

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.

### PRESENTATION

Commissioner Reinhardt explained that last year her sister went through treatment for breast cancer and because of that experience she became more aware of an organization called "Locks of Love". She knew how important a wig was to her sister and her recovery. There are many things that go into treatment for cancer or other illnesses whereby you lose your hair, but your appearance is an important part of one's self-esteem and keeping your hope up. She decided to let her hair grow out and make a donation to "Locks of Love". This is a big deal for herself and those who will receive her hair. She wanted to do this at a County Board Meeting to raise awareness. This is a very simple thing people can do; it makes a difference in people's lives.

Additional information will be available on Commissioner Reinhardt's County web site.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the June 23, 2009 Board Meeting seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

### MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.

### WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update, Contracts, Funding and Program Operation Authorizations

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-207)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has been designated as Workforce Service Area ("WSA") #15 under WIA and is the program administrative entity for WSA #15; and

WHEREAS, As the administrative entity for WSA #15, Workforce Solutions is also authorized under Minnesota Statutes Section 116L.17 to administer the State Dislocated Worker program; and

WHEREAS, As the WSA administrator, Workforce Solutions is required to implement the annual plans or plan updates approved by the WIB and the Ramsey County Board for Ramsey County's WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; and for Minnesota Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions subcontracts with third party vendors for the delivery of some services provided to implement the Local Plan and Local Plan Updates; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions periodically seeks to sign revenue generating service agreements as a subcontractor to other Federal, State, Local and/or nonprofit workforce development program providers, to deliver services to dislocated workers, adults and youth; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions is currently effectively using the KeyTrain educational software curricula pursuant to a software license with from Thinking Media and wishes to continue the use of the KeyTrain software; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions seeks to enter into an agreement with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota for financial counseling, debt management and housing foreclosure mitigation services for its dislocated worker program participants to help them better address the financial stresses they are encountering in the current economic environment; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to existing sub-grantee service agreements for PY2009 with HIRED, Employment Action Center and Goodwill/Easter Seals using WIA Adult program funds and any amendments to existing sub-grantee service agreements for PY2009 with HIRED, Employment Action Center, Goodwill/ Easter Seals, 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 revenue generating services agreements for PY2009 with Federal, State, Local and/or nonprofit workforce development program providers, and to negotiate and execute subcontractor agreements as necessary to assist Workforce Solutions in providing timely and appropriate services in accordance with the requirements of the revenue generating agreements, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute subcontractor agreements as necessary to assist Workforce Solutions in providing timely and appropriate services to carry out its responsibilities under the PY2009 Unified Plan Update, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement and any amendments with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, 2400 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404, in the amount of \$30,000, for financial counseling, debt management and housing foreclosure mitigation services to be available for enrolled participants in Workforce Solutions' WIA Title I and Minnesota State Dislocated Worker Programs; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to the licensing agreement with Thinking Media, 340 Frazier Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37405 for its KeyTrain education curricula 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.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Terms of collective bargaining agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc., Local 184 (Deputy Sheriff-Commander Unit) for years 2009, 2010 and 2011

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-208)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and the Law Enforcement Labor Services Inc., Local 184 (Deputy Sheriff-Commander Unit) engaged in collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, Negotiations resulted in a tentative agreement on terms and conditions of employment for 2009, 2010 and 2011; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the implementation of a three year agreement on terms and conditions of employment for Law Enforcement Labor Services Inc., Local 184 (Deputy Sheriff-Commander Unit), effective January 1, 2009, for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 as follows:

WAGES

2009 - 3% increase effective January 1, 2009

2010 - 2% increase effective January 1, 2010

2011 – 1.99% increase effective March 1, 2011

All increases effective the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following effective date.

DEFERRED COMPENSATION

Effective 7/1/09, Ramsey County will increase its matching contribution to deferred compensation from \$15.00 per month to \$20.00 per month per contributing employee. Contributions will be pro-rated for part-time employees.

CLOTHING ALLOWANCE

Effective 1/1/09 increase allowance from \$750 to \$760 per year.

Effective 1/1/10 increase allowance from \$760 to \$770 per year.

Effective 1/1/11 increase allowance from \$770 to \$780 per year.

EDUCATION

Effective 1/1/10, increase the job related education amount from \$750.00 to \$850.00 per year, per employee, and increase the accumulation period from three years to four years.

INSURANCE:

MEDICAL INSURANCE

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Single coverage			
Employee Pays	\$21/mo	\$26/mo	\$31/mo

(Continued)

Split of Premium	100% employer	80% employer	75% employer
Increase for Family	0% employee	20% employee	25% employee

Changes will be effective on January 1 of each year, except that for 2011, the County will pay the entire increase in premium for family medical coverage until March 1, 2011.

Dental -

For the year 2009, employees will receive the full 5.6% premium decrease. For the year 2010, the employee will pay the total premium increase. For the year 2011, the County and the employee will split the increase or decrease in premium 50/50 for single or family coverage. All premium rates are effective January 1 of each year.

Retiree Insurance -

Early Retiree Contributions for Employees Retiring in 2009, 2010, 2011 – The County will continue to make the same contribution to medical insurance premiums for early retirees as for active employees, for employees retiring during the term of this contract. County contributions are subject to the years of service requirements previously established by the County Board.

Regular Retiree Minimum Payment For Employees Retiring During the Term of the Contract:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Single	\$30/mo	\$35/mo	\$35/mo
Family	\$70/mo	\$80/mo	\$80/mo

All changes effective January 1 of each year.

HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN

Effective the first full pay period in 2011, for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 1/1/06 and for insurance-eligible employees hired on or after 7/1/92 who opted into the HCSP:

The County will contribute \$520 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 5 year anniversary date.

- The County will contribute \$624 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 10 year anniversary date.
- The County will contribute \$728 per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's 15 year anniversary date.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

The agreement reached also includes modifications to the sick leave and holiday provisions, and minor changes to the severance pay and insurance articles.

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the terms of the collective bargaining agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services Inc., Local 184 (Deputy Sheriff-Commander Unit) and authorizes the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and the County Manager, as representatives of the County to approve and sign the agreements incorporating these terms and conditions.

(Continued)

PARKS AND RECREATION – 2010 Capital Budget Request – Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-209)

WHEREAS, The State Management and Budget Office has notified local units of government that Capital Budget Requests for consideration in the 2010 Legislative Session are due June 25, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department commissioned a consultant to prepare preliminary design plans for the Battle Creek Winter Recreation Area having an estimated total design, construction and equipment cost of \$3,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Capital Budget Requests are limited to 50% of the total cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, The cross-country ski community is very supportive of the project and is committed to work with Ramsey County to secure matching funds for the project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Department of Parks and Recreation to submit a 2010 Capital Budget Request to the State Department of Finance for the Battle Creek Winter Recreation project in the amount of \$1,500,000.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Ramsey EZ-Info System

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-210)

WHEREAS, The EZ-Info system provides individuals and families receiving medical or cash benefits the option of calling to get an update on the status of benefits without having to reach a financial worker; and

WHEREAS, Individuals wishing to apply for benefits can request that application forms be mailed to them through the EZ-Info system; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this system is to enable individuals and families to obtain a quicker status report and to enable workers to concentrate on processing eligibility forms without being overwhelmed by phone calls; and

WHEREAS, On March 20, 2007, the Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with Hennepin County for technical maintenance and support for the EZ-Info System; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 15% of calls that previously went to financial workers are now handled by the automated system; and

WHEREAS, This has both improved the speed of response to questions and taken some of the pressure off of financial workers; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, This is one of the essential tools to enable us to manage the significant increase in caseloads when the budget limits the ability to add staff; and

WHEREAS, By handling the routine requests for information, the EZ-Info service allows workers to focus on more complex client needs; and

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department requests a five-year renewal of this agreement; and

WHEREAS, Funding for 2009 is in the current Department budget; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves renewal of the technical support and maintenance agreement with Hennepin County, at \$3,180 per month, \$38,160 annually, for the period February 1, 2009 through June 30, 2014; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve the agreement, any related amendments, any rate adjustments within the approved annual budgets, and any necessary budget adjustments.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Phoenix Group Homes, Inc.

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-211)

WHEREAS, Phoenix Group Homes, Inc., 1011 Interlachen Parkway, Woodbury, MN 55125, provides residential services for delinquent children and youth in facilities within Ramsey County that are licensed by the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Group Homes, Inc. currently provides these residential services for adolescents in Ramsey County at 1936 Craig Place, Maplewood, MN 55109 and 2371 Highwood Avenue, Maplewood, MN 55119; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix Group Homes will be vacating 2371 Highwood Avenue and moving those residents to 3601 Christine Place, White Bear Lake, MN 55110; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix has been working with the City of White Bear Lake on the relocation; and

WHEREAS, The agency has been renting the home at 2371 Highwood Avenue and the owner has been foreclosed on; and

RESOLVED, Board and lodging services for persons living in certain licensed facilities may be paid for using Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Funds (CCDTF) if the individual is also attending outpatient treatment; and

WHEREAS, Payments made from the CCDTF are 85% State and 15% County matching funds; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department administers the contract because it involves Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Funds; and

WHEREAS, The program expects to close the purchase of 3601 Christine Place, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 before June 26, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Residents will be transferred sometime after June 26, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The amendment adds 3601 Christine Place, White Bear Lake, MN 55110 to the contract and retains 2371 Highwood Avenue, Maplewood, MN 55119 as a service location until it is vacated by Phoenix Group Homes, Inc.; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the relocation of services provided by Phoenix Group Home, Inc. from 2371 Highwood Avenue, Maplewood, MN 55119 to 3601 Christine Place, White Bear Lake, MN 55110; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to approve and sign the contract amendment.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Bridge Construction on Maryland Avenue at BNSF RR**

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-212)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, in cooperation with the City of St. Paul and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, has developed plans for the construction of Bridge 6599 and 6600 on Maryland Avenue at BNSF RR, S.A.P. 62-631-07, S.P. 164-020-095; and

WHEREAS, These bridge projects were included in the 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), adopted by Resolution 2009-173; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County awarded a contract, in the amount of \$2,059,110.01, to Redstone Construction Company; and

WHEREAS, The City of St. Paul will provide project management on this project in accordance with Agreement No. CF 07-1077-01 Maryland, which was approved by Resolution 2008-019; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation and has been approved for bridge bonds from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has applied and been approved for federal funds for construction of the Project; and

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for the project is available, in a bridge bond in the amounts of \$333,065.16 (#6599) and \$862,099.84 (#6600), respectively; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has been given notice that federal funding for the project is available in the amount of \$159,165.52 (#6599) and \$412,878.48 (#6600), respectively; and

WHEREAS, The City of St. Paul will contribute \$100,000, with the balance of \$191,901.01 coming from Ramsey County State Aid Highway funds; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to accept bridge bond funding from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund in the amounts of \$333,065.16 and \$862,099.84, respectively, for bridges #6599 and #6600 on Maryland Avenue; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board agrees to finance any cost in excess of the bond funding and to return any monies not needed for the construction of said bridges.

PUBLIC WORKS – Professional services contract with SEH, Inc. and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for final design for the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street interchange and related roadway improvements

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-213)

WHEREAS, In its 2008 session, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$2 Million from the bond proceeds in the state transportation fund for the purpose of funding planning, engineering and design for the reconstruction of the interchange of Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) and related roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, The reconstruction of the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) interchange is included in the County's 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, with construction beginning in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, in cooperation with the cities of Roseville, Little Canada, and Maplewood, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services for final design services for the project; and

WHEREAS, Three proposals were received and the selection panel, comprised of a representative of each city, MN/DOT, and Ramsey County, has recommended negotiating a contract for professional services with SEH, Inc., teamed with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, The estimated cost of the work, based on the proposal, is \$993,706; and

WHEREAS, The scope of work and its time constraints requires to expedite the contract by authorizing the Director of Public Works to negotiate the contract and the County Manager to approve the contract once its content and form have been approved by the County Attorney; Now, Therefore, Be It

**(Continued)**

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Director of Public Works to negotiate a professional services contract, on behalf of Ramsey County, with SEH, Inc. and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the purposes of completing final design and engineering services for the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) interchange reconstruction and related roadway improvements in an amount not to exceed \$1.1 Million; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the contract on behalf of Ramsey County, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney's office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make necessary budget adjustments, increasing estimated revenue and appropriations to fund the contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a temporary cash loan, in an amount necessary to fund the contract, from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge CIP fund until receipt of the participating funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners agrees to pay any costs incurred in excess of the \$2 Million legislative grant limit.

PUBLIC WORKS – Professional services contract with Yaggy Colby Associates, Inc. for appraisal and right of way acquisition services for the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street interchange and related roadway improvements

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-214)

WHEREAS, In its 2008 session, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$2 Million from the bond proceeds in the state transportation fund for the purpose of funding planning, engineering and design for the reconstruction of the interchange of Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) and related roadway improvements; and

WHEREAS, The reconstruction of the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) interchange is included in the County's 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Plan, with construction beginning in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, in cooperation with the cities of Roseville, Little Canada, and Maplewood, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for professional services for appraisal and right of way acquisition services for the project; and

WHEREAS, Six proposals were received and the selection panel, comprised of a representative of each city, MN/DOT, and Ramsey County, has recommended negotiating a contract for professional services with Yaggy Colby Associates, Inc., to complete the work; and

WHEREAS, The estimated cost of the work, based on the proposal, is \$227,557; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, The scope of work and its time constraints requires this contract process be expedited by authorizing the Director of Public Works to negotiate the contract and the County Manager to approve the contract once its content and form have been approved by the County Attorney; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Director of Public Works to negotiate a professional services contract, on behalf of Ramsey County, with Yaggy Colby Associates, Inc. for the appraisal and right of way acquisition services for the Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) interchange reconstruction and related roadway improvements in an amount not to exceed \$250,000; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the contract on behalf of Ramsey County, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney's office, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make necessary budget adjustments increasing estimated revenue and appropriations to fund the contract, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a temporary cash loan, in an amount necessary to fund the contract, from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge CIP fund until receipt of the participating funds, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners agrees to pay any costs incurred in excess of the \$2 Million legislative grant limit.

PUBLIC WORKS – Final Payment and Contract amount for the reconstruction of County Road C between Long Lake Road and Snelling Avenue and approval of supplemental agreements 15, 20, 30 and 33

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-215)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is currently reconstructing County Road C between Long Lake Road and Snelling Avenue; S.P. 62-623-40, STPX 6202 (206), S.P. 6216-114, M.S.A. 160-020-18; and

WHEREAS, After commencement of construction the engineer determined it necessary to make changes to City utilities. Appropriate additions or corrections are defined in Supplemental Agreement 15. The amount, \$19,108.57, will be paid for with Roseville, MSA 160-020-18 funds; and

WHEREAS, The engineer determined that additional compensation was due according to the Fuel Escalation Clause. Appropriate additions or corrections are defined in Supplemental Agreement 20. The amount, \$3,973.71, will be paid for with Federal (\$227.63), Mn/DOT (\$1,737.29), CSAH (\$594.73) and Roseville Local Funds (\$1,414.06), and

WHEREAS, The engineer determined a need to revise the price of 42" Steel Casing Pipe due to decrease in project quantities. Appropriate additions or corrections are defined in Supplemental Agreement 30. The reduction, (-\$1,335.48) will be federal (-\$648.38) and CSAH (-\$687.10) fund; and

WHEREAS, The engineer determined a need for miscellaneous work, reconfigure existing retaining walls, re-grade area at SB Cleveland. Appropriate additions or corrections are defined in Supplemental Agreement 33. The amount of \$2,524.44 will be paid for with federal (\$1,298.82) and CSAH (\$1,225.62) funds; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Project Engineer has inspected the work and certified that it has been completed in accordance with the plans and specifications of the contract; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Supplemental Agreements 15, 20, 30 and 33 to a contract with Shafer Contracting Company for the reconstruction of County Road C between Long Lake Road and Snelling Avenue; and Be It Further

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

RESOVLED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a final contract amount of \$10,051,491.50 and authorizes a final payment of \$17,146.23 to Shafer Contracting Company, 30405 Regal Avenue, Box 128, Shafer, MN 55074, County Contract CC001274.

**PUBLIC WORKS – Amendment 1 to Construction Grant Agreement for County Road J Improvements**

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-216)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Legislature dedicated \$19M in General Obligation (GO) bonds to the County Road J improvement project in the 2005 session; and

WHEREAS, Administration of the GO bonds is handled by the Minnesota Department of Economic Development (DEED) through a Construction Grant Agreement; and

WHEREAS, On March 28, 2006, via Resolution 2006-122, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a construction grant agreement, now known as Contract RDGP-05-0028-0-FY05, between Minnesota Department of Economic Development (DEED) and the Counties of Ramsey and Anoka; and

WHEREAS, It has been determined that more time is needed to fulfill this contract and a redistribution of the funds is necessary to enable the State to reimburse Anoka County for Right of Way expenses, which they in turn will forward to Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Amendment #1 extends the contract expiration date from December 1, 2008 to December 1, 2010 and redistributes the monies to create a balance between the apportionment and the actual responsibilities; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, There is no change to the project budget; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Amendment #1 to Contract RDGP-05-0028-0-FY05 for improvements to County Road J; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute Amendment #1 to Contract RDGP-05-0028-0-FY05 on behalf of Ramsey County.

**BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS / WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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

Commissioner Rettman said the Board has not received an update from the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for quite some time. There are several things that she would like information on either during the budget process or at another time: 1) the sustainability of the WIB; 2) the fund raising activities; 3) the work, separate from Workforce Solutions; and 4) what does the WIB perceive its ability to be in the future.

Mary Jo Gardner, Executive Director, Workforce Investment Board, said they are on the schedule for an August 4, 2009 Board Workshop to present that information.

Commissioner Rettman said she is hopeful that the items she raised will be addressed during that presentation.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-217)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 117(d) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the State of Minnesota planning requirements for local Workforce Service Areas, the Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board (“WIB”) and the Ramsey County Board are required to prepare an annual plan or plan update for Ramsey County’s WIA Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; and for Minnesota Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; and

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2009 –120, the County Board approved the PY2009 (April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010) WIA/MYP Local Youth Plan Update and authorized the County Manager to execute amendments to the PY2009 Local Youth Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County WIB and County Board have submitted for approval the PY2009 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker and Minnesota Dislocated Worker Programs (“PY2009 Local Unified Plan”); and

WHEREAS, At its May 15, 2009, meeting, the WIB’s Executive Committee approved the attached PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update, and on June 4, 2009, the full WIB approved the PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board approves the PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update for the Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Worker programs and the Minnesota Dislocated Worker program (“PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update”); and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update; and Be It Further

**(Continued)**

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute modifications and amendments to the PY2009 Local Unified Plan Update.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Support for Continuation of federal funding for Public Health Programs

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

Commissioner Rettman requested the following amendment to the resolution on lines 10 and 25 “federal funding for evidence based nurse delivered family home visiting”. It was added last week to the NACo resolution but was not added to this one. Commissioner Rettman distributed information on two bills currently in Congress that would give federal funding to evidence based nurse delivered home visiting. We have been doing this for 50 years and could be a leader and champion for this legislation.

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Commissioner Carter asked if it was newly provided by the federal government.

Commissioner Rettman said it is specific legislation in terms of breaking the cycle of poverty. This would be new legislation, but the concept of evidence based nurse delivered home visiting has been around.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-218)

WHEREAS, The Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health receives federal funding for the following programs: Title V Maternal and Child Block Grant; Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT), Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (LHC); Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program (LHRD); Healthy Homes Demonstration Program (HHD); Title X Family Planning; HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral; Ryan White Grant; Region V Infertility Prevention Project; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; and Cities Readiness Initiative and federal funding for evidence based nurse delivered family home visiting; and

WHEREAS, These programs serve individuals and communities throughout Ramsey County with needed services; and

WHEREAS, Without continued federal funding these programs and services could not be sustained; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby includes in the federal legislative package for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress support for: Title V Maternal and Child Block Grant; Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT); Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program (LHC); Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Program (LHRD); Healthy Homes Demonstration Program (HHD); Title X Family Planning; HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral; Ryan White Grant; Region V Infertility Prevention Project; Public Health Emergency Preparedness; and Cities Readiness Initiative and federal funding for evidence based nurse delivered family home visiting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes submittal of this item to members of the Ramsey County Federal Legislative Delegation with request to support continued funding.

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COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Mental Health Services – Contracting with Health Plans

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

Commissioner Rettman said these contracts are with the health plans, and would like copies of the contracts and requested that the Board have an opportunity to review this. She asked a couple of questions: 1) what is the term length of these contracts; 2) lines 55-58 of the resolution state that there are workers that would be retained – would they be retained with this money or are they being retained regardless

Meghan Mohs, Adult Services Division Director, Community Human Services, said that what was intended to be said is that absent any of these health plan contracts it is anticipated that about 4.0 FTEs would have to be reduced. However, the Department is requesting additional staff as it is anticipated that there will be growth if the County enters into the contracts. Those additional positions would be filled only if needed and as revenue would allow. Regarding the term length of the contracts, Ms. Mohs said they are not for a determined length of time; the contract contains an ability to cancel the contract on the side of either party with an approximate 120 days notice. They will automatically renew, but we still have the opportunity to get out at any time.

Commissioner Rettman said the Board should review these at some time.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the total is 4.0 FTEs plus the 9.0 new FTEs.

Ms. Mohs said it can be looked at that way. We would be saving the four positions – not reducing them – and potentially adding up to nine positions.

Commissioner Rettman requested an amendment to the resolution on line 119, 136 and 137 to add 'starred', and to add a final resolved clause 'the Board reaffirms its directive to the County Manager to minimize layoffs and to communicate all job postings and requirements and opportunities to applicable staff'. This Board has been very concerned about layoffs and if we are adding positions, the information should be provided to employees. Commissioner Rettman said she believes that language should be added to reaffirm the position.

The amendment was accepted as friendly.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.  
(2009-219)

WHEREAS, Due to changes adopted by the Minnesota State Legislature, as of July 1, 2009, health plans will assume responsibility for the administration of targeted case management services; and

WHEREAS, To this point, counties and county contracted agencies have been the sole providers of case management services to adults with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and children with severe emotional disturbance (SED) who have been receiving services through a health plan; and

WHEREAS, At the present time, 721 adults and 155 children served by the County are also served by the health plans; and

WHEREAS, All four health plans in Ramsey County - Blue Plus, UCare, HealthPartners, and Medica – have approached the Community Human Services Department about the possibility of contracting with them to continue to provide case management on behalf of the health plans; and

WHEREAS, Three of the four are proposing to pay the current rates for essentially the same service as the Department performs now; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Medica is proposing a “tiered” system of rates; and

WHEREAS, The Department is analyzing this proposal to see if it will cover its costs of performing this service; and

WHEREAS, Based on previous Board direction, the Community Human Services Department will not pursue or recommend an agreement with any health plan that does not propose adequate rates; and

WHEREAS, Among the issues raised by this transfer and the approach from the health plans are:

- How does our involvement benefit individuals needing service?
- How does it affect existing county staff?
- Would our involvement assist in achieving the envisioned integration?
- What is the effect on community agencies service individuals with mental health needs?
- How this transfer interacts with the new federal requirement for parity in insurance coverage for mental health needs?

and

WHEREAS, For individuals seeking service, county participation with the health plans would create a system in which there is a single door to access services versus 4-5 different doors; and

WHEREAS, At present we have a system with two access points – one for physical care and one for mental health care; and

WHEREAS, By working with the health plans, that access point can be reduced to one and reduce the complexity of the system; and

WHEREAS, With the County not involved, the number of different access points grows to at least four; and

WHEREAS, For County staff, if the individuals being served transferred to the health plans and they arranged for case management without the County, that would reduce caseloads by 4 full-time workers – three in adult mental health services and one in children’s mental health services; and

WHEREAS, The effect on community vendors would be in addition to this number if they were unable to contract with health plans for providing this service; and

WHEREAS, As for integration and better coordination of basic physical care and mental health care, it is difficult to predict how and whether this will happen; and

WHEREAS, Initial developments within health plans are that they structurally separate management of physical and behavioral care internally; and

WHEREAS, This would indicate a very similar system structure to the one that would be set up if a county entered into an agreement to provide the targeted case management service; and

**(Continued)**

WHEREAS, In discussions within the Community Human Services Department, one of our goals in participating would be to continue raising with health plans ideas for advancing more complete and seamless integration of physical and behavioral care; and

WHEREAS, Community agencies are also in an uncertain position; and

WHEREAS, Without the County involved and working with the current vendors, they would all have to seek service agreements with the health plans; and

WHEREAS, Some would compete well and might in fact expand their business; and

WHEREAS, Others would not compete as well and likely go out of business; and

WHEREAS, The issue of competition would be expected to lead to more effective and value-added service delivery; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, the potential loss of vendors that have developed to serve specific cultural communities is a development that the Department is concerned about; and

WHEREAS, County participation would include a raising of this issue so we can work to avoid gaining the benefits of competition at the expense of the current level of service for specific cultural communities; and

WHEREAS, The interaction with parity really comes down to how quickly this concept becomes wide-spread in the commercial market; and

WHEREAS, We have mental health parity in the public insurance system; and

WHEREAS, The parity law is to encourage and enforce the introduction of a “model benefit set” of mental health services into the commercial side of the insurance business; and

WHEREAS, The Human Services Department is unsure if and how the transfer of the responsibility of behavioral services for individuals with mental health needs served through public programs will impact the transfer of the “model benefit set” to the commercial side of health plans; and

WHEREAS, Based on the experience in providing case coordination services for elderly individuals served by the health plans, the payment rates, the number of new individuals referred for service to the Department and the reporting requirements, if approved, this effort will require the addition of both case management and financial worker staff; and

WHEREAS, The additional staff costs are covered by the payment rates from health plans; and

WHEREAS, The Department projects that providing mental health case management services for the health plans will require the addition of up to 7.0 starred social workers and 2.0 starred financial workers to meet the provisions of the contracts; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The Department is requesting authorization for the County Manager to sign agreements with up to four health plans to provide case management services with payment rates that do not result in the County subsidizing the health plan responsibility for providing mental health case management services and for an increase in staff complement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves entering into agreements with Blue Plus, UCare, HealthPartners and Medica to provide mental health case management services at rates sufficient to cover County costs; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute the agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney and to make the necessary budget adjustments; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the increase of up to 7.0 FTE Social Worker III starred positions and 2.0 FTE Financial Worker III starred positions as work load and payment rates permit; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board reaffirms its directive to the County Manager to minimize layoffs and to communicate all job postings and requirements and opportunities to applicable staff.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Financial Assistance Services – Outreach for Food Support Program

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

Commissioner Rettman said the MAAA works with congregate dining sites. Additionally, Washington and Ramsey Counties, through the Resource Recovery Board, has a contract with Second Harvest. She asked if there would be coordination with those organizations. Additionally, Public Health has a contract

Mary Nelson, Division Director, Financial Assistance Services, Community Human Services Department, said that potential partners have not been written into the proposal or how partnerships would be set up. It is the Department's intention to spend some time locating the most likely sites and those that would office the biggest impact by sending someone out to do these applications to receive financial assistance for food support. There is a lot of funding for outreach, but that funding is informational outreach; the unique thing about this opportunity is that we are talking about funding a financial worker to send out to these sites where they can process the applications on site. They hope to reach a new audience and be able to give people benefits in a more direct manner.

Commissioner Rettman said that since our involvement is intertwined with public health, she would like the minutes to reflect that the Board requests the Community Human Services Department work with the Department of Public Health in terms of Second Harvest and MAAA. She asked if the funding would be for six months.

Ms. Nelson said the way they are requesting the funding is for the non-federal portion of the funding, or the levy portion of the funding, and that would allow the Department to fund this position for one year.

Commissioner Rettman asked that the reference in the resolution be changed from six months to one year. She asked if this program would be sustainable.

*(Continued)*

Ms. Nelson said they do not know if it will be sustainable; this is an effort to respond to the current economic crisis; we know the demand for food support is up and the County's ability to meet that demand has not been as great as they would like. This is an opportunity to try to meet that demand at this time. The success rate will be reviewed and assessed; it does appear to be a good way to do outreach.

Chair Parker said line 33 of the resolution should be changed to reflect one year rather than six months.

Commissioner Reinhardt suggested adding the same language as the previous resolution because the FTE would be a starred position and the County Manager language should be added.

These were accepted as friendly amendments.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.  
(2009-220)

WHEREAS, Food support dollars are available to meet the basic nutritional needs of all residents in Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, Within Ramsey County approximately 65% of the individuals eligible for federal food support actually apply for benefits; and

WHEREAS, This means a significant number of individuals and families are not accessing the nutritional support that is available to improve their circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included expanded food support benefits both in an effort to improve the nutritional level of low income families and to serve as a stimulus for the overall economy; and

WHEREAS, To better achieve both of those goals the Sundance Foundation has invited Ramsey County to submit a proposal for grant funding to finance two full-time positions that would rotate among the six food shelves in Ramsey County that serve the largest number of families; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of those positions would be to offer the opportunity to families using these food shelves to apply for the food support program right at the food shelf; and

WHEREAS, This would also reduce the existing barriers to applying for food support; and

WHEREAS, Even if the positions are in existence on a temporary basis, families would be introduced to the food support program and its benefits; and

WHEREAS, The invitation is to apply for up to \$40,000; and

WHEREAS, That would enable the Human Services Department to have an outreach worker at the food shelves, congregate dining locations and other venues that would provide access to seniors for one year; and

WHEREAS, This is a response to the economic crisis and hopefully the economy will improve by the end of the grant period; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, If successful, the Department would both evaluate how much of an increase in eligible applications are generated through this outreach effort and pursue other non-county funding if the service is important to continue; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the submission of a grant application for up to \$40,000 to the Sundance Foundation, 3109 West 50<sup>th</sup> St., Minneapolis, MN 55410 for one outreach worker to rotate among the most food shelves and congregate dining locations in Ramsey County to enable families to apply for the food support program at the food shelves; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes an increase in the complement of the Community Human Services Department of 1 FTE Financial Worker III starred position; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to accept the funds, make any necessary budget adjustments, and to approve any agreement that has been approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board reaffirms its directive to the County Manager to minimize layoffs and to communicate all job postings and requirements and opportunities to applicable staff.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Long-Term Homeless Supportive Services Program – Renewal of Cooperative Agreement

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

Commissioner Rettman asked for the term of this agreement.

Jim Anderson, Planner for Low Income and Homeless Services, Community Human Services Department, said the grant funds allocated by the State of Minnesota are for the biennium beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-221)

WHEREAS, The goals of this effort are to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and to achieve long-term costs savings through avoiding crisis oriented services; and

WHEREAS, On May 23, 2006, the Board approved a Cooperative Agreement with Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, and Washington Counties for the supportive services in housing programs for individuals experiencing long-term homelessness; and

WHEREAS, That Cooperative Agreement is set to expire on June 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The budget recently passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by the Governor includes \$8 million for the seven-county program in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, The seven-county support services program is funded entirely by the State of Minnesota and does not require any local County matching funds; and

WHEREAS, The types of services provided are tailored to the needs of the families served, including assisting in finding stable housing, basic medical care, the improvement of parenting skills, and treatment for mental health or chemical dependency concerns; and

WHEREAS, From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the Metro Project served 331 households – including 112 families with 318 children, 191 single adults, and 28 unaccompanied youth for a total of 711 participants; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County residents made up 51% of those being served; and

WHEREAS, That percentage will come down as the overall services move from a pilot stage to a more established effort; and

WHEREAS, The program has consistently targeted households with multiple barriers to stable housing and with the most extensive history of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, The results are that 78% of participants were housed by the end of the third month of enrollment and 96% by the end of the first year and 90% remained housed at the end of the second program year; and

WHEREAS, A renewal Cooperative Agreement has been drawn up to continue this successful partnership; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County will continue to serve as fiscal agent for the seven-county program and Hearth Connection remains under contract with Hennepin County to serve as program administrator; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the renewal Cooperative Agreement with Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott and Washington Counties to continue the supportive services program for persons experiencing long-term homelessness.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – Medical Transportation

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

Commissioner Rettman understands that this would be through the end of this year only, and would go out for an RFP, but she has concerns and will not support it.

Commissioner Reinhardt also has concerns but will support it only because if it is not approved, there will be nothing for folks. This is for six months because this was very recent legislation that goes into effect July 1. The State of Minnesota did not give counties any time to deal with this; this agreement would allow some time to figure it out. We will go through the full RFP process and will be able to address concerns. If this were voted down today, there would be no services for people. That is why she will support it.

Commissioner Carter also has issues with this as an unfunded mandate coming to the County at this time. She will support it and notes that the eleven counties affected are working together. This agreement will buy some time to figure out a solution and to look at what needs to be done, for example legislatively, as we look toward the future.

*(Continued)*

Commissioner Rettman asked if the RFP process would begin almost immediately. She asked the County Manager to do the due diligence needed on some of the concerns raised.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, said she is aware of some concerns that have been raised and said staff will follow up on those concerns.

Commissioner Rettman said other Commissioners have been persuasive in their argument to support. She requested clarification that absent this contract, there would be nothing available.

Mary Nelson, Division Director, Financial Assistance Services, Community Human Services Department, responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that when this was discussed at the Legislature, it was very clear that what they are trying to do on a statewide level is taking the money for use in greater Minnesota. Pushing the date to July 1 put the counties in a bind. It was clear that it was intentionally done this way and is unfortunate because it did not give anyone sufficient time. She is confident that the issues raised, even though it is a six month contract, will be dealt with. The RFP will give the quality of service that these folks deserve.

Ms. Nelson said the short time frame has made it difficult to figure out how we could respond to 15,000-20,000 additional phone calls each month for Ramsey County alone. The extension of this contract with the eleven metro counties is seen as a way to give the time needed to figure out what makes sense going forward. It is recognized that there are concerns. Anoka County has taken the lead on putting together this short-term contract; they are also putting together a forum so that people who have concerns can attend and express their concerns. This forum is likely to be held in August; commissioners from the eleven metro counties will be invited to that forum.

Commissioner McDonough said this is bigger than just automatically going out for an RFP. We need to look at how the service should be provided. There are many different options whether we continue to work together as an eleven county group and go out as one contract or whether we do direct hires and do it ourselves; it is more than automatically going out for the RFP. Part of the process is that we need to have a conversation with our delegation because this was a big issue at the Legislature. We get shifts and mandates from all different points; this was a shift from the metro area to outstate Minnesota. We should get a sense from the metro delegation about if there is any interest in going back and revisiting this, because this was a contentious issue at the Legislature. He doesn't believe that the automatic thing is that we should go out for an RFP and continue contracting, as there are many different way to look at this. The forum should provide ways of best providing the service.

Commissioner Ortega said this is a critical service and is fully supportive of it. In the long run, he thinks it will be included in the continuum of service. His concern is that as the Board begins focusing on the un-allotments and the impact that has in terms of mental health, chemical dependency, transportation and all the other services, that through the budget process we need to be realistic about what needs to be budgeted for. This is just an example. This is a critical service and he doesn't believe we are just looking at six months. We need to keep in mind that it is in the mix of things that we might have to pick up; this is critical medical transportation. As the Board begins the budgeting process, he will be looking to receive from staff information on those services that are no longer funded by the State.

Commissioner Rettman viewed this as two issues: 1) that it is an unfunded mandate; and 2) there have been some concerns raised about this vendor.

Commissioner Ortega said he was not talking about the vendor, but rather about the service.

Ms. Kleinschmidt said this is temporarily being funded with ARRA dollars, so this is a critical issue. She wants the Board to be aware that we will be able to use the ARRA dollars for this service but those are limited dollars.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 6. Nays – 0.  
(2009-222)

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The 2009 Minnesota Legislature prohibited the use of a broker by the Minnesota Department of Human Services to provide medical transportation service in the metropolitan area as of July 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, This system had been in place for five years; and

WHEREAS, In essence, this creates an “unfunded mandate” for counties as responsibility to address medical transportation falls to each county under Minnesota Statue 256B.04; and

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department has been working with other counties to develop an interim solution to this new responsibility; and

WHEREAS, During Legislative hearings, points were raised that some individuals did not get rides at the times requested and a similar service was not available outside the metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, State spending was reduced by approximately \$3.7 million; and

WHEREAS, The projected cost for Ramsey County to arrange for this service is \$600,000 for six months, with 50% reimbursed through Medical Assistance; and

WHEREAS, The specific tasks performed by the broker included arranging for rides, receiving receipts for eligible transportation already provided and processing these receipts for reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, The individuals served are Medical Assistant recipients not in an HMO. Most are disabled, though not at the level that required special transportation services, e.g. wheelchair accessible vans; and

WHEREAS, The eleven counties affected by this decision are reviewing their options on how to provide the service; and

WHEREAS, One of the options is to jointly contract with the broker to continue providing the service. Anoka County is offering to hold the contract under this option; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of exercising this option at this time is to continue the present level of service without interruption and to provide time for the Community Human Service Department to review other options for 2010 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the arrangement of the broker by the State of Minnesota individual metropolitan counties carried out this task; and

WHEREAS, For Ramsey County staff, it was one of the numerous tasks carried out by financial workers; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, the program has grown exponentially; and

WHEREAS, Financial worker caseloads have also grown rapidly; and

***(Continued)***

WHEREAS, It is not possible for current staff to take on that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 10 additional staff would be required to arrange and reimburse approximately 15,000-20,000 rides per month for Ramsey County residents; and

WHEREAS, The Department does not have in place the technology to handle this volume; and

WHEREAS, Proposed funding is from new revenue to be received in 2009 by Community Human Services under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; and

WHEREAS, While costs have not been finalized, the Department expects that it will be approximately \$600,000 for six months; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with Medical Transportation Management, 16 Hawk Ridge, St. Louis, Missouri, to provide medical transportation service for eligible individuals at a cost of up to \$300,000 for the period July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve and sign the cooperative agreement in a form approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make the necessary budget adjustments to enter into the agreement.

RAMSEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT – An introduction to the Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area

Tom Petersen, Ramsey Conservation District, introduced Paul Erdmann, Conservation Technician. About one year ago Mr. Erdmann was hired using funds from a grant received from the State Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Approximately 15 of these grants were issued through the State to try something new. Invasive plant species are becoming problematic for public and private property owners. In an attempt to learn to manage and eradicate invasive plant species before they become problematic, the State thought it would be a great idea to cue local governments in to cooperating and identifying and beginning the eradication process before they became full blown epidemics of invasive species. Mr. Erdmann was charged to get a cooperative program going with other local government units and large private property owners in Ramsey County to see what could be done and create a framework and format to get a handle on invasive weeds and some of the new invasive weeds that are going to make buckthorn and loosestrife look like child's play.

Mr. Erdmann said that CWMA, or Cooperative Weed Management Area, refers to a local organization that integrates all invasive plant management resources across jurisdictional boundaries in order to benefit entire communities. This is an idea that started in the western states where there are many acres of public land and many ranchers. If someone has weeds growing on one side of the fence they are doing something about it but their neighbor is doing nothing about it, there will be conflicts. This is trying to bring together the natural resource agencies and public and private landowners, and getting everyone on the same page about invasive plant issues and weed management. The biggest goal is to get the partners together; Ramsey County is a great place to start CWMA because most of the natural resource agencies are represented in the County, such as the Department of Agriculture, DNR, and the National Park Service, are represented here, and are perhaps fighting different battles.

*(Continued)*

Bringing the stakeholders together ultimately creates a sustainable group. They are focusing on early detection; unfortunately they are not able to get rid of all the buckthorn in the county, but are focusing on species that have the potential to be the next buckthorn. The biggest part of prevention is education. He goes to schools and gives PowerPoint presentations about invasive plants. Various non-profits do events, such as the Green Expo, the Lake Phalen Waterfest, etc., so that information can be given to the public. Examples of this information include the problems caused by invasive species, and the difference between a native plant and an invasive plant.

Mr. Erdmann said that about twelve partners have been signed onto the program over this past year. He has worked with staff from Parks and Recreation and Public Works; both of those departments have been integral to the program and have been a great help. The watershed districts and the Minnesota Army National Guard have been coming to meetings.

Mr. Erdmann said that biological diversity is our most valuable but least appreciated resource. Purple loosestrife and reed canary grass are well established and create large amounts of cultures. It is estimated that invasive plants cost an estimated \$35 billion annually nationwide, in lost agriculture, lost parklands, lost recreation value, etc. Bringing the different agencies together means that resources can be pooled together, unified fronts are formed, and expertise and equipment are brought together.

Mr. Erdmann has received many calls from citizens about how to control various plants. He is here to assist the public with invasive plant issues.

Mr. Erdmann said they are focusing on five species: yellow iris; miscanthus; wild parsnip, Japanese knotweed, and tansy.

Commissioner Reinhardt pointed out that some of these plants are still be sold and planted. Obviously people are not being told these are invasive plant species.

Mr. Erdmann said an important component of this group is that the Minnesota Landscape and Nursery Association has come to their meetings. They cannot be told they can't sell the plants, but they have been asked to provide management information to people, such as how to control the species, where to plant it, and where not to plant it. Other than that, it would be dealing with the Department of Agriculture which is currently updating their noxious weed law. It would be up to them to tell people that certain species cannot be planted.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that these are not native to this country, and were brought in as ornamental shrubbery. All people need to do is look at what has happened with buckthorn in order to realize that it goes beyond just planting something in your yard.

Mr. Erdmann said we have come a long way in understanding what is invasive and what is not invasive. He believes the greenhouses and nurseries are beginning to understand that. He doesn't believe buckthorn is being sold today. They are on top of the other species as well.

Commissioner Rettman asked if some species spread via birds.

Mr. Erdmann said that for the most part, they are not spread via birds.

Mr. Erdmann said there is a web site where additional information can be found at [www.ramseyconservation.org](http://www.ramseyconservation.org) and he can be reached at 651-266-7277.

Commissioner McDonough asked if eradication of the wild parsnip is different because of the danger of burning.

Mr. Erdmann said the wild parsnip is usually controlled by herbicide early in the year before it can send up a flower. Most invasive plants green up earlier than native plants so they can be treated with herbicide before there is a danger of harming beneficial plants.

Chair Parker referred to the map and said that some locations where invasive species have been located are on County owned property. We have a responsibility for information, but also to be responsible and take care of our own property and set a good example. She asked if any resources are available that can be used to take care of at least some of our property.

*(Continued)*

Greg Mack, Director, Parks and Recreation, said some removal is being done as restorations are being done. If a specific grant is received, some removal is done. John Moriarity, Parks and Recreation Department, is part of the consortium working on cooperative approaches. There are no specific appropriations for that weed control, but, for example, if a prairie restoration is being done, removal of buckthorn is taking place. A major project on prairie restoration will be done in Battle Creek over the next couple of years, which was funded through a recent appropriation under the constitutional amendment. The Parks and Trails fund will have a major undertaking. There is not a specific appropriation for eradication of exotic species; they have sought grants.

Commissioner Rettman said prioritizing will be especially challenging because there are so many different things that need to be prioritized at the same time with limited dollars. One of the goals of this Board and the County Manager is to help make those priorities. As Commissioner Ortega said previously, this is just one of many areas of concern.

Commissioner Reinhardt said there are many neighborhood and other volunteer groups that spend time assisting and identifying where there are issues. She thanked County staff and all the volunteers who are trying to do good work.

Chair Parker asked if the amount of money that it would take to eradicate all of the invasive species on County-owned property is known.

Mr. Mack said there has been some estimate, but he doesn't know it. Most of the projects would be incorporated into a bigger project where they are doing a restoration. He could ask staff to look at the maps presented here and come up with an estimate.

Chair Parker said the Board should know what the scope of the issue is, and as Commissioner Reinhardt said, sometimes there can be more than one way of doing it, such as using volunteers.

Mr. Mack said they are looking at five species, which is easier for staff to quantify. Additionally, there is purple loosestrife and buckthorn, which has seen an explosion in park areas. Some areas will be very difficult to manage over the long term. Most people involved in management realize that we are not going to be able to curtail all buckthorn spread throughout the system, so we focus on areas that can be managed effectively. He believes these five identified species can be targeted. He will report back to the Board on those five species. Chair Parker thanked Mr. Erdmann.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Public Affairs and Special Initiatives, distributed a packet of information that had been previously distributed at the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) meeting yesterday. The information continues to be 'draft' because it will be refined as departments learn more about the implications of the Governor's un-allotments.

Last Tuesday the Governor released his proposal. Attachment 1 lists the items by topic area where he made his plans for reductions or cost shifts. Last Thursday the legislative commission that has been looking at the state budget and working with the administration around how to balance it, met with the Commissioners of Finance and Revenue to go through the budget implications and the Governor's plan.

The Governor's budget balancing plan has \$700 million in budget un-allotments – programs and services that would not get funding. Another \$1.8 billion was made in bookkeeping shifts that affect school districts, and related changes for a total of \$2.7 billion in budget changes for the upcoming biennium.

Attachment 2 is an assessment from County departments around the implications of the reductions. These are beginning assessments, and the County Manager had asked that we have departments look at them in the same categories that the Governor's proposal came out so that comparisons can be made.

*(Continued)*

The Community Human Services Department, Public Health Department, Community Corrections, and Workforce Solutions have what we are calling overlapping affects. The Community Corrections Department did not receive specific un-allotments, but because a number of the people they work with also receive certain kinds of services where the funding would come through the Human Services area, there is a correlation of what they are expecting might be affects from this change.

It is important to consider that during the hearing on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Legislators and administration officials agreed that there would be job losses as a result of the un-allotment. Their initial estimate is approximately 3,000 jobs. We are still assessing the implications for our departments in terms of jobs or contract changes. The County Manager and Chief Financial Officer are working with the departments to look at this as they review budgets.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the hospitals are claiming there will be about 7,000 jobs lost in that industry alone. Job loss has a huge economic impact – it affects everything. If you don't have a job you are more likely to go into foreclosure and need other assistance. She believes 3,000 is a very conservative number. It is also the services they provide, especially when it comes to the public sector. People expect that when they need the help, and the safety net, that assistance will be there. It is important to remember the human side; not only of the job loss but of the services people expect that aren't going to be done because staff isn't there to do it.

Commissioner Carter said people will need far more of these services when fewer will be available; for example, in adult mental health where funds are utilized to keep people in their homes, and to make sure there are services provided that will allow them to be in less costly non-institutionalized environments. The resultant impacts will be more costly. It is important that we get a handle on what the impacts are going to be for jobs and for services, which is what the jobs translate to, so we can be smart about how we protect against what can happen in out-years. It is difficult because we know the financial circumstances that people have to be able to get through.

Ms. Speiker said it was surprising to hear the numbers during the hearing last Thursday. There was a range of estimates about what the State's budget deficit could look like in the biennium following this next one. In the 2012-2013 biennium, there was a range from \$7.3 billion down to \$4 billion. It is daunting to think that that could create a structural budget deficit, even after these next two years, of something as significant as that.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that in the best case scenario with the \$4 billion deficit, we would not have the Recovery Act money to help offset some of that. Because of the money being used right now, an even bigger hole will be created. It was pointed out at the Ramsey County League of Local Governments (RCCLG) meeting that some of the cuts made in the human services area actually made the deficit worse. If we put \$1 in for child support enforcement, we got \$3-4 from the federal government. If we cut that \$1, it is a savings to our budget, but we would lose the additional \$4-5. It is not that the services are no longer needed. In the areas of developmental disability, mental health, children in need of protection, the most vulnerable in our society – in some cases, we are going to see in the budget cycle that it is much more than cuts seen here; it made the deficit worse by making some of those cuts.

Chair Parker said at the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) board meeting, there was a discussion about the funds they are proposing for federal dollars for the stimulus money -- that everything they are proposing must be quantified in terms of job impact, even if it is purchasing computers. It seems that we need to do the same thing at this end; that everything we are expecting to happen needs to be identified in terms of jobs. There used to be an economic development tool. For example, if looking at a new stadium, there would be a multiplier effect that would figure the ripple effect in the community for new jobs. There are people who make a living calculating things like this. We need to find out that information. This is the reverse economic

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development impact. It is important to find out what that is in order to help make our case as we go forward, to be able to discuss the impact in terms of job loss for County positions as well as job loss in the community carried into the ripple effect. When there are fewer people working, there are fewer people buying. Who is doing this kind of analysis in the community? County staff may not need to know how to do that, but we should find out who already has the tools available to figure that out.

Commissioner Carter asked about the dollars cut that impact other dollars that would come out of our budget such as federal dollars that would be added based on State expenditures. Had those already been added as we look at the \$2.8 billion cut or if there would be potential additional dollars cut as a result?

Commissioner Reinhardt said it would be dollars that are lost. She said Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, had made the statement at the RCLLG meeting, but didn't know if that had been quantified. The comment made there was that some of the cuts the Governor made also made the deficit worse because we lost federal funds because of cutting the State funds, similar to some decisions the County Board will have to make. Was that accounted for in the \$2.8 billion, or is that in addition?

Ms. Brewington said she is not certain how they accounted for that in the deficit, but it does seem that it hasn't entirely been accounted for when they looked at the total amount; that it added to the whole because they are tightening things up.

Commissioner Reinhardt said more information can be obtained on that. She had assumed it had been accounted for but it did not appear in materials from the Governor's office to make that clear.

Commissioner Rettman said the comment made on CAPRW's due diligence and what we would need to do in receiving the recovery dollars is absolutely tantamount to creating a process to do the evaluations. If that evaluation works, it can be done on other programs. We will hopefully look at whether there is some evidence of that accountability and transparency that can be done to be systemic in evaluating for the long term – what are the tails, what are the financial realities, what causes the dominos to fall.

Commissioner Rettman said it was stated at the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) yesterday that over the next three months we are starting an evolution of looking at how the un-allotment affects all three jurisdictions – the School, the County, and the City of St. Paul – and that this is just the first of many drafts to come forward to pinpoint those items. Ms. Speiker did a nice job of folding this in with the recovery dollars, getting it on the County's Website for transparency, etc., so that it is not just for the recovery dollars but also about the un-allotment. Citing Attachment 2 in the un-allotment to Community Human Services – the narrative states one thing, but the numbers do not seem to reflect the same. There either needs to be an explanation for why the numbers on one page are different from another page for Ramsey County. The transparency needs to be flushed out, and will be because this is just the first draft.

Commissioner Ortega said in terms of the three jurisdictions, regardless of the Recovery Act and how much money we get, it is short term. Unless the Legislature would do something in the near future, the total effect on County property owners is what we need to be concerned about. Those federal dollars are 'add-ons' for one year. Depending on the numbers the City of St. Paul is hit with and our numbers, it will be important in terms of those property taxpayers – we could be in high double digits if we want to cover the waterfront on some of this, and that will not be sustainable. Regardless of the stimulus money, we are talking about dealing with severe cuts in some places. If we had \$41 million in stimulus money, it shouldn't be an opiate in terms of the budget process the Board will have to do because it is only for one year.

Ms. Speiker said the Human Services Department is working hard to try to quantify what they are projecting in terms of the un-allotment and then tying it back to the Recovery Act money. Monty

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Martin, Director, Community Human Services, has said they believe there would be some Recovery Act money that would help smooth things out through 2010 to give a little more time when hopefully, the economy will start to turn around. She cited Attachment 2 where the reduction is indicated to the County mental health grant. Mr. Martin hoped there would be some money to help smooth some of that out – now some of that money may have to be used to try to backfill the un-allotment hole. More of that will be seen as the Department figures out this piece as they work on their budget. Some of that may be seen in the Community Corrections Department and Workforce Solutions as it might relate to some common clients being served.

Ms. Speiker referred to the final attachment received from a meeting with Regions Hospital and HealthPartners staff, which talks about what they are anticipating in the shift around providing general assistance medical care. They are tracking this on a weekly basis and providing weekly updates about certain kinds of cases they are working with, people who come into the emergency room, people who need health care who will likely not be able to receive that care once general assistance medical care goes away. When we talk about the cumulative effects of how this all rolls out into the community, it will be a tricky piece to get a handle on and to try to give a picture back to the County Commissioners. This draft was the start of that attempt to give that material. Staff will continue to work with community partners and with Departments as they refine this. Departments haven't yet received formal notification from the State Department to tell them what the actual numbers will be, and as Commissioner Rettman said, there could be some discrepancy in the materials, which will be refined over the next few weeks.

Commissioner Ortega said staff has done a wonderful job, but we are all in our own places and reacting from where we sit. While it is critically important, we want to stimulate jobs, we have to keep jobs, all that stimulus money is important, and he is not trying to minimize that. But, at the same time, the impact on the property tax – he doesn't know what the numbers for the cities are, where their levies are going to go. If their levy is like it has been the last couple years, even though they were hit less negatively than expected, he assumes it will be near double digits – what will be the impact for the County – it will be much more surgical in how we move on this so our dollars make a difference.

Ms. Speiker referred to Attachment 4, prepared by Chris Samuel, Property Records and Revenue, to begin looking at the piece raised by Commissioner Ortega – how this looks from the cities within the County around the Local Government Aid (LGA) and the homestead credit, and the County in terms of County Program Aid (CPA). There is a provision inside one of the bills passed that would give local units of government authority to levy back some of these reductions. Mr. Samuel was trying to look at what this might look like if the cities and the County would be levying back using a \$150,000 home as an example. Property Records and Revenue staff will continue to provide some of that information.

Commissioner Reinhardt said as the County goes into the budget cycle, and one of the reasons the process was pushed back a bit, is that we need to know what those numbers are. Otherwise, we are just flying blind – this is new. The recognition that the Recovery Act money is one-time money is an absolute. The mandates stay in place and that is the tricky part. We are not going to be able to do things the same way; it is going to be surgical; and it is going to have an impact on the services being provided.

Commissioner Reinhardt said Commissioner Carter was recently appointed to the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) redesign in the Human Services area – we need to be able to go to the State Legislature to say we want to do things. We have the same goals in mind as far as the safety net, but there are some things the State is restrictive about that if we had some flexibility, we could have better outcomes. Through the AMC process, we will be able to talk about what change is needed in Legislation that would allow for counties to have better outcomes working together or, however that redesign may look. We are not going to continue to do the same things with less money. Though

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Ramsey County has been creative and innovative in the past, we will have to do more of that and empower staff to come to the County Board with ideas and options during that budget process to deal with how to adjust to this change. It is a bigger change than we have had to deal with in the past. In 2003, when we had the first un-allotment and major cuts to services that we never recovered from, we made a lot of changes so there is not as much room to make wholesale changes. That will be the County Board's job when we get into the budget process for the next two years. Ultimately, AMC is pushing this on a statewide basis as far as helping us or giving us the tools to do a better job and a more efficient job, and that is what redesign is about. One thing that came out in this legislative session by the Governor was just to take groups of 200,000 people -- that is not a systemic change -- that is just a change in the boundaries, it doesn't force creativity, and does nothing but re-draw a line where it was an artificial line to begin with. Counties need systemic change to do things better; it is not about tweaking around the edges.

### OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt:

- Recognized Commissioner Rettman who did an excellent job representing the County Board as Chair of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) the past year. The City of Saint Paul will act as chair for the next year.
- Reported on an event with Congresswoman Betty McCollum – the rededication and renaming of the North St. Paul Post Office to the Mayor William (Bill) Sandberg Post Office
- Reported on a forum with Congresswoman Betty McCollum for the TCAAP (Twin Cities Army Ammunitions Plant) at the County's Public Works facility in Arden Hills. This was well attended with great ideas. Congresswoman McCollum has said there was no pre-determined idea on what would happen with the property, and wanted input from everyone around the area where there would be an impact.
- Attended an Arc supportive housing event to talk about keeping the vision on the common goal and how to get there.
- Reported that Manitou Days Celebration is going on in White Bear Lake June 18 – July 4.
- Reported on the Rush Line Corridor Task Force Alternatives Analysis Open House to be held June 24, at 4:30 p.m. at White Bear Lake City Hall.
- Said the Ramsey County Fair will be held July 8-12.

Commissioner Rettman:

- Reported that she presented a proclamation from Ramsey County to Ted Lau, who retired after 18 years as manager of Gibbs Farm.
- Said Ramsey County is part of the Metro Alliance of Healthy Families. The County receives a small portion for the visiting block nurse home program. The Alliance has received another \$500,000 from the United Way for the next year.

Commissioner Carter:

- Reported on a meeting of the AMC Executive Board, which she attended as Chair of the AMC Health and Human Services Policy Committee. She commended Commissioner McDonough for his role as AMC President, not just in that retreat but also in the past year in particular for leadership of the redesign. There are budget and structural concerns and due to Commissioner McDonough's leadership, we have had the advantage of legislation that favored the opportunity for counties to opt for some of the redesign measures. She was asked to be on the Performance and Outcomes Committee, which will help to chart through a part of that redesign.

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- She and Commissioner Rettman participated in a safety focus event on Snelling Avenue, in crossing across a non-signalized crosswalk with a focus on laws requiring that automobiles stop when pedestrians are in a crosswalk.
- Said Family Housing Fund has organized a land bank, which will be working with metropolitan counties to focus on the acquisition, retention, improvement and putting homes back out on the market that have been foreclosed, forfeited, or otherwise lost, and need to be protected in the community. The focus will be in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties specifically with the two cities in the short term. The Twin Cities are leaders in this area specifically through the Family Housing Fund with a great amount of support coming from Minnesota Housing, and other federal sources or grantors.

#### BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Chair Parker reported:

- Active Living Ramsey County had a meeting with National Bike Walk organizations in helping to facilitate and help identify gaps in the bike and walk plan for the County. There was a phenomenal turnout with many people from 16 cities within the County in attendance.
- She and Commissioner McDonough attended the APTA Rail Conference. Rail usage is soaring around the world. It was interesting to hear how other countries are investing in these systems, making ours look small in comparison.
- Roseville's Rosefest Celebration is going on June 21-28 and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board