate Recording (ERER). The task force holds its last meeting on Thursday; a yet-to-be determined commission will take over. She has been working on the transition group. Included in legislation that allowed for ERER was a data group, which she has been appointed to, to figure out how to get the appropriate data on what is really happening to impact change. That information would be taken into the next legislative session, but a lot of the information they had on foreclosures was more than anecdotal. There is not just one answer or problem in trying to sort that out, and the data is needed.
- She and Commissioner Carter attended the St. Paul Children's Collaborative meeting.
- The National Paint and Coatings Association Board decided to move forward in Minnesota and build upon relationships and partnerships previously established. They hope to work with the legislature and Governor and put more substance to the proposal regarding the third party organization. It would still be a great thing to have the manufacturers take responsibility for the costs.
- On the 20th Anniversary of Sue Manka, Executive Assistant, working for the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. A wonderful party was held for her in White Bear Lake, attended by current and past chamber presidents. She congratulated Sue on her 20 years.

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- District 7, which includes Frogtown, and the Community Development Corporation, held its annual meeting. It was an uplifting event.
- She and Denise Beigbeder, Community and Economic Development, both attended the Minnesota Environmental Initiative held on Economic Prosperity and Clean Environment. With the Environmental Response Fund (ERF) going back in, it is critical to know how to make the best impact. Ramsey County is only cleaned up 10%; there is still 90% of the originally identified land to be cleaned up in both the suburbs and in St. Paul. Some of the information will be printed out on demography, the ebbs and flows, and how resources are being used, and some of the plans, some of the drivers that will influence what has to be done in terms of public policy and where resources are used to clean up what we have. Hennepin County is delighted that Ramsey County worked collaboratively with them. She thanked Nick Riley for being ever vigilant.
- She sits on the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) Finance Board. A meeting will be held on Thursday, where possible action may be taken on the senior nutrition program. A special CAPRW meeting had been held with proposed action for the full CAPRW Board to continue the senior nutrition program, however, it may not be with the same approach. A motion was to continue the program, and hire a consultant to work with the seventeen sites to see if there are some efficiencies. There was a request from labor to talk with the employees who have a lot of knowledge, and to involve some of the residents for how they perceive the program. The funding would continue to the end of the year at a certain level. There is every intention to continue the program if it passes the CAPRW Board on Thursday night. The calls to Commissioners have been poignant and specific to the need. Commissioner Rettman said she did not think any of the Commissioners had the intention to close the program; it was a recommendation to address a budget issue.

(Continued)

- One of the public broadcast channels showed a documentary from the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD). The MMCD has done an excellent job in educating the public, and can be reached either by phone (651-645-3246), or their website www.mmcd.org/, where information can be found about sites in the individual areas. Dead birds can be reported to the MMCD; West Nile is active in Minnesota, as well as Lyme's disease, black flies and other diseases. Repellant with DEET should be used, and people should always check for ticks.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- On Project Connect, held last year at the Armory, was held this year at the Xcel Center. There were many more people this year, and the Project outdid itself in providing connections for people who are homeless to services, including housing, employment, school services for children, health services, medical care, eyeglasses, etc. This is an excellent way to use County resources in combining with the community to connect people on a regular basis to that comprehensive set of services. She thanked all who participated from the County, in particular, Jim Anderson, Community Human Services, and Carol Zierman, Heading Home Ramsey Initiative, the police department, a number of community organizations, schools, and others who helped make this a very big success.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the business community recognized the need and really stepped up to the plate. Over 2000 lunches were donated. Among the services provided were haircuts, legal services and everything in between. The nonprofit organizations and volunteers also stepped up to the plate.

Commissioner Carter acknowledged the large contribution from the community and volunteers.

- She attended two Heading Home discussions. The Heading Home Public Policy Task Force met for the second time to put strategies in place, which will be brought to the County Board with respect to coming years and how to make certain that the network of services for homeless individuals and the process of supporting the Heading Home Minnesota and county plans that exist continue.
- She and Commissioner Reinhardt attended a meeting of the Citizens League planning the upcoming public policy regional conference that will be held in the Twin Cities area, with a number of representatives, not only from the metro area, but also from counties outside the metro area.
- She and Commissioner Reinhardt attended a meeting of the Children's Collaborative. Updates continue on the process in the City of St. Paul through the St. Paul Children's Collaborative support. They are coming together for sustainability and evaluation processes so that the plans can be across all of the partners on behalf of the Collaborative overall. A presentation was received from the University of Minnesota on a long-term children's study, which was presented in a Workshop to the County Board.
- On a Central Corridor Management Committee (CCMC) meeting. It was good to be looking forward to next steps on that Corridor and anticipating the application to happen this fall now that funding is in line and that partners have agreed upon all elements of the plan, essentially. There are still some issues to be resolved. Within the coming months, the CCMC will be receiving reports from the Met Council on movement forward. A key presentation was held on stations assigned and public art. Last night she and Commissioner Rettman and Commissioner McDonough attended a meeting along University Avenue at the Hub Center with a number of

(Continued)

departments represented, and with Met Council Chair Peter Bell and staff to share thoughts related to the design and public art and the three stations, one for which there is a priority for any additional funding that comes into the project. The other stations are being installed as station foundations. They talked about the possibility of building out those stations in future years.

- She and Chair Parker attended a CAPRW executive director search meeting. A recommendation would be brought to the CAPRW Board. That represents a big step forward for the CAPRW.

Chair Parker said there were some excellent candidates for the position.

Commissioner Bennett said the CAPRW has been problematic for years. He has great confidence in the current Commissioners sitting on this Board.

Commissioner Bennett reported:

- On a glitch in an email, and for clarification said he would continue to be serving on the National Association of Counties Board.

BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Parker reported:

- Commissioner McDonough has been very active with the Central Corridor as Chair of the Regional Rail Authority, and deserves thanks for all his energy and time put into this effort and other seemingly insurmountable barriers. Things are looking very positive for the Central Corridor.
- On a public hearing held by the Rice Creek Watershed District Board attended by about 20 people. They are starting an urban lakes study of the lake quality.

Commissioner Bennett said this had been mandated by the legislature.

Chair Parker agreed. They explained what the process would be. Long Lake will be included in the study, and several people from that district also attended the public hearing.

- She spoke at the Girls' State group at Bethel College. It was fun to see the energy and excitement among these girls. One of the perks of the Commissioners' jobs to do these types of things.
- She went to Bellaire Elementary School during their annual fitness day. They danced and did other exercise activities. Part of the day was to go on a run or walk around the local park. Bellaire was a recipient of the Safe Routes to Schools Grant, that somewhat came out of the Active Living Ramsey County, and from which a couple bikes were given to kids. The school will be encouraging kids to once again bike to school. Some schools in the County have not allowed kids to bike to school, and they get out of the habit of walking or biking to school, and assume they have to take a bus. One of the kids coming out of the school asked where the bus was and was surprised they would have to walk the half-block to the park. That summed up why this is so important that kids get more exercise and think differently about how they get around.
- Active Living Ramsey County has finished its search and hired Connie Bernardy as the new coordinator, to start in early July. The position will be located in the Parks and Recreation building, though it is a multi-functional position, with funding coming from Regional Rail, Public Health, and Public Works.

(Continued)

- District Energy celebrated its 25th Anniversary. Everybody now understands the importance of energy efficiency and doing things differently. It is remarkable that St. Paul had the foresight 25 years ago to recognize that and came up with this alternative efficient and clean source of energy. She congratulated them and the City of St. Paul.

Commissioner Rettman said she was on the City Council at that time, and a number of individuals played a huge role in this. This began as a dream and it was hard to harness the concept of District Energy. It was in competition with NSP. It has served us well, and Ramsey County is involved by providing shrub waste.

LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bennett asked Terry Speiker, Intergovernmental Relations, about any final details that might be known from this past legislative session.

Ms. Speiker said staff from the County Manager's Office and Budgeting and Accounting are asking that question of departments. The report put together by Claudia Brewington and Nick Riley, contains some of that beginning information. With this past legislative session, staff have seen less effect on the departments directly, but when out in the community, people will be talking about changes in community based services, or hospital or medical people will be talking because the community clinics and Regions are trying to figure out budget balancing. For the 2009 budget, there may be less effect on the direct departmental budgets. Staff speculates there may be more in the next biennium.

Commissioner Ortega said many of the Commissioners are going to Washington to do some lobbying. From now on, the County will have to take the human service and health agendas on a Federal level much more seriously because the impacts are going to be to individuals, and the Commissioners will hear from their constituents. This is not just about folks on "welfare", but an impact on constituents – it hurts the middle class. We need changes to turn this around in the future because it is not good. It is impacting Regions Hospital and the clinics. They are all going to be in trouble.

Commissioner Bennett said during the 2003 budget, the Board planned ahead for those shortfalls, which basically saved the budget process at that time. He asked if Commissioner Ortega is saying we need to start thinking along those lines?

Commissioner Ortega said the impact is going to be that when people cannot be served at the health system in Ramsey County, the pressure might come back to the County Board to start filling that hole, but it is coming from a different place. It isn't a Federal cut to us, but impacts hospitals and their funding, and the health care of individuals.

Commissioner Bennett said they might want to come to the County, adding to our budget.

Ms. Speiker said one of the things the Commissioners will be taking to Washington is the material received from Regions just to talk about some of their concerns for what has happened at the State level and for what they see as a potential if these Federal Medicaid regulations are not stopped and changed because that will have serious effect on funding for public hospitals.

Commissioner Ortega said he met with Regions' Government Affairs staff, where he urged the information be provided to the Board to take to Washington. Regions Hospital has support from our congressional delegation. When we talk with Congresswoman Betty McCollum and Senator Coleman, and others, just like we pushed the transportation agenda, this has to be a top priority. The delegates have a list of a thousand things that they say, "yes, we support", but this has a real impact two or three years down the road. It is coming around the backdoor, and eventually will end

(Continued)

up at the County. While we might say it doesn't impact us budget-wise now, the impact will surely come because Regions will ask how to take care of the indigent, etc., because they won't be able to.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board