

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: None – 0. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chair Parker requested a Moment of Silence in memory of slain North St. Paul Police Officer Richard (Rick) Crittenden. Officer Crittenden was killed Sunday, September 7th, in the line of duty. A Maplewood Police Officer was injured in the same incident.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the Agenda of the September 8, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Minutes of the September 1, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

PROCLAMATION – In observance of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day

Commissioner Reinhardt read a Proclamation in observance of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Awareness Day, which was accepted by Rob Fulton, Director, St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Department.

Mr. Fulton said the First Family Partnership Program is a program for first-time pregnant women and began in January 2009 with 100+ women enrolled. The primary focus of the program is to help the mother reduce risk behaviors, including alcohol and smoking, and to encourage good nutrition. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy is a disparate problem; more frequent in the American Indian population. A full time staff person is assigned to the American Indian Family Center, where she works with young American Indian women around the risks of alcohol and the concern about the fetal alcohol spectrum. Staff appreciates the Board's recognition of this day.

Commissioner Reinhardt thanked June McCarty, who has been a champion to raise awareness about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

PUBLIC WORKS – Professional and Technical Services Contract with the State of Minnesota and Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC, for Geomorphological Testing for the Warner Road Bridge Project at Childs Road

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-290)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is preparing plans for the reconstruction of the eastbound Warner Road (CSAH 36) bridge over Childs Road and various railroad tracks in the City of St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, Incorporating these improvements has increased the Project site area; and

WHEREAS, The need for pedestrian safety improvements on the bridge and where the existing trail crosses the access ramps from Childs Road to Warner Road has been identified for the Warner Road Bridge Project at Childs Road; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of the pedestrian improvements has increased the area to be affected by the Project; and

WHEREAS, The increase in the area affected by the project has led to a determination by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) that a geomorphological survey of the affected lands is needed to determine if any artifacts are present; and

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT will administer this contract and pay 80% of the cost, up to \$28,261.44 and the County is liable for 20% of the cost, up to \$7,065.36, with the total cost not to exceed \$35,326.80; and

WHEREAS, The County's 20% share is eligible for County State Aid Highway funds; and

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT has prepared Contract No. 94996 for signature by The State of Minnesota, Ramsey County, and Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Mn/DOT Contract No. 94996 between Ramsey County, the State of Minnesota, and Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC for geomorphological testing on the Warner Road Bridge Project at Childs Road, with a County payment of up to \$7,065.36; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute Mn/DOT Contract No. 94996 on behalf of the County; and Be It Further

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

INCREASED ESTIMATED REVENUE

2009 17304 550880 00000 314617 CSAH Engineering Fee Reim.P033276 \$7,065.36

INCREASE APPROPRIATION

2009 17304 550880 00000 421501 Warner Rd Eastbound Bridge P033276 \$7,065.36

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes a cash loan in the amount of \$7,065.36 from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Capital Improvement Program (CIP) until receipt of participating funds.

(Continued)

PUBLIC WORKS – Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement with Hennepin County

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Chair Parker noted that the traffic signal maintenance agreement is an inter-county collaborative effort with Hennepin County. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-291)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Public Works Department, in cooperation with Hennepin County, is providing signal maintenance services to Hennepin County within the City of St. Anthony; and

WHEREAS, The geographical location of these signals is such that Ramsey County can provide maintenance services in a more timely and cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, Both Counties have agreed that this work would result in a positive example of consolidation of services and cooperation between local governments; and

WHEREAS, Agreement PW 18-74-08, prepared by Hennepin County, covers the period January 1, 2010 to through December 31, 2014, and identifies maintenance responsibilities and cost reimbursement to Ramsey County of 100% of its cost to maintain the St. Anthony signals, estimated to be \$3,000 per year, and replaces Agreement No. PW 20-74-04; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves revenue Agreement No. PW 18-74-08 between Ramsey County and Hennepin County for signal maintenance services on Hennepin County Traffic signals within the City of St. Anthony; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Chair and Chief Clerk are authorized to execute Agreement PW 18-74-08 on behalf of Ramsey County; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The eight (8) page Agreement No. PW 18-74-08 is made part of this resolution by reference and will be kept on file with the Chief Clerk.

PUBLIC WORKS – Amendment No. 2 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P Preliminary Engineering and Final Design Services for Lake Links Trail

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-292)

WHEREAS, Mn/DOT Agreement 90483-P, between Mn/DOT and Ramsey County, provides for an amount of \$100,000 in Ramsey County funds to be used for preliminary engineering and final design on the Lake Links Trail project; and

WHEREAS, The agreement sets forth the terms and conditions and was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on March 20, 2007, via Resolution 2007-127; and

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P was drafted to extend the term of Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P from December 30, 2008 to July 30, 2009; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Amendment No. 1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on January 20, 2009, via Resolution 2009-040; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 2 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P was drafted to extend the term of Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P from July 30, 2009 to October 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, All other terms of the original agreement remain in full force and effect; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Amendment No. 2 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P between Mn/DOT and Ramsey County for preliminary engineering and final design on the Lake Links Trail project; and Be It Further

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

RESOLVED, The two (2) page Amendment No. 2 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 90483-P is made part of this resolution by reference and will be kept on file with the Chief Clerk.

PUBLIC WORKS – Bridge Construction on Maryland Avenue

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-293)

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 awarded a construction contract to Redstone Construction; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation and 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

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

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree with the terms and conditions of the bridge bond grant with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, in the amount totaling \$1,195,165, for bridge construction on Maryland Avenue at BNSF RR, consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, subdivision 5, clause (3), and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge project, but not required.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Tamarack Nature Center Garden House Construction

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-294)

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

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of a PLA; and

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

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) is planning a project for construction of a Garden House at Tamarack Nature Center; and

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

WHEREAS, The Department received a response from the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommending that a PLA be required for this project; and

WHEREAS, Based on past County Board direction, the Department recommends a PLA be used for the construction of the Garden House at Tamarack Nature Center; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Parks and Recreation Department shall include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the project to construct the Garden House at Tamarack Nature Center.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Tamarack Nature Center Nature Play Area and Children's Garden

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-295)

(Continued)

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

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of a PLA; and

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

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) is planning a project for construction of a Nature Play Area and Children's Garden at Tamarack Nature Center; and

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

WHEREAS, The Department received a response from the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommending that a PLA be required for this project; and

WHEREAS, Based on past County Board direction, the Department recommends a PLA be used for the construction of the Nature Play Area and Children's Garden at Tamarack Nature Center; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Parks and Recreation Department shall include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the project to construct the Nature Play Area and Children's Garden at Tamarack Nature Center.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Project Labor Agreement – Construction of a parking lot at the Lower Keller Site in Keller Regional Park

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-296)

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

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2005, the Ramsey County Board affirmed the policy regarding the use of a PLA; and

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

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department (Department) is planning a project for construction of a parking lot at the Lower Keller site in Keller Regional Park; and

(Continued)

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

WHEREAS, The Department received a response from the Saint Paul Building and Construction Trades Council recommending that a PLA not be required for this project; and

WHEREAS, Based on past County Board direction, the Department recommends a PLA not be used for the construction of a parking lot at the Lower Keller site in Keller Regional Park; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Parks and Recreation Department shall not include a requirement for a Project Labor Agreement for the project to construct a parking lot at the Lower Keller site within Keller Regional Park.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Construction Contract – Keller Regional Park Picnic Shelters and Restrooms

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-297)

WHEREAS, On December 20, 2005, the County Board approved an agreement with Hagen, Christensen, McILwain Architects to provide professional architectural design and construction phase services for seven restrooms and six picnic shelters at Keller Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, On June 2, 2009, the County Board approved Amendment No. 1 to the architectural services agreement, increasing the scope of services to include design and engineering services for a new entrance drive and parking lot at the Lower Keller Picnic site; and

WHEREAS, With grant funding from the Metropolitan Council, installation of water and sanitary sewer services to the restroom sites was completed in 2005 and five (5) restroom buildings were completed in 2007; and

WHEREAS, In the 2008-2009 Regional Park Improvement Program, the Metropolitan Council approved funding for construction of the remaining two restrooms and three of the six picnic shelters; and

WHEREAS, The plans prepared by the Architect for these facilities were reviewed and recommended for approval by the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bids were received on July 22, 2009, for construction of the two restrooms and three picnic shelters; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Department has recommended award of a contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, Copeland Building Corporation, in the amount of \$905,000, for the base bid and alternate #1; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The contract amount includes a base bid of \$715,000 for construction of one restroom and three picnic shelters, plus a bid of \$190,000 for Alternate #1 to construct the second restroom facility at the Round Lake Picnic site; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Contract with Copeland Building Corporation, 5300 Hyland Greens Drive, Suite 200, Bloomington, MN 55437, for construction of two (2) restrooms and three (3) picnic shelters at Keller Regional Park, for a contract sum of \$905,000, including the base bid of \$715,000 and a bid of \$190,000 for Alternate #1; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the Contract on behalf of Ramsey County.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – Agreement with City of St. Paul to participate in Grant Funded Program: First Light, Accountability, Response and Enforcement United with Prosecution Program (FLARE-UP)

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-298)

WHEREAS, The Department of Justice - Office on Violence Against Women awarded grant funds to the City of St. Paul Police Department for a FLARE-UP Program; and

WHEREAS, The program identifies and prosecutes dangerous domestic offenders through aggressive investigation and case processing, and monitors victim safety; and

WHEREAS, The award to the City is \$400,000 for a two year period through 2010 and funds 1.0 FTE battered women's advocate, 1.0 FTE Investigator, 0.5 FTE City Attorney and 0.5 FTE County Attorney to be co-located at Bridges, the victim service center at the Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, The County Attorney's Office portion of the grant is \$71,412 to fund 0.5 FTE Assistant County Attorney for a two-year period; and

WHEREAS, The County Attorney will assist in the project by screening and charging highly lethal repeat offenders' cases; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Agreement between the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County for reimbursement of salary expenses of a 0.5 FTE Assistant County Attorney services through December 31, 2010, in an amount not to exceed \$71,412 to participate in the First Light, Accountability, Response, and Enforcement (FLARE) Grant awarded to the City of St. Paul by the Department of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Board Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the above Agreement, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to increase the personnel complement of the Ramsey County Attorney's Office by 0.5 FTE Assistant County Attorney position, to be "starred" in the budget and contingent on continued availability of funding; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments, execute amendments to the Agreement, and accept future grant awards for this purpose from the Department of Justice - Office on Violence Against Women through the City of St. Paul.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – Amendment to Consultant Agreement for Grant Writing Services

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-299)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County ("County") and Andrea McDonald Marboe, 253 Western Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55102 ("Contractor") entered into an Agreement dated April 16, 2009, for assistance to the Ramsey County Attorney's Office ("Office") in the research, development, and writing of two grants available through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant Program, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 ("Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, The Office has identified the need for additional grant writing services from the Contractor to address additional identified grant opportunities and future grant prospects; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves an amendment to the agreement with Andrea McDonald Marboe, 253 Western Avenue South, St. Paul, MN 55102, to expand the scope of grant writing services, increase the maximum contract sum by \$15,000 to \$25,000, and extend the term of the Agreement through June 30, 2010; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Amendment to the Agreement on behalf of Ramsey County.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – Project Labor Agreement for Ramsey County Disaster Recovery Computer Center Project

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-300)

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

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

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

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Property Management and Information Services are planning a Disaster Recovery Computer Center project at the Sheriff Patrol Station; and

WHEREAS, The Property Management Department solicited recommendations in accordance with the policy; and

WHEREAS, The responses received were as follows:

- The Saint Paul Building Trades Council recommended a Project Labor Agreement for this project
- GTS HVAC Inc. recommended a Project Labor Agreement for this project
- Shamrock Disposal Inc. recommended that a Project Labor Agreement not be used for this project
- Bear Claw Construction recommended that a Project Labor Agreement not be used for this project
- Partek Supply responded N/A regarding a Project Labor Agreement for this project;

and

WHEREAS, The Property Management Department recommends the use of a Project Labor Agreement for this project due to its critical nature and time line; and

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

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby determines that a Project Labor Agreement shall be required for the Ramsey County Disaster Recovery Computer Center Project.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointments to the Community Health Services Advisory Committee

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-301)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment Policy, a press release was distributed, seeking applicants to the Ramsey County Community Health Services Advisory Committee (CHSAC); and

WHEREAS, Appointments to the CHSAC are made for one individual to represent each Commissioner district, and six other persons are appointed to at-large seats, including one as a labor representative; and

WHEREAS, Vacancies exist in Commissioner Districts 1, 3, 5, 6 and for three at-large positions. Nine applications have been received, six from incumbents; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individuals to the Community Health Services Advisory Committee, for terms beginning with the date of appointment and ending June 26, 2011.

(Continued)

APPOINTEE

TERM EXPIRATION

District 1

Esther B. Tatley
3154 N. Victoria Street
Shoreview, MN 55126

June 26, 2011

District 3

Jack Rossbach
987 Como Place
St. Paul, MN 55103

June 26, 2011

District 5

Pam Schmidt
78 E. 10th Street #3209
St. Paul, MN 55101

June 26, 2011

District 6

Nancy Appleton
1882 E. Third Street
St. Paul, MN 55119

June 26, 2011

At-Large

Catherine F. Croghan
1961 Midland Hills Road
St. Paul, MN 55113

June 26, 2011

Christopher Mullin
1811 Chatsworth Street N.
Roseville, MN 55113

June 26, 2011

Paula M. Robinson
3001 Chamberlain Street N. #8
Maplewood, MN 55109

June 26, 2011

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Issuance of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License to VFW Post 1782 for an event in the Town of White Bear

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-302)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 340A.404, subd. 10, Ramsey County is the issuing authority for a temporary license for the on-sale of intoxicating liquor in connection with a social event located in unincorporated areas within Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The licensee must be a sponsor of the event; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The Town of White Bear and VFW Post 1782, as co-sponsors, are organizing the event, "Township Days," to be held on September 12, 2009, and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has received an application from VFW Post 1782, co-sponsor of the event, requesting a Temporary On-Sale Liquor license; and

WHEREAS, The Town of White Bear has reviewed the application and finds the VFW a respectable organization meeting Town Standards; and

WHEREAS, The Town of White Bear, by resolution, approved the issuance of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor License, by Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Attorney's Office has reviewed the application and supporting documentation and finds the applicant eligible for a temporary license; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the issuance of a Temporary On-Sale Liquor license to VFW Post 1782 for an event in the Town of White Bear on September 12, 2009, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue shall notify the State Liquor Control Division that Ramsey County has approved the temporary license for the VFW; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, If the State Liquor Control Division approves the Temporary On-Sale Liquor License application, Ramsey County Property Records and Revenue will issue a Temporary On-Sale Liquor license to VFW Post 1782 for an event on September 12, 2009.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Contract Award – Ramsey County Care Center Parking Lots and Roadway Enhancements

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-303)

WHEREAS, On December 18, 2007, by Resolution 2007-413, the County Board approved the 2008–2013 Capital Improvement Program Plan and financing of the 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Budget; and

WHEREAS, Included in the 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Budget was funding for the Ramsey County Care Center Parking Lots and Roadway Enhancements Project ("Project") in the amount of \$150,000; and

WHEREAS, In August 2008, Property Management hired Anderson-Johnson Associates, Inc. to perform and design construction documents, and to provide bidding assistance and construction observation services related to the Project; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Anderson-Johnson Associates, Inc. worked closely with the Ramsey County Care Center and Property Management staff to create designs and construction bid specifications that provide for surface replacement and other modifications to the parking lots which improve storm drainage and ADA accessibility and increase site safety and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, A total of five (5) bids were received in response to the Request for Bids for the Project; and

WHEREAS, The lowest responsible bidder for the Project is Buck Blacktop, Inc., in the amount of \$203,857 including the base bid, Alternate 1, and Alternate 2; and

WHEREAS, On September 3, 2009, the Capital Improvement Program Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended an appropriation transfer of an additional \$84,871 from the Capital Improvement Program (“CIP”) Contingent Account for the Ramsey County Care Center Parking Lots and Roadway Enhancements Project; and

WHEREAS, The Property Management and Community Human Services Departments are recommending award of a contract to Buck Blacktop, Inc., 32 South Owasso Boulevard West, Little Canada, Minnesota 55117-1093, for the Project; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a contract with Buck Blacktop, Inc., 32 South Owasso Boulevard West, Little Canada, Minnesota 55117-1093, the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, in the amount of \$203,857, including the base bid, Alternate 1, and Alternate 2, for the Ramsey Care Center Parking Lot Enhancements Project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to execute the contract with Buck Blacktop, Inc., subject to final approval by Budgeting and Accounting, Property Management and the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary payments and budget adjustments, including the transfer of \$84,871 from the Capital Improvement Program Contingent Account to the Project, and to execute change orders, ancillary contracts, and amendments to agreements, provided the cost is within the adjusted Project budget of \$234,871.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Grant Contracts with the Metropolitan Council for projects funded from the Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-304)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Legislature appropriated funding to the Metropolitan Council from the Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund for grants to regional park implementing agencies; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Based on the work plan presented to the Legislature, Ramsey County will receive \$974,000 in Fiscal Year 2010 and \$1,170,000 in Fiscal Year 2011 to implement specific projects; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has prepared grant contracts for the Fiscal Year 2010 projects; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has authorized Ramsey County to expend funds on Fiscal Year 2011 Parks and Trails Fund projects in advance of receiving the grant contract including \$141,000 for the Tamarack Nature Center Destination for Discovery, \$130,000 for Tamarack Nature Center Volunteer Corps and \$343,000 for Battle Creek Regional Park Prairie Restoration; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Fiscal Year 2010 and Fiscal Year 2011 grant contracts with the Metropolitan Council for projects funded under the Legacy Amendment Parks and Trails Fund; and Be It Further

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

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes cash loans from the General Fund to implement these projects in anticipation of reimbursement from the Metropolitan Council.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Diversity Training

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-305)

WHEREAS, In May 2008, through County Board Resolution 2008-165, the Board approved an agreement with Full Circle Community Institute to conduct authentic dialogues with staff and contracted vendors with the Community Human Services Department; and

WHEREAS, The overall purpose is to deal openly and effectively with issues of race and ethnicity as the Department serves the diverse communities living in Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, The specific purpose of the original contract was to train human services department staff to continue the work and to lead ongoing authentic dialogues; and

WHEREAS, As the Community Human Services Department continues to work on improving its cultural responsiveness and minimize the impact of differential treatment on service outcomes and the work environment, they are proposing to retain Full Circle to conduct up to four sessions with the Community Human Services Department Leadership Team, which consists of Directors, Managers and Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, While trained Department staff can continue leading authentic dialogue sessions with their colleagues, it is putting them in a difficult position to lead these discussions with individuals who are supervising them; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, This amendment is for an additional \$4,000; and

WHEREAS, The cost will be covered by funds in the department's current training budget;
Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve an amendment to an Agreement with Full Circle Community Institute, 5898 State Road 70, Webster, WI 54893, in the amount of \$4,000, for up to four additional authentic dialogue sessions through December 31, 2009; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the amendment in a form to be approved by the County Attorney.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Medical Transportation

Commissioner Rettman said the Board has had many concerns about the broker for medical transportation. This request is for approval of a joint Request For Proposals (RFP). The draft RFP was not included in the documentation. Are taxis going to be able to apply to provide the service? Will there be multiple vendors? Some taxi providers work in St. Paul and want to know whether or not they are eligible to be a part of this. Is the RFP just to get a different form of a broker? Prior to voting on the item she wants to know how the RFP would be structured. Once the RFP is constructed, would it come back to the County Board for review or approval?

Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services, and Dave Haley, Community Human Services, were available to respond to questions.

Mr. Martin said the RFP was not attached to the documentation because it is not yet completed. Several years ago the Department of Human Services (DHS) issued a 112-page RFP; that RFP was obtained last week by Anoka County. Anoka County forwarded it to Hennepin County, and Hennepin will redo it and put in a new RFP, to be forwarded to Anoka and all the counties for the opportunity to comment on it. It will be brought back to the Board; whether it is for approval or not, he did not know. There will be about ten different county boards reviewing the same document. This is a ten-county RFP to be forwarded without bringing it back to all ten counties for approval of the individual RFP. The RFP is going to purchase just the broker services; not the transportation services.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the question has been raised as to whether or not we get value out of the brokered services. If this is approved today, would there be an option later to say we don't want to be a part of it? What is the value added of the broker services?

Mr. Martin said any of the counties would have the opportunity to withdraw at some point in the future, with notice requirements included in any contract. The value of the broker is to ensure that only people who are authorized to get the service get it; and that they get the level of transportation service most appropriate for them. When this responsibility was taken over by the State years ago, the actual costs decreased significantly while the number of riders tripled in the same period because there was someone ensuring that only the appropriate people got the ride at the level most appropriate for them. That kind of broker service controls access and the type of service that is the value.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if there is a way to ensure that there is equal access to people who want to provide the service through this broker, or are those chosen to provide the service, in the

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hands of the broker? There should be access for the providers. There are providers who feel that through the broker, they don't get access to provide the service. There should be access to be able to provide those services to the appropriate people.

Mr. Haley said that is one of the things to be included in the RFP in terms of making sure that whatever broker is chosen, part of the responsibility is to make sure that everybody gets the appropriate access to be able to provide the service – that it isn't skewed to a select group of providers. Staff have heard that particular complaint as well, but are not sure how it got to the point in the way that DHS constructed the original RFP, but it is incumbent upon the ten counties to make sure it is structured to avoid that situation in the future.

Commissioner Reinhardt requested clarification that the RFP would not come back to the Board but the contract would. Mr. Haley responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt said if the Board doesn't feel there is enough protection within that contract, we could then decide not to vote for it. If we don't have a signed contract, we couldn't be told to pay for something.

Mr. Martin said the contract isn't going to be held by Ramsey County. It would be held by Anoka County. Staff would bring the contract with Anoka County back to the Board.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Board would have access to see that the protections that we are talking about, such as equal access, are included. Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Ortega asked if all eleven counties would participate in this. Mr. Martin responded that ten of the eleven are likely to go in on this. Wright County previously chose not to continue with the old contract.

Commissioner Ortega said he is uncomfortable with getting back a signed/sealed contract. Mr. Martin said the Board would get back an agreement to either choose to go with it, or not.

Commissioner Ortega said he had voted for the extension with Metro Transportation Management. Commissioners have received various assessments about the service. How do we get a sense that the pool would be big enough and competitive enough? Assurances are needed that there is good competition in the RFP process so that it is not just another extension of Metro Transportation because he would not support that. What happens if the Board doesn't support the agreement; what is the back-up plan?

Mr. Martin said there is always difficulty with a ten-county arrangement because one county needs to hold the contract. A guarantee to the Board from staff would be that during the RFP process, just as is done with other RFP processes, to say to Anoka County that this has to be widely advertised, available to anyone; there needs to be an objective process with our County representatives as well as others on the evaluations panel using objective criteria in an open process that is modeled in Ramsey County. If Anoka County doesn't agree with that, then we wouldn't proceed with them. That is the expected standard of the Board in participation in any RFP.

Commissioner Ortega asked what the alternative would be if the agreement is not acceptable for any reason to this Board.

Mr. Martin said staff would have to scramble; either quickly set up our own staff capability, or quickly set up our own RFP to get that service in place.

Commissioner Ortega said he wants to make sure the field is competitive enough and broad enough, with some good options.

Mr. Martin said he has discussed this with his colleagues in the seven-county metro area, and all seven are very clear that this is a wide open RFP available to anybody who feels they are competitive enough to bid on this broker service.

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Commissioner Ortega said as there are more County dollars involved, we need to make sure we get the best service for our constituents. If necessary, staff would have to scramble; he doesn't want the County to be put in a corner.

Mr. Martin said he believes the same conversation may be taking place in the other nine counties. A ten-county development like this is complex and each county board may see this a little differently. They will try to craft something that would work for all ten counties. The same principles always used would be used in terms of openness and for evaluations and selection process, and bring it back to the County Board for review.

Commissioner McDonough, regarding the comment about scrambling to do our own RFP, said he suspected we would not get a different response; it would be the same type of response as on the joint RFP. The real potential would be providing that service ourselves – the hit on this was about \$6-7 million. This was a cost shift created by the Legislature. There was also out-state and metro disagreement so the whole premise about how this shifted to us resulted in the interim agreement. One of the options would be to continue the interim agreement because this Board has taken the position not to just accept the cost shift, and to work on getting this back to where it belongs. He suggested that by taking the approach on an RFP, we are just settling in to accepting this. He asked why the recommendation isn't to continue with interim agreements until this cost goes back to the State where it belongs. Otherwise, we are sending a strong signal that we are accepting the cost; that we are moving forward, and will continue to pay for it. It inhibits our chances at the State Legislature to get them to take back this cost.

Mr. Martin said staff totally agrees with that principle; that this is a very inappropriate cost shift from the State. Nonetheless, it is State law. At this point, what is the best way to carry out State law in the meantime? 1) Given the State's financial situation, whether or not they would be willing and able to take back this responsibility to the State level is in question. 2) They have heard a lot of discontent in recent months from other brokers/other transportation providers that would see a continuation of this – more of the same rather than being open. 3) Whether the State sees this any differently, whether we would continue in the use of an old vendor or select a new vendor, counties are still providing the service. To force the Legislature to deal with this, we would have to not provide the service at all and leave it for them to pick up, and that would not be responsible given our legal responsibilities. Key is whether or not the Legislature would see it any differently whether we are using an old vendor or a new vendor in terms of whether they would reverse that policy shift.

Mr. Martin said this is one of the most egregious cost shifts he has ever seen in his years with Human Services, done at the last minute, and a substantial impact on Ramsey County and on the other metropolitan counties.

Commissioner McDonough said with that said, maybe this is one that the County doesn't do.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked how long it would be before the criteria is completed. Recognizing that ten counties would be coming together through one agreement, to develop the RFP, she didn't understand why the Commissioners couldn't look at it.

Mr. Martin said staff would be happy to share the draft as soon as it becomes available. The issue was in getting back to ten county boards for the initial approval, then for the approval of the RFP, and then approval of the contract – all by January. If the Board wants staff to bring it in for approval, they would do that. The risk is delaying when it is issued. If ten counties want to approve the RFP, there is potential delay in terms of when it is issued, and possibly when the new contract is completed.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she finds it hard to believe that other county boards would approve something they haven't seen.

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Commissioner Rettman said she would be more comfortable if there was a list available of the criteria being looked for in the RFP. The criteria for what we are looking for are on two levels; it is not just the broker, it is also about how they are going to handle the citizens. She cited the WHEREAS on line 78 of the draft resolution -- “if the current vendor is not continued” -- that worries her that it hints it might be easier to go with the current vendor. Commissioners are getting calls hearing concerns on both sides, including those who would like to keep this contract. What are the criteria? What are the underpinnings to be looked for – a broad spectrum of transportation folks that would increase the diversity of transportation options for the individual? Nothing is here except “considering the benefits and challenges of each option” for a joint RFP. She is uncomfortable on that -- if we are not going to see anything and it is going to come back, fine. It would be better to do an RFP that has the criteria so we know at the outset, than to do an RFP and extend the current contract another six months, which would be the second extension.

Mr. Martin said staff would do that if it is the wish of the Board. The language referred to is his language, as a way to explain the contingency that if any new vendor is selected, time would be needed for that vendor to get up to speed prior to termination of the old vendor. There is no presumption that the old vendor has any advantage going into this.

Commissioner Rettman asked if one week would be enough time to come up with the criteria. Mr. Martin responded negatively. We have to wait for the new draft RFP from Hennepin County, and it would go to the various counties. Staff could show the Board that draft but it would be one not yet reviewed by any of the other counties. It might be sometime before there is a draft that includes all the counties' input.

Commissioner Rettman said she is referring to the criteria that Ramsey County staff would be looking at for our citizens, including the points to be argued for when the RFP goes out. Mr. Martin said that could be provided within a week.

Commissioner Rettman said if the Board laid this over, the Board could give guidance on whether the criteria are inclusive. If it doesn't meet the criteria, any Commissioner could add additional language, and there would be a better discussion to give guidance.

Mr. Martin said that could be done in one week. They could use the Board's guidance when negotiating with the other counties.

Commissioner Ortega asked if a layover would hurt the process. Mr. Martin responded negatively.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the layover might help in making sure that Ramsey County's concerns are addressed, with the Board behind staff in saying that these criteria are absolute, with access being the biggest concern for her.

Commissioner Rettman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ortega, to lay this item over one week in order to obtain the criteria to be included in the RFP. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING – Presentation of the Proposed 2010-2011 Budget

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, submitted the Ramsey County Manager's 2010-11 Budget for consideration. The Commissioners were to receive the budget message and budget summaries in their mailboxes this morning. A Budget Workshop would be held later this afternoon; budget deliberations would start on September 25.

Ms. Kleinschmidt said the budget is guided by the Ramsey County Mission Statement, the Values Statement, and the Goals and Objectives, adopted many years ago, and revisited every year

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by the County Board. The Goals were adopted in April 2007, and reaffirmed this past March 2009. At that time many critical success indicators were adopted. The Board directed staff to begin managing for results. The critical success indicators were to measure how effectively our tax dollars are working at delivering services for citizens. All those things guided preparation of this budget.

The Board spent much of 2009 studying and understanding the effect of the current economic crisis on Ramsey County taxpayers and the users of our services. Taxpayers are not only homeowners and businesses, but they are also renters because rent includes property taxes.

There are an increasing number of people that need vital services at the same time as property owners have less ability to pay the taxes to support these services. These are real people – our neighbors, our friends, our families. Many are self employed. All of this is despite some recent signs of relief in the economy.

Ms. Kleinschmidt read a quote from a recent article, “Economic indicators continue to point to a moderating pace of economic deterioration”. She said she understands through that statement that we are not hemorrhaging, but we are still bleeding. We are thinking a lot about the responsibility of county government in this economic time of crisis. Even when the economy does turn around, the aging of our population will keep a damper on revenue growth and put further demand on services. The point here is that this is not a short term problem; this is a permanent situation and this is our opportunity to redefine how we look in the future. This trajectory of increased needs and decreased revenue is not sustainable.

Economic indicators affect real people in our community. Statistics are updated regularly. Food shelf usage is steadily increasing in Ramsey County. We have a lot of people who have never been on any kind of governmental assistance before; examples were provided: 1) One of a realtor and his family who applied for emergency assistance to prevent an eviction; 2) A self-employed person who works in the scrap metal industry with a wife and two children with a big drop in his business. He lost his housing and they are in shelter; 3) A young mom with two kids. She finished technical school, is doing an internship; to save money, they moved in with her brother sharing rent. The brother lost his job. Her income was not enough to cover the rent, and she ended up in shelter.

Foreclosures are continuing at an astonishing rate; unemployment rates continue to sky rocket; 13% of County residents, about 65,000 people, live in poverty. Requests for public assistance have risen 34.4%; and visits to Workforce Resource Centers by residents have increased.

What are the immediate financial challenges? The State’s budget deficit is somewhere between \$4-7 billion, depending on whether inflation is included. The structural deficit, the unsustainable part of the budget, is at least \$4 billion. The Governor had unallotted \$4.2 million in December 2008, money that had been promised to us, money that we had already spent, forcing us to dig into our reserves. In early 2009, we had more unallotments so the County reduced spending, achieved primarily through hiring freezes. Four years ago the County Board had the foresight to go to a two-year budget to better align with the State’s fiscal calendar, to do longer range planning. The Board knows how to budget conservatively and has done it in the past. Ramsey County tightened its belt well in advance of the current situation, but that does not make this easy.

The Board just talked about the egregious transfer of a State cost to the County for medical transportation – a huge cost shift. State budget shortfalls have resulted in those cost shifts, legislative reductions, Governor unallotments, and levy limits were imposed.

The good news is that Federal stimulus funding is a double-edged sword. That is one-time money, and it has not been fully awarded or distributed at this point, leaving a cloudy picture.

Bottom line – planning for the long-term – we have changing needs in our community as we age, we have changing resources, and there are huge implications for both of those.

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What is our budget gap? It is \$18 million. That means if we were to continue to provide the same level of services today that we have in the past, we would need \$8 million more dollars for cost increases, for inflation. On top of that, the State unallotted \$6.5 million in County program aid, a 34% decrease in our County program aid. Then, the State further reduced other State aid for mandated services, in other words, the services the State requires counties to deliver. Those are called categorical aids – for children’s services, child support enforcement, community corrections. That totals \$18 million.

In February the Board gave staff guidance to make strategic change, not just across the board cuts; make sustainable, systemic change, not one-time accounting shifts or short-term choices. The Board said to deploy the assets that we have to provide the basic community safety net we need to maintain stability for people and businesses during this economic storm. In particular, the Board said to focus on our essential services, keep people safe, and not to direct money to administration when it can be avoided, but to put money on the ground working for people – direct services to the public. The Board had said to be aggressive to leverage as much stimulus funding as we can get, but to do it responsibly so that we don’t find ourselves in trouble a couple years out. The Board had reiterated that we have to manage for results, to refocus on services that make the most difference, and to maintain the fiscal health of the County, which allows us to continue to provide this stability.

The 2010-11 Budget Summary – The Board said to be smart, frugal, and made it clear that we can’t just cut our way out of this problem, nor can we just tax our way out of this problem; tax meaning property taxes. The total budget (all spending) will go up modestly at the rate of inflation. The property tax levy will increase in this proposed budget at the lowest rate in a decade, but it needs to be increased to replace ‘some’ of the Governor’s unallotment to fund these essential and mandated services, not all of the unallotment. It will require some difficult choices. There will be service reductions, real people will be impacted. There are FTE reductions, but because we have been planning for some time, are minimizing employee layoffs. We are using some reserves, and despite that, believe we can preserve our financial standing for what we are going to face in 2013-14.

The budget bottom line – the 2010 proposed budget (total spending) is \$569.5 million, an increase of \$4.6 million, or .8% less than 1% over 2009. The 2011 proposed budget (total spending) is \$582.7 million, an increase of \$13.2 million, or 2.3% over 2010. The property tax levy, our single largest revenue source, will increase by 2.7% in 2010 and 2.7% in 2011. It may not increase that much because the County Board will be deliberating all the decisions in this budget, making a final decision. This is the County Manager’s proposal and request to set the maximum tax levy today.

Some FTE positions, some jobs, are required to be reduced. We are already experiencing some service reductions due to positions being held vacant. If not for the careful planning, we would have had substantially more layoffs. We are anticipating the total reductions during the 2010-11 biennium of 109 positions, and 8-12 layoffs.

Budget highlights will be on-line and publicized widely in the community so that people will have several opportunities to weigh-in about the budget with the Board, and the Board will be deliberating in great detail about all of these highlights.

New fees are proposed in the Sheriff’s department. Some costs have been reduced in the Adult Detention Center and the Juvenile Detention Center, down as far as we think they can go. A dorm was closed in the Workhouse because of the transfer of state prisoners to state institutions. Incarceration costs were reduced at the Juvenile Detention Center because we are providing community alternatives to juveniles through the JDAI Program (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative). Five new FTEs will be added to the Emergency Communications Center to implement the

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Dispatch Policy Committee recommendations. A service delivery improvement can be made in correctional health care management that will control costs and provide more effective health care.

In Health and Human Services, it is important to note that we believe we can continue to cover the essential and mandated services, but the levy increase and budget increase proposed in this area does not cover close to all of the increased costs that the State has shifted to us and the State revenue losses. Forty FTEs will be eliminated over the next two years, focusing on eliminating administrative FTEs to preserve direct service provision to individuals in our community. Access will become more limited to a wide variety of services. Services will be reduced in adult and children's mental health, programming for developmental disabilities, and child protection and placement services. All of this is done thoughtfully and carefully. Department management has strived to redesign services to provide as much safety as possible with these limited resources. There is a serious structural deficit at the Lake Owasso Residence and the Ramsey County Care Center. That means that what the State pays us to provide these services is not keeping pace with the cost of services. The ongoing revenue source for these services is far short of our ongoing expenditures. Those will have to be addressed in 2010. On an up-note, stimulus funds and the State Health Investment Program (SHIP) funds are helping to stabilize our workforce services at a time when people are looking for jobs, and in public health services.

In Transportation, Recreation and Culture – our Public Works, Parks, Libraries – road maintenance will be less timely; operating hours at arenas will be reduced. At a time when our use of libraries has sky rocketed -- especially computer use as people are looking for jobs and starting small businesses, families don't have the means to provide computers for their children – some of the proceeds from the sale of the old North St. Paul Library are being proposed to transition the Arden Hills Library to a more sustainable facility by 2011. The Arden Hills Library is obsolete with exorbitant maintenance costs, and it cannot be continued in its current form. This is a great opportunity for a new improved model of library services. No library closures or reduced hours are being proposed in 2010, but will be required in 2011 if progress does not occur on the transition of the Arden Hills facility.

General County Functions and Capital Improvements – The retiree health insurance liability is still very large, but great strides have been made in funding that. It is about 10% funded now, and more is being proposed to add into that fund. Funding for technology investments have been kept stable. Funding for infrastructure maintenance and preservation and mobile equipment replacement (Sheriff cars and snow plows) is remaining stable. This budget funds the first two years of the six year capital program including: construction of a new East Metro Behavioral Health Crisis Center; improvements to the Keller Golf Course and reconstruction of the clubhouse (an historic golf course); relocation of employees from the West Building to a new downtown location, freeing up the riverfront for potential redevelopment and adding to the tax rolls. This budget includes an increase to the annual debt service levy by \$1.25 million in 2010 and 2011, which allows for bond issues of \$16.5 million in 2010 and \$18.5 million in 2011.

Where The County Dollar Goes – In 2010 -- Public Safety is at 28.5% of the total spending; Health and Human Services 47.2%. General County Purposes at 8.1% includes debt service and the retiree health insurance. In terms of our spending, in our major categories, it stacks up relatively the same as it has in the past.

Where the County Dollar Comes From – Property taxes makes up the single largest source of our revenue at 44.8% in 2010. In 2003, it was about 32% because the total intergovernmental revenue, our federal and state spending, took up a much larger slice of the pie. The pie chart indicated shows that as the state has continued to shift its costs to counties, and as it has reduced its

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share of the costs, reduced the revenue of spending to us, the property tax has paid for a larger slice of that. Use of some fund balance (reserves) is proposed; we are increasing our charges for services where appropriate. Another chart shows where the county dollar comes from, comparing it in 2009 up through the 2011 proposed budget. Another slide showed the property taxes going up relative to the state and federal funding going down.

Property Tax Levy – There is an increased reliance on the property tax for County services. People are having a hard time with that. This levy increase is greater than our spending increase because of the State aid reductions. This is the smallest annual increase since 2000. The 2.7% levy increase includes .5% for additional debt service costs, includes .8% for inflation, with the remainder to cover some but not all State aid reductions. The levy is far below the authorized maximum; what the State would allow us to levy. We could legally have levied a 4.8% increase. The proposal is for a 2.7% increase. This levy increase would have been lower if not for the Governor's State aid unallotments.

Modest Property Tax Increase – Ms. Kleinschmidt is proposing a property tax levy increase in 2010 of \$259,971,049, an increase of \$6,957,862, or 2.7% over 2009; and a 2011 levy to be approved in 2010 of \$267,120,252, an increase of \$7,149,203, or 2.7% over 2010.

2010-2011 Budget summary – The status quo is not an option, not now or in the future. We must transform Ramsey County government. This proposal requires: real service cuts that impact real people and reduce help that they need; property tax increases paid by renters, homeowners and businesses; use of reserves reducing our flexibility to address future budget emergencies; and elimination of positions and some lay-offs, impacting our employees because they have to work faster, harder and smarter. Some investments to improve safety are being made such as the new East Metro Behavioral Health Center and additional staff in the Emergency Communications Center. Ramsey County is rich with resources with an engaged community, a committed workforce, and strong collaborations with private and non-profit sectors. Working together, we can and will shape our future in ways we can't even imagine today.

Important Dates – today, September 8, the proposed budget is being released, the maximum tax levy will be adopted, and a Budget Workshop held. This calendar is later than in the past because of the economic crisis, and not knowing what the State decisions would be. Department Budget Hearings begin September 25 through October 29 with many hours scheduled, all in the Council Chambers. They will be broadcast and live on-line at

<http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cb/meetings/> People can weigh-in with Ms. Kleinschmidt; Director of Finance Lee Mehrkens; Bonnie Jackelen, Chief Clerk to the Board; or any of the Commissioners at any time. There will be two opportunities for public comment: October 30 and November 30. Truth in Taxation Notices of estimated taxes based on the maximum levy will be mailed out November 13-24. The County Board will adopt the final budget and a final levy on December 15.

Commissioner Reinhardt noted that the October 30 and November 30 dates are both public hearings at which public testimony will be accepted -- October 30, beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House; and on November 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Roseville Area High School Cafeteria.

As Budget Chair, Commissioner Reinhardt noted that the County Board has worked hard every year in this budget process. This is a frugal board, in part because we have to be. Ramsey County does not have an expanding tax base; it is the smallest county geographically with the State Capitol and a lot of exempt properties and non-profits clustering here. Looking at the Aaa bond rating, Ramsey County is one of only 39 counties in the United States retaining that rating, it shows we have worked hard and done a good job. 2.7% is a modest increase. When Governor Pawlenty

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did the unallotment, he stated we were allowed to levy back every dime of that unallotment outside the levy limit. That is an acknowledgement that these are essential services, most mandated, but the State decided not to pay for any longer. When figuring in all the other cuts made, it probably would have meant double-digit increases in property taxes just for the unallotment. When looking at the natural growth that takes place, it doesn't take that into consideration.

There will be some pain with this budget. As the County Manager so appropriately pointed out, status quo is not an option. We want to be able to maximize the opportunities that come with this challenge. AMC (Association of Minnesota Counties) is taking an incredible leadership role under Commissioner McDonough's leadership. The redesign project is going to make a huge difference for all counties in the State; we want to be part of the solution, working with our partners. Ramsey County has been doing that for a number of years in looking at the outcomes saying that not only are we putting our resources out there, but that we are getting the expected return on that investment. Our employees, departments and vendors are a part of that partnership, and they take that very seriously.

When talking about the safety net, which is what government is about, she was reminded of a story told by Rabbi Norman Cohen at a Bar Mitzvah about stealing from the poor – those who have nothing to take -- stealing from the poor by withholding, not just taking from them. That is about the safety net, about charity, about taking care of the people who in most cases are unable to care for themselves – those with mental health issues, those with developmental disabilities, children in need of protection, and vulnerable senior citizens. The reality today is that there is more need for people who never expected to be in situations of relying on assistance. This is about the proper allotment, not filling the gap, and making sure we are thoughtful in our process in making sure that safety net is not decimated. That is something we take seriously.

Commissioner Reinhardt thanked the Board, in particular Commissioner Rettman, Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. The department heads, the unions, have all been at the table and will continue to be at the table. Everybody understands the gravity of the situation and is there to try to bring a good solution for all of Ramsey County, the taxpayers to get the best return on their investment and for the people in need.

Commissioner McDonough had some comments on various pages in the handout. He referred to page nine -- guidance provided by the Board of Commissioners in a Workshop. It will be important as the County Manager goes into more detail on the proposed budget with the department heads in how they relate to proposed changes, cuts or no changes or cuts in relationship to these guidelines. There are key things in being responsible in how decisions are made, in particular, how we are inter-connected with public, private, non-profits, in ensuring this as a big picture – who is providing what and at what level. It is extremely important that the direct service to the public needs to be protected at all cost, and how we look at workflow and organization charts in how we are doing and providing these services within the departments. It will be helpful as some of this is tied to that.

Page ten – 2010-2011 Budget Overview – the strategic use of reserves. Commissioner McDonough said he understands that, and it is a responsible piece of this. What concerns him is that it is becoming an ongoing thing. 2003 was the first time reserves were used since he became a County Commissioner and not a lot since then, but now has almost become a yearly thing to look at reserves to help prop up the budget. We need to manage that and try to move away from using reserves. Hopefully, things will change so we don't have to rely on that. It is not a good policy to do that over and over.

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Page eleven – both Ms. Kleinschmidt and Commissioner Reinhardt mentioned it, but we can't over-emphasize Minnesota's complex property tax system that the average citizen has a tough time grasping. Many times the relationship of what a property tax increase is connected to, what is perceived, is actually a spending increase and it never lines up. Almost always, the property tax increases in the nine years he has a part of the budget process have been much higher than the actual spending increases. It is difficult for the public to grasp that but it highlights how we continue to have to pay more on the property tax versus whether it is Federal or State cuts or shifts while not relieving us from the mandates of providing those services. We are at .8% for inflation with an increase of 2.7% in property tax highlighted already but which can't be overemphasized because it is so difficult to relate in the community.

Page eighteen breaks down where the County dollar goes, which is all the dollars. He has seen this broken down just based on the property tax levy itself, which looks dramatically different because of State and Federal dollars. He recalled the fact that Public Safety and Justice and their share of levy dollars has dramatically increased over the years, and last year may have become equal to or overtaken Health and Human Services as far as levy dollars paying for services. He argued that it is a direct correlation to some of the things referred to earlier as far as providing safety net services within our community. One way or another, we are going to pay for these things – there is a reaction to every action. This trend of public safety going higher, especially in the utilization of levy dollars eventually exceeding Health and Human Services is a direct correlation to the safety net getting smaller and fewer people allowed to be caught by the safety net, resulting with them in the safety net within corrections system and courts, with those ending up costing more in the long run. It would be helpful to have that broken down by where the levy dollars go because it looks much different.

Page Twenty-two – the levy increase is less than the authorized maximum. The County has never supported levy limits and always taken the position in Ramsey County and in other local governments, cities and counties, and been fiscally responsible, staying out within the communities for tax increase reviews. We are living with levy limits. When they do allow for the increase in property taxes to pay for the shifts from the State government, it is an acknowledgement that these services are needed within our community – they are just making the decision that it is going to be paid for off the property tax versus other dollars. That becomes extremely difficult when looking at what is being asked to be paid on the property tax – who is paying that property tax. This budget being proposed by the County Manager is clearly a lot less than what would be allowed to cover those shifts. This is not the first time that has happened – last year we levied less than allowed. We continue to set the example and be leaders at the local level about how we deal with these in trying to deal with the issues, providing the services, especially in County government public safety/safety net type services, and being responsible with the only revenue source we have, which is the property tax.

Commissioner Ortega congratulated Commissioners Reinhardt and Rettman for doing a great job on the budget. The Board has done a good job in balancing the needs with all these shifts, which have gone on for eight years. The Board earlier this morning had a discussion on the medical transportation issue. That is symbolic of the type of issues we are struggling with that have been shifted down to the County, leaving the County to strike a balance about where to draw the line, where to take a stand with these realities of the State, and that is just one issue. There will be many more to come for all the people we need to serve. This is not just about the economy. With the demographics, the need is going to get higher for the poor and across the board for the middle class. All these issues are facing Ramsey County, the State and all across the country. We have to be smarter. We need to work out these issues with all our partners because the issues are serious. We

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will do what we need to do and levy what is needed to maintain the safety net. But, there comes a point where we would be hurting everybody, and we cannot continue to levy at 8-10%. That doesn't work; it is short-term and short-sighted. We need to come together to create services that make sense for folks in very different ways. That is what the medical transportation discussion was about. He stated in the beginning that it is needed, that he would vote for it, and wanted the County to pay for it. It is important. But, at the same time, who delivers that service, how it is delivered, are we covering as many folks that need it, is even more important. He would rather not follow the same track as in the past but now start to sharpen our pencils to all of these issues because it is the only way to capture and maintain that safety net as much as possible. This biennium budget is just the beginning. His anticipation is more about the next four-six years; how do we put the stage together to deliver these services four-six years from now. A lot of great work was done on this budget.

Commissioner Carter thanked County Manager Kleinschmidt and all the staff for the work done over the past couple years during this current budget biennium. There is so much work to do in catching up on the needs in our budget. When looking at the fact that it would take us 109 FT equivalent staff to balance the budget with about eight layoffs, it speaks to the service impacts and that we have an incredible staff willing to take on the work stretched across fewer staff in the departments to serve the public. It is difficult to say to the public that while we are struggling with these kinds of challenges, budget needs and the stress on staff, it is very difficult to maintain a service level, yet at the same time, we see at many County Board meetings, staff recognized for the work that our financial standing has been maintained, that new and innovative ways are being found in serving the public. Whereas we have the \$18 million budget gap and \$10 million actually in the reduction to the County Program Aid we would normally have expected, and reduction in other State categorical aids, make it difficult in areas that are the safety net in children's services and child support, places where we would absolutely not want to cut, we are only replacing in the levy increase about \$7 million each year. It makes it clear that those things we cannot control make it necessary to find ways to both reduce and try to maintain those services but that we have not put it back. Out of the \$18 million needed, we show only \$7 million coming back into our budget. The tough work on the budget is really recognized. Our property tax levy used to account for about 32% of the budget and it is now 45%. She did not see the figures for State aid – has that flip-flopped the other way? Would it have looked about 45% of State aid at that time?

Ms. Kleinschmidt said it has flip-flopped.

Commissioner Carter said that shows the difficulty the tax on our property taxpayers and the stress it has caused to all of us. She thanked staff for their creativity; and that we are preparing for far more difficult possibilities in 2012-13.

Chair Parker added her appreciation for the presentation. The guidelines the County Board gave to the County Manager were not easy to abide by. The County Board's job is to balance the needs of the community with the ability and willingness of the taxpayers to pay for it. It is difficult to strike that balance. She reiterated with Ms. Kleinschmidt's comments that this is the beginning point of the County Board's deliberations. The Board will be setting the maximum levy which can go down over the next few months but cannot increase. This is setting out the framework to work within. Public testimony will be taken very seriously; issues raised by the departments will be heard and taken into consideration, but there has to be a place from which to start. The County Manager has given the Board that starting place, and it is appreciated.

Commissioner Rettman agreed with many of the comments. This is just the beginning of this behemoth. She appreciates the work of the County Manager, her staff, and that of the Budget Office. All the departments have come to the table taking the instructions given to the County Manager. All

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the Ramsey County employees have shown an eagerness to do what is needed to serve the public. There is a world of hurt out there by taxpayers, by staff serving everyone they would like to, and it is hard to tell people they have to wait. Yet, steps need to be taken, and the maximum levy proposed gives a framework to get to work from. There are many opportunities to do the outcome based performance in managing for success and getting rid of silos. People do not have to wait for the public hearings to provide testimony or to get information; there are multiple opportunities through mail, phone, and email. She thanked Ms. Kleinschmidt for her strong leadership.

Commissioner Carter said we have talked about essential and mandated services, and with thanks to Commissioner McDonough and his leadership at AMC, she highlighted the fact that we are reviewing essential and mandated services continuously for ways to ensure that the definition of those services are ways to help us reach our outcomes. Using Ramsey County's goals and objectives and critical success indicators when going through the budget, she would appreciate the departments highlighting those places where they are having difficulties using the current definition of essential and mandated services to help us meet the outcomes and deliver on the critical success indicators, raising those to the Board's attention and to that of State and Federal government where needed.

Commissioner Ortega said this Board has worked diligently with the County Manager and staff to put this budget together and the process has been very transparent. We have done our cutting. We are lower than anybody around us by quite a bit. Even comparing us to the bigger counties like Hennepin County, we will probably come under them. When he came to this Board sixteen years ago, the trend was to go up to 3-5% and then cut. This Board doesn't do that, we are transparent. He wanted to make sure there is enough wiggle room.

Commissioner Reinhardt said there is so little wiggle room in this, and could have built that in, but that isn't transparent, and this Board has been very clear about the transparency. There is still room for a great deal of discussion to figure out the best way of accomplishing this. There is a lot of work ahead of the Board. Things have not been put in that we know we would cut; that has happened with previous Boards, but not this one.

Ms. Kleinschmidt referred to the information about the Ramsey County's website and where additional information on the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget can be found. More information will be posted as it becomes available at www.co.ramsey.mn.us She thanked the Department Directors who did the heavy lifting on this budget. They and their department staff had the toughest discussions about what services to cut because there are significant cuts in this budget.

Commissioner Reinhardt acknowledged and thanked the other partners working with the County from the vendors to the unions and non-profits – it was a joint effort.

Chair Parker added thanks to all the citizen advisory boards to the County Board.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING AND ACCOUNTING – 2010 Certified Proposed (Maximum) Tax Levy

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-306)

WHEREAS, The Truth in Taxation Law (M.S. 275.065) requires the County to certify a proposed maximum tax levy to the Property Records and Revenue Department (County Auditor) by September 15, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, The Certified Proposed Tax Levy will be the amount that is used for the Truth in Taxation notices that will be mailed to each property owner in the County after November 10, 2009 but no later than November 24, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The County Manager submitted the 2010-2011 Proposed Budget to the Board of County Commissioners on September 8, 2009, that called for a 2010 budget of \$569,472,287, or a .8% increase over the 2009 budget, and a proposed tax levy of \$259,971,049 or a 2.7% increase over the 2009 tax levy; and

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners will finalize budget deliberations before final budget approval on December 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Truth in Taxation Law also includes a provision that the approved tax levy for the 2010 budget cannot be more that the proposed tax levy certified by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners by September 15, 2009; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes a proposed maximum tax levy to finance the 2010 budget in the amount of \$259,971,049 as follows:

General County	\$249,958,318
Library Operations, Debt Service & Facilities	<u>10,012,731</u>
Total Tax Levy	\$259,971,049

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- The Board took a Moment of Silence at the beginning of the meeting in memory of North Saint Paul Officer Richard Crittenden. She said a Maplewood Officer was injured while providing back-up to Officer Crittenden. This is a very traumatic thing for all law enforcement. Thoughts and prayers go to her in her recovery.

Chair Parker was pleased to hear that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department provided back-up coverage for the North St. Paul Police Department, which allowed the police department to take time to grieve.

Commissioner Reinhardt said she spoke with several North Saint Paul officials, who were appreciative of the Ramsey County Sheriff taking over those responsibilities. They were grateful to the Incident Center through Judson Freed that was brought out immediately to offer assistance.

- On the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition Meeting with discussion on the recovery act money and what is happening in energy conservation.
- On the Annual St. John's HealthEast Community Forum. The topic this year was the health care reform; Senator Franken was a speaker.

ADJOURNMENT

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