

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: Bennett – 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Agenda of the June 9, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Minutes of the June 2, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Outreach Workers for the Somali and Hmong Communities

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-190)

WHEREAS, Two outreach financial worker positions were approved by the County Board on August 22, 2006 (resolution #2006-294); and

WHEREAS, This outreach service was funded through a federal grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement until December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, The two workers have regular hours each week at several businesses and agencies utilized by Somali and Hmong families; and

WHEREAS, They also provide support to the Project Voice project; and

WHEREAS, The purpose is on improving access to needed services by addressing the obstacles that new arrivals and limited English speakers face; and

WHEREAS, The outreach workers provide information on the eligibility criteria for the numerous insurance and financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, They are also able to guide individuals through the many steps in the application process; and

WHEREAS, This service saves financial worker time by reducing the number of missing items when an application is submitted, plus reduces the time period between the filing of an application and the approval of eligibility; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Due to the importance and impact of this service, the St. Paul and Bigelow Foundations provided funding to keep these workers in place from January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is providing additional Medical Assistance funding through an 18-month, temporary 11% increase in the federal percentage of these expenditures; and

WHEREAS, This additional funding is scheduled to end which indicates that its best application is for projects that will not add to the base spending in the county budget entering 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Department is proposing to utilize some of the additional dollars available to extend the two outreach workers through December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Department continues to develop a program guide and to train community peer mentors to perform these functions when non-county funds are no longer available for this service; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the use of the additional resources available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to continue the 2.0 outreach financial worker positions through December 31, 2009.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Investment Act Supplemental FastTRAC Funding

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-191)

WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”) was signed into law on February 17, 2009 and contained funding specifically targeted for employment and training; and

WHEREAS, These funds have been allocated to the states, which in turn have allocated funds to local Workforce Service Areas under the authority of the PY2008 Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) program; and

WHEREAS, The vehicle for the ARRA employment and training appropriation is a modification to the County’s PY2008 Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) Local Unified Plan; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions has been notified by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (“DEED”) that supplemental funding in the amount of \$160,500 is being allocated to Ramsey County for implementation of a FastTRAC initiative; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions, with the approval of the County Manager, has prepared and is submitting to DEED a modification to the PY2008 Local Unified Plan, explaining how it proposes to spend the supplemental funds; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, In order to ensure proper and timely service delivery and funds expenditure, Workforce Solutions intends to utilize the following vendors to deliver services funded through the supplemental allocation as follows: St. Paul and Mounds View Public School Districts will provide basic skills training and education to participants for the purpose of helping them acquire one or more credentials; Goodwill/EasterSeals, a current program vendor, will provide case management services to participants going into occupational skills training; and expanded use of KeyTrain, an educational software used to teach basic skills to program participants; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Minnesota FastTRAC Initiative modification to the PY2008 Local Unified Plan to be submitted to DEED on June 11, 2009, for the acceptance and expenditure of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplemental FastTRAC funds in the amount of \$160,500; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to accept and expend the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act supplemental FastTRAC funds consistent with the approved modification to the Local Unified Plan; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute sub-grantee service agreements with the St. Paul School District and with the Mounds View Public School District and to negotiate and execute an amendment to the contract with a current program vendor, Goodwill/EasterSeals, to provide services consistent with the approved modification to the Local Unified Plan, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute a modification to the license agreement with Thinking Media, 340 Frazier Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37405, for expanded use of its educational software in teaching basic skills to program participants consistent with the modification to the Local Unified Plan, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to execute any amendments to agreements based on funds available in the proposed budget addendum.

**PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Local Option Tax Reductions**

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-192)

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 273.1233, subd, 1, authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to approve local option disaster tax reductions; and

WHEREAS, The County Board of Commissioners retains sole authority to approve said reductions; and

WHEREAS, Fifty percent or more of the homestead dwelling or other structure of the attached list of properties has been unintentionally or accidentally destroyed; or destroyed by arson or vandalism by someone other than the owner, and the property affected was thereby made uninhabitable or not usable; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, The owner of the property hereby makes written application to the County Board; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reduction in taxes and any penalty and interest as noted on the exhibit on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to the exhibit previously mentioned, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby discloses that they do not have a financial interest in a local option reduction, nor any familial relationship with a local option tax reduction applicant.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Property Tax Abatements

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-193)

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.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Salary grade reassignment for the Environmental Resources Specialist 2 job classification

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

Commissioner Rettman said these are non-represented positions, and she has consistently not voted for them. All the workloads are changing dramatically and she would not support this.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she would support this request. She has spoken with labor representatives who raised no objections, and understands they are supportive as well.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 5. Nays - Rettman – 1. (2009-194)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department conducted a classification/compensation review of the Environmental Resource Specialist 2 classification in the Ramsey County Public Works Department and in the Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department determined that the current class specification for Environmental Resource Specialist 2 did not adequately describe the duties of the position; and

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WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department revised the Environmental Resource Specialist 2 class specification; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department analyzed internal and external salary information and determined the appropriate compensation is Salary Schedule 02A, Grade 27 in the Ramsey County compensation plan; and

WHEREAS, The Director of the Public Works Department, and Director of the Parks and Recreation Department support the proposed upgrade; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department's recommended salary grade is in accordance with the guidelines established by Ramsey County compensation policy (Resolution 95-356) and practices, Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the following salary grade reassignment for the Environmental Resource Specialist 2 classification:

	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Monthly Salary Range</u>
Reassigned from:	02A	26	\$3,884 - \$5,757
Reassigned to:	02A	27	\$4,037 - \$5,980

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Lake Owasso Residence – Residence Volunteer Council Contribution

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

Commissioner Rettman said that over the years, the Lake Owasso Residence (LOR) Residence Volunteer Council has raised over \$1 million. The LOR is in Commissioner Bennett's district and he would be very proud of this gift from the Volunteer Council.

Rob Lane, Administrator, LOR, along with Jan Thule, and Betty Strobin, representatives from the Volunteer Council were present.

Mr. Lane said the Volunteer Council started in 1968 and was officially incorporated in 1997. Throughout that time, volunteers raised in excess of \$1.1 million. Their commitment in volunteer hours is virtually uncountable. Generations have come and gone. Some of the folks involved from the beginning are still involved and have been an inspiration to him, the LOR staff and families, and everyone who has been touched by LOR. It is his pleasure to come before the Board with the representatives, and to accept the gift of a new pontoon, boat lift and life jackets that will ensure many more years of boating for the LOR residents.

Chair Parker asked how the money has been raised.

Ms. Strobin said she is the gambling manager in bingo and pull tabs. They closed their bingo business on December 31 because they were paying out more money than they were taking in; in part because of the cessation of smoking and the economy. They decided to quit rather than to use more of the funds, hoping they would last awhile.

Commissioner Rettman said the County Board has been committed to LOR. The Council members have been advocates for the special people in their lives who need 24/7 care. The County Board made the decision to tear down the old buildings and build the new homes. The pontoon and other amenities are much appreciated, and the County Board thanks the Volunteer Council for being the vanguards for those people with limited voice.

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Commissioner Reinhardt said this isn't just about the money; it is about the hours the Council has given the residents. The pontoon and other gifts help, but this is about the love and respect and dignity brought to all the residents of LOR and to the people who work there.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-195)

WHEREAS, The Lake Owasso Residence Volunteer Council has committed \$21,000 for the purchase of a new pontoon with motor, a lift with canopy and new life jackets; and

WHEREAS, With the closure of their bingo business, the Council is making one last large donation, which will enhance the quality of life and enjoyment of the residents; and

WHEREAS, Over 40 years, the Residence Volunteer Council has made gifts totaling more than \$1,000,000; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the gift of \$21,000 from the Lake Owasso Residence Volunteer Council for the purchase of a pontoon with motor, a lift with canopy and life jackets; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to accept the funds, make the necessary budget adjustments and authorize the purchases; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners thanks the Lake Owasso Residence Volunteer Council for the many gifts they have made over the years that have enhanced the lives of all residents of Lake Owasso Residence.

PUBLIC HEALTH/PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – United States Department of Energy

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

Commissioner Rettman said she has spoken with Zack Hansen, Director, Environmental Health. She referred to handwritten page 5, item 5, last two sentences in the second paragraph. It is identified that this would be a new starred position for the Energy/Sustainability Coordinator funded from the recovery dollars. It goes on to say, 'should the Board decide to continue this work' – one of her concerns was that solid waste dollars could be used, but it doesn't give the 'internalization' the Board has talked about in terms of recycling -- part of this is the internalization and making it part of the department. She would like the last two sentences revised to say that 'among things is the internalization'. It is part of the department's core mission to do recycling, and energy conservation should equally be part of that. She did not see that reflected in the document, and asked that it be amended. She thought Mr. Hansen would be okay with that but she had not yet spoken with Property Management.

Commissioner Reinhardt fully supported that revision to the documentation. The reason it was put in was that often times, staff anticipate questions by the Board, and in anticipation of that, gave the response that this was eligible. She knows that was not the intent but could see how that could happen. The revision to the documentation becomes part of the County Board's official record, and would be clearer about the fact this is something that can and should be internalized as part of the

**(Continued)**

normal operations; that this is eligible and could be included, but it is not meant to be 'this is what you should do', but more an anticipation of the questions usually asked by the Board.

Commissioner Rettman said she sees the Resource Recovery dollars in every opportunity they are asking how this would be sustained. Part of the sustainability is internalization. She wanted to make sure this was not predetermined that this would come out of solid waste dollars, but that the expectation would be that it be internalized. She asked that the maker of the motion accept that this be reflected and changed.

Commissioner Reinhardt as maker of the motion responded affirmatively. This is not a change to the resolution; she is fine with making the revision in the documentation.

Chair Parker explained that this is about the stimulus money from the federal government. Last week she attended a meeting with Congresswoman McCollum, along with the Board Chairs from Washington and Dakota Counties. It is important that it be highlighted that is what is happening here -- the money has now trickled down to Ramsey County. On a couple different agenda items today, the Board is approving expenditure of funds that have come directly from the stimulus money. This particular item will create 8-9 jobs. She wanted to make people in the community aware that this is an example of how the stimulus money is getting into our community.

Commissioner McDonough said he was in Washington DC last week with the NACo Large Urban County Caucus and this was a big part of their conversation. They had a walk-around with the Congressional Delegation for the large urban counties across the country. This program has been authorized for \$2 billion for years, but never funded. With the stimulus money, it got to \$3.2 billion, with no real formula. They used the CBG (Conservation Block Grant) formula to fund it. The split really favored the cities so St. Paul got about \$3.2 million versus the \$800,000 Ramsey County got. For CDBG, that makes sense, but for energy, it doesn't make sense because a lot of our County buildings are in cities --our traffic, our county roads, traffic lights, and a lot of the emissions, everything we deal with. NACo's position is to support the \$2 billion authorization for ongoing, but then to look at the ongoing formula because it doesn't make sense.

There was the opportunity to talk with the administration's staff about this at the end of the DC visit, and there was a lot of conversation that we are not trying to pit counties versus cities, but to just take one formula and transfer it to another, didn't make sense. There seemed to be some recognition of that, and we might want to direct staff to look at that and come back with a federal position for Ramsey County so that our Congressional Delegation would have something from us to be in support of NACo's efforts, especially if the \$2 billion ongoing becomes authorized. Even though \$800,000 sounds like a lot of money, when many of Ramsey County's buildings are in the City of St. Paul, and a lot of roads are in the City of St. Paul, our needs are much greater than this. The split is dramatically different between cities and counties.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked for clarification on the discussion.

Commissioner McDonough said he was addressing the ongoing funds. The stimulus money was plugged into the program that hadn't been funded in the past; they did not have a way to disburse it so they used the CBDG formula, which for urban counties – cities get CBG money and the counties get CBG money. For the energy money, it wasn't an equitable split.

Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.  
(2009-196)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is eligible to receive an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) through the United States Department of Energy in the amount of \$813,900; and

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WHEREAS, The EECSBG is intended to be used to create and implement strategies to: 1) reduce fossil fuel emissions; 2) decrease total energy consumption; 3) enhance energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other energy consuming sectors; 4) spur economic growth; and 5) create and/or retain jobs; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is committed to use energy in a manner that will protect the environment and public health and that will conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has prepared application documents for the EECSBG, including participation as a supporting partner with Xcel Energy in a Department of Energy funding opportunity for enhancing electric car availability using EECSBG funds; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioner authorizes the County Manager to execute and submit the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECSBG) application to the United States Department of Energy, including a final version of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the EECSBG agreement and any amendments and renewals 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 execute any necessary agreements, amendments and renewals related to the EECSBG funds and EECS, 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, including increasing estimated revenue and appropriations; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an increase in the personnel complement of the Department of Public Health by a starred 1.0 FTE for the purpose of hiring a County energy/sustainability coordinator in a job title appropriate for the purposes of the Energy/sustainability Project.

#### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- The Rush Line Corridor Task Force will hold two open houses regarding the alternatives analysis for mid-term and long-term: tonight at 4:30 p.m. at the North Branch Library; and on June 17 in Hugo. Bus service along Rush Line may start in September.
- She attended a graduation ceremony for CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) candidates from North St. Paul and other communities. Commissioner Rettman has had this training. Commissioner Reinhardt was selected as a trauma victim during a training session. Information on how to get involved in the CERT program can be found at [CERT](#).

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Commissioner Carter:

- Attended a half-day conference sponsored by the Minnesota Council on Foundations at the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs on the topic of using public policy as a strategy to support foundation missions. Chair Parker said she was pleased to get the email about the additional homeless shelter being opened with foundation funds and church funds, with no County taxes going into this, to help the overload of existing homeless shelters. Commissioner Carter said that is an excellent example of the way in which foundations look for those needs and helping advance the service to our community.
- Reported on the National Children's Study. Ramsey County has been selected as one of the locations for a longitudinal study of 100,000 children across the United States from birth through age 21 in order to discover the positive and negative impacts in environmental factors on the lives of children and the development and health of children. Pilots are proceeding. Study analysts would like additional time to analyze the pilot sites so there is a positive delay. Our center was to start out in the field working with families mid-2010. The preliminary work is being done now, but the positive delay is that in order to get additional information from the pilot sites, our site will be in the field in 2011.
- Attended the Winfield Awards Banquet. David Winfield is a former professional baseball player, born and raised in St. Paul. Over the years his family and friends have awarded 33 groups of scholarships; ten this year.

Commissioner McDonough:

- Reported that there are four dog parks in Ramsey County; one in Battle Creek Regional Park that was never fenced in; it was overtaken and boundaries blurred. Community meetings have been going on for about one year and Parks and Recreation felt the Battle Creek site needed to be fenced. There have been ongoing discussions between user groups and the Department focused on fencing and access to water. There have been tremendous thanks from the user groups, not just on the great response from the Department, but that Ramsey County has provided this resource. There will be a proposal coming forward with support from the user groups for a small fee, knowing the fees would help with enforcement and maintenance of the parks. There is high demand for the use of the off-leash parks.

Commissioner Rettman:

- Reported that the Minnesota Department of Health had a training session with the reserve medical corps, similar to the CERT, with a mass dispensing of medication mock-up held. The Public Health Department participated in this session.
- Said the High Speed Rail group is committed to being a strong advocacy group.
- Reported the bridge on Rice Street over the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks near Hamernick's will close next week for about 90 days for complete reconstruction. The City of St. Paul was hired for the negotiation of the contract let to Lunda. There will be a detour going toward downtown on Rice Street to Arlington Street along Jackson to Maryland and back to Rice Street. All the businesses will remain open and the neighborhood will be able to move about, but there will be no access on Rice Street over the tracks.

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BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Parker:

- Said discussion of the extension of the Trout Brook Trail going north took place at the Active Living Ramsey County meeting.
- Reported on a beautifully done photo exhibit: *Portraits of Home II: Veterans in Search of Shelter in Greater Minnesota*, open to the public through June 12. The exhibit is in the lobby areas of the first, second and third floors in the Court House.
- She attended a dedication of the new Frank Rog Amphitheatre in Central Park. Frank was the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Roseville for many years, and later became the Mayor for Roseville. He developed the Roseville park system using lots of private money, and deserves the tribute for all the work he has done.

ADJOURNMENT

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in Executive Session, which was called to order at 11:50 a.m., with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, and Chair Parker – 6. Absent: Bennett – 1. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager; Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office; Tom Ring, Assistant County Attorney; and David Metusalem, Chief Deputy, Sheriff's Department.

Re: Flores v. Albee et al.

A discussion of the above matter was held and the County Attorney was provided with direction on how to proceed. No formal action was taken.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board