

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER RAMSEY COUNTY, MINNESOTA

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA MAY 2, 2000

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met in regular session with the following members present: Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Rettman, Wiessner and Chair Ortega (late) -7. Also present were Terry Speiker, Acting County Manager and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office. Vice-Chair Wiessner presided over the meeting until Chair Ortega arrived.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Bennett moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to approve the Agenda of the May 2, 2000 Board Meeting as presented. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Wiessner – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Bennett, to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 2000 Board Meeting as presented. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Wiessner – 6. Nays – 0.

PROCLAMATION

Commissioner Haigh read a proclamation given to Al Harris, former Chair, Community Human Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), thanking him for the time and services he provided to the citizens of Ramsey County.

Mr. Harris thanked the Board for this honor and thanked all the members of the CAC for serving on the various committees. Additionally, he encouraged citizens to become involved and to volunteer their time and abilities to Ramsey County and communities.

COUNTY MANAGER – Second Reading of the proposed Ordinance to abolish the Risk Management Department, move Risk Management functions to the Human Resources Department and County Attorney's Office, and merge the Human Resources Unit of the Community Human Services Department into the Human Resources Department

Commissioner Bennett moved, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt, to waive the Second Reading of the proposed ordinance to abolish the Risk Management Department, move Risk Management functions to the Human Resources Department and County Attorney's Office, and merge the Human Resources Unit of the Community Human Services Department into the Human Resources Department. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman,

Bennett, Guerin, Haigh Reinhardt, Wiessner – 6. Nays – 0.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice-Chair Wiessner opened the Public Hearing on the proposed Ordinance to abolish the Risk Management Department, move Risk Management functions to the Human Resources Department and County Attorney's Office, and merge the Human Resources Unit of the Community Human Services Department into the Human Resources Department.

Vice-Chair Wiessner called three times for public testimony. Hearing no requests to address the Board, she declared the Public Hearing closed.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Welfare Reform and Time Limits

Monty Martin and Deborah Schlick, Community Human Services Department, were present to discuss this issue.

Mr. Martin said that today's presentation would provide information and a status update on welfare reform. Staff will be back next week to continue the discussion and to present possible strategies.

Mr. Martin said many people in Ramsey County have used up more than one-half of their lifetime welfare benefits. Staff felt it would be beneficial to re-evaluate the past; how successful the program has been up to this time; identify the areas of lesser success; and potential changes to the system. The Board will need to make decisions in upcoming months. For example, if the legislature approves the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) Intervention Fund, new money will be available for the counties to spend relative to welfare reform, and it has the potential to be relatively flexible money. The 2001 legislative session will set the state budget for the next biennium, which is the budget where the first time limit will hit for many families.

Ramsey County's welfare reform goals are: people receiving cash assistance who can work will be in jobs that support their families before they reach their time limit; and people who cannot work or who are working in jobs that do not support their families will be supported by the community.

Staff have learned that the MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program) has been very successful in Ramsey County and many other counties for many families. However, MFIP is not working for others.

Key factors under TANF, the federal welfare reform law, are that the federal government gave each state the ability to set its own welfare program. Minnesota adopted MFIP, a statewide program that regulates what counties across Minnesota do. A 60-month time limit started ticking in July 1997. MFIP began in January 1998. For those people who received assistance in July 1997, and have received it continuously since that time, their

last month of welfare benefits will be received in June 2002. Between July 1, 2002, and the end of 2002, it is projected that approximately 2800 families will reach their time limit. It is possible for that number to be reduced based on exemptions to the time limit – for example, people age 60 and older; a group of people subject to domestic abuse; and teen parents as long as they continue in school. Additionally, new intervention strategies could become more successful. If everything is continued as it currently is, 2800 families will hit the time limit in the first six months. The goal is to reduce the number.

Mr. Martin said that about one-half of the people who hit the time limit will find employment, but some won't be able to support their families. Potential implications include increased homelessness and out-of-home placements, an impact on "at-risk" children, community economic impacts and additional financial responsibilities of the County.

Commissioner Haigh said a community group with whom she is serving, is working on the safety net issue. It involves the United Way and other similar organizations. She has been informing these individuals that it is not an automatic County responsibility to take on the financial burden to keep these children safe, but rather is a community-wide response. The group has been working on identifying the necessary strategic actions.

Commissioner Guerin asked what the families in Wisconsin did when they lost their benefits. He said he would like to receive the extensive information gathered by The American Experiment on welfare reform.

Mr. Martin said staff looked at a study of the Wisconsin system that compared both Minnesota and Wisconsin residents over a period of 15 months. The study shows that 30% of the Wisconsin families are still on Wisconsin Works, and that other programs had been developed. Comparing Milwaukee to Ramsey/Hennepin Counties, Milwaukee County had 57% of the families they followed still receiving some type of cash assistance. In Minnesota, 60% were receiving some type of cash assistance. Regarding the percentage of individuals receiving some type of public assistance, such as cash, food stamps, or medical assistance, Milwaukee County was at 68% versus 65% in Ramsey/Hennepin Counties. The percentage of those working was the same at 41%.

(Chair Ortega arrived at this time and assumed the Chair.)

Deborah Schlick said four areas indicate success: the number of caseloads has declined; more participants are working; the lives of many families on MFIP have improved; and when MFIP clients were surveyed, information received indicated it is successful from their point of view.

There are presently 8215 families on cash assistance, which shows a decline from 9400 in January 1998. Approximately 50-60 families leave welfare each month. The number of families on MFIP is a small percentage of the total families of 32,000 who receive public assistance, of which a large percentage receive medical assistance. As of June 1999, the federal average of caseload decline is approximately 43%. Minnesota's intent was not

only to move families off welfare, but to move them out of poverty by the time they left welfare. Another indicator of success is that more participants are working; the latest data shows that 34% of the adults on MFIP are working full- or part-time. In the days of AFDC, that number was about 10%. This compares with about 29% of the caseload in Hennepin County. The statewide number is about 38%. At the end of 1998, federal data shows that 35% of the families on welfare were working.

Mr. Martin added that the average length of stay on assistance in Ramsey County under the AFDC program was twice that of the state as a whole. When compared with Hennepin County, Ramsey County's average length of stay is considerably longer.

Ms. Schlick spoke of a longitudinal study done by the Department of Human Services that showed that nearly one-fourth of the participants had moved off MFIP. Of those participants who had jobs, the majority saw their income increase. Additionally, poverty measures such as the percent of income paid for housing and the participant's monthly income compared to the Federal Poverty Guidelines also improved. Another indicator of success was the incentive bonus received from the federal government in the amount of \$9.4 million. This was received because Minnesota was the most successful of the 50 states in meeting an anti-poverty goal. The federal government researched four indicators, and Minnesota was the only state to be in the top ten in three of those indicators.

Wilder researched clients and found that 77% are satisfied with the progress they are making toward their employment goals, and 23% are not satisfied.

Chair Ortega asked if there has been a net decline in caseloads. Staff responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Guerin asked how many families were on assistance when this program began. Melissa Barker, Community Human Services Department, said in July 1997, there were about 11,000 cases. As the conversion was made to MFIP, January-March 1998, there was a decline in the numbers. At the end of 1998, about 9400 families were on cash assistance. The numbers in 1999 stabilized at about 8700-8800, and dropped in July 1999 to 8500. Since that time, the decline has been about 50-60 families per month and is about 8200 families at this time.

Commissioner Guerin asked if there should be a similar reduction in the total FTEs in CHS.

Mr. Martin said the number of financial workers has declined, but more people have become eligible for other programs such as medical assistance. When a family leaves MFIP, they are guaranteed to be on medical assistance for at least one year if they left for employment. Some are likely to be on food stamps. The Department has had about 32,500 total cases for the past two years. As the MFIP caseload drops, the medical assistance caseload goes up. Eligibility for medical assistance is based on income. MinnesotaCare is another government-subsidized program where the "working poor" may

be eligible. In the past six months, the caseload for MFIP has declined by 350 families, but the overall caseload has increased by 100.

Commissioner Rettman asked if there is a direct correlation between the decline in number of financial workers and the increase in medical assistance workers. Mr. Martin said the overall caseload managed by the County's financial workers has not declined appreciably. The number of financial workers was decreased by six in the 2000 budget. Financial workers manage many different programs such as MFIP, medical care, Minnesota Supplemental Assistance, and food stamps. The total number of such cases has not been declining.

Commissioner Wiessner said that not all people eligible for MinnesotaCare are participating.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked if people must be without medical insurance for four months before becoming eligible for medical assistance. Mr. Martin didn't have that information but said he would provide it.

Ms. Schlick said the Board recently approved submission of a grant application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation by the State Department of Human Services. If that grant is received, some of the issues such as premium levels and other issues will be researched.

Commissioner Haigh said the recipient of MinnesotaCare must pay a premium in order to participate. About 17% of those eligible don't choose to receive it, which is one of the highest poor utilization rates in the State.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the good economy and plentiful jobs have been factored into the Department's numbers.

Mr. Martin said people have not chosen to go to work because jobs are not available, but rather due to other factors such as lack of transportation and child care. He said federal projections are that a 1% reduction in unemployment nationally would result in a 4-6% increase in TANF caseloads.

Commissioner Rettman spoke of the eligibility for MinnesotaCare and said that a single person must be a Minnesota resident for six months prior to becoming eligible. For a family of four, the monthly gross income limit is \$3700; the monthly premium is about \$284 for MinnesotaCare.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked about the total expense of the system and if the overall cost of the system is going down as people are going to work and not receiving cash assistance.

Mr. Martin said the savings from reduction in caseloads are state and federal money. Regarding the discussion at the legislature surrounding TANF reserves, the money would

be available because of the reduction in caseloads across the State of Minnesota. Part of the reason for state budget surpluses is because their projection for the cost of public assistance continues to go down. Medical assistance costs are going up and is a greater cost.

Commissioner Wiessner asked if the medical assistance cost includes long-term care or elderly services.

Mr. Martin responded affirmatively and said that is where much of the expense is, and as the population ages, the cost of medical care will soar.

Commissioner Wiessner asked for more information on this issue.

Mr. Martin introduced Sara Evers, Executive Vice President, TCF Bank; Pam Fredrickson, Employment Services Manager, Goodwill/Easter Seals; and Carol McGee Johnson, Research Consultant, Community Employment Partnership.

Ms. Evers is the Director of retail banking statewide for TCF Bank. Over 1300 people are employed in the branch system. Ms. Evers spoke of a month-long, unpaid banking-skills training program working with Goodwill/Easter Seals. Other banks and community agencies have joined in this effort, and in two years, over 150 individuals have graduated from this program. Eighty-five percent of those individuals have obtained jobs and between 56 and 65% have been on the job for over one year. For a person transitioning from welfare to work, that is a huge success story. Twenty-six of the individuals have been promoted. From the employer's standpoint, this program has been a successful partnership between non-profit organizations and businesses.

Commissioner Haigh asked for the beginning investment made for this program.

Ms. Evers said nothing was invested except time and resources. Old desks, chairs, teller stations and other equipment were found in their warehouse. Trainers and speakers were provided. Since then, grants have been provided by various banks.

Commissioner Haigh asked if the retention rates have increased with this program.

Ms. Evers said she doesn't know the statistics of the welfare to work population, but said there are fewer issues with the employees who graduate from this program than with others who are hired.

Commissioner Wiessner asked if graduates are guaranteed a job.

Ms. Evers said a job is not guaranteed because they have other barriers such as clothing needs, child care, transportation and language. About 90% of the time, individuals are hired before they graduate from the program. She said the "smart" employers are those who take entry level employees and groom, train and develop those individuals. With very little assistance, employers can help people overcome barriers that prevent them from

working, such as providing subsidized transportation and child care. The best motivation for the trainees is hearing from former graduates about their personal experiences.

Carol McGee Johnson, Research Consultant, Multi-Cultural Issues, spoke to the Commissioners regarding the "Beneath the Barriers Report". Ms. McGee Johnson said she recently completed this report for the Community Employment Partnership. This report is a qualitative study of the barriers that still exist for the population of welfare recipients who have not yet made the transition from welfare to work about halfway into the five-year time limit period. Three groups were interviewed including 49 MFIP participants, most of whom have been sanctioned or were facing sanctions. Focus group interviews and surveys were done with 43 job counselors and 21 employers. It was important to get a balanced perspective of the barriers. Housing, child care, lack of education and transportation are the largest issues facing those receiving cash assistance, but the intent of this study was to identify other issues. The focus of this study was on those who are hard to employ.

Two barriers that all three groups identified in the interview questions were housing and lack of education. Other barriers the employers and/or job counselors and job seekers identified were low-paying jobs, criminal background, and a self-defeating system. Job seekers identified child care and transportation as significant barriers. The culture of poverty, lack of vision for the future, mental health and chemical dependency issues, domestic abuse and language barriers were identified by employers and job counselors. Additional barriers job counselors identified were: children with severe behavior problems, a presence of independence in seeking money in their own way rather than work, and a lack of personal support networks.

In asking what lies beneath the barriers, it was shown from the various perspectives of the groups, that there were differing value systems, differing lifestyles, differing priorities. The job counselors and employers value long-term success; the job seekers were often confronted with issues of short-term survival such as food, housing, clothing, etc. The conclusion was then made that many MFIP women who were interviewed did not see employment as a solution to their short-term survival needs. Another difference was in the culture of the American workplace, with rules of good attendance, punctuality, and loyalty contrasting with the culture of the street. Another role seen by job counselors was in teaching job seekers how to become successful in the work environment. Job counselors were seen by job seekers as too controlling. A general unreadiness was seen of this population in going to work; many skills need to be built in.

Some conclusions from this is that the amount of support needed to help become prepared for work exceeds current resources available; and the value of finding work in the new system often supersedes education and training.

Ms. Johnson pointed out that yes, we have an unemployment rate right now of 2%, but it doesn't matter how many jobs are available if people are not equipped to work.

Commissioner Rettman said survival is a strong motivator, and perhaps some of the job

seekers could come back as mentors to others.

Ms. Johnson said in listening to earlier comments, asked about the chance of drawing more job counselors from the ranks of former MFIP participants to diminish the cultural divide.

Commissioner Haigh said people on MFIP need to be involved, and those who have left cash assistance should be liaisons with the hardest to employ.

Ms. Johnson said that for those who have been oppressed, there is the desire to give back; also lacking are role models.

Pam Fredrickson, Employment Services Manager, Goodwill/Easter Seals, was present. She said Goodwill across the nation is leading in services to people leaving welfare. Their involvement began a couple years ago to provide some short-term, non-paid training program to help people into the work force at a higher pay for better opportunities to come off assistance. Out of that came the partnership with TCF's bank skills. Those skills were looked at using their environment as a work site for folks to practice and learn work. Traditionally, they served people with disabilities, which was at one point their mission. The mission is now to serve individuals with barriers to employment to achieve self-sufficiency, opening it up to people receiving welfare.

The bank skills worked because of the dynamics of the classroom and learning from each other, holding themselves accountable. They've learned through assessments and work experience – work experience requires somebody to be there for scheduled shifts, to behave in a way that is expected in a work place environment, setting goals. They are finding that, in many cases, not only have these individuals never worked, but they don't even know anyone who has ever worked. They come from years and years of welfare, and that is their peer group. The charge has become to teach them about work.

There are many barriers. Through the discussion about this whole process, they have found that in many cases, the idea of them being dependent is flipped to their independence – they are the only ones - the only ones who can pick up the kids from school, and is what they have learned. It is up to us to help them unlearn that. They will be connected with options, and they will be helped with problem-solving. They need to learn self-esteem and learn trust, and how to navigate systems.

This is the first group that has been told it must go to work. A shift has been made in thinking – going from under somebody's thumb, and you had to go to work - to the benefits of work! The same model used for people with disabilities is working with the hard to employ. There are multiple barriers, multiple levels, from self-esteem to depression to learning disabilities, etc. They've seen a lot and learned a lot, and have had some tremendous successes.

Commissioner Wiessner asked for information on the most difficult barriers.

Ms. Fredrickson said the primary barrier is families with housing crisis who are homeless, and there is so little housing available. Mental health issues and substance abuse are other barriers.

Commissioner Wiessner asked if people identified with mental illness and physical health problems are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Mr. Martin said they have recently initiated hiring a temporary employee to work with as many of these families as possible to get them eligible if they have been diagnosed with a qualifying disability.

Ms. Schlick said in looking at the national research on that issue, researchers are saying the difference between what disability qualifies in terms of SSI and a disability that meets that definition of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) -- part of what is being encountered is that you can diagnose a chronic mental health condition, but it may not be at the level that says the federal government will put you on an SSI program, but is enough of a problem that ADA rules would be in effect. It is the definition of a disability around program eligibility issues that becomes a problem.

Commissioner Reinhardt, in talking about exemptions for someone who has a mental health/illness or disability, asked if it is assumed that if in order to have that, a person would then qualify for SSI. There are clearly disabilities not allowing someone to work; where do those people fit.

Mr. Martin said there are no exemptions for people with those kinds of issues. The future for them lies whether their disability meets the federal definitions to get into the SSI system; other than that, there is no exemption for them. They need to go to work and their time clock is ticking. The State of Minnesota still has the option to identify additional people who could either be exempt or extended on the time limit. Whether the Legislature makes that choice or not, is unknown.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked to be provided with information on the eligibility requirements regarding SSI.

Mr. Martin said that information would be provided. It is almost certain that it will be found that there are a lot of people in the welfare system that aren't going to meet that standard, and yet they might not be employable either because of their mental health or chemical dependency problems.

Ms. Fredrickson added that they recently found a better connection with rehab services and that there are some clear differences in who qualifies for SSI and who qualifies for rehabilitation services. A fully rehabilitated individual takes 28 months. In looking at how much time these people have, it is about that same amount. These individuals may have some form of disability and may even qualify for rehabilitation services, but not make the definition of SSI and thus not get the extra income. They may return to work, but in a

different manner with more hands-on assistance and teaching.

Mr. Martin said when this returns next week, the research about Ramsey County's files will also be presented.

Commissioner Guerin asked if there is information from the more conservative groups that have done work on welfare reform such as the American Experiment's study in a comparison of Minnesota to Wisconsin. There are those who would say that Wisconsin's system is the best in the country, and that Minnesota is the worst.

Mr. Martin said additional materials will be provided for discussion next week and can include some information on that.

Chair Ortega said this is a very difficult subject, and discussion will continue next week. He thanked Monty Martin and all the staff for their work on this.

Mr. Martin thanked Melissa Barker, Community Human Services, for providing much of today's information.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

PARKS & RECREATION – Long Lake Regional Park construction contract – swimming beach parking lot

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-142)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and Williams Pipeline Company entered into an easement agreement which provided for lowering of a pipeline under the swimming beach parking lot at Long Lake Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, Williams agreed to pay \$75,000 for construction of the parking lot expansion after the pipeline had been lowered; and

WHEREAS, Bids were received on February 23, 2000 and Midwest Asphalt was the low bidder; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves P.O. Contract No. CC000827, in the amount of \$56,201.85, with Midwest Asphalt Corp., P.O. Box 5477, Hopkins, MN 55343-2477 for construction of a parking lot expansion at Long Lake Regional Park; and Be It Further

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

HUMAN RESOURCES – Salary Grade Reallocation for County Engineer/Director of

Public Works

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-143)

WHEREAS, It is fiscally responsible and a good business practice for the County to review vacant positions, prior to the recruitment and selection of a new candidate, to ensure the positions are appropriately placed within the County compensation plan; and

WHEREAS, There is currently a vacancy within Ramsey County for the position of County Engineer/Public Works Director; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department recently reviewed the position of County Engineer/Public Works Director to ensure that it is appropriately placed within the County compensation plan; and

WHEREAS, In reviewing the position, the Ramsey County Human Resources Department considered external comparisons, internal comparisons, and position content; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department has determined that the position of County Engineer/Public Works Director is not appropriately placed within the County compensation plan; and

WHEREAS, The Human Resources Department has determined that the appropriate salary grade for the position of County Engineer/Public Works Director is Grade 44 of Schedule 98B on the County compensation plan; and

WHEREAS, The recommended salary grade reallocation is within the pay equity corridor in accordance with the County compensation policy (Resolution 87-361); Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves reallocating the salary grade for the position of County Engineer/Public Works Director to Grade 44 of Schedule 98B on the County compensation plan.

BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly report of contracts, final payments and grant submissions approved during March, 2000

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-144)

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 3.40.27 authorizes the County Manager to approve contracts, within certain limits; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.50a requires a monthly report on all contracts and final payments approved by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.39d requires the County Manager to report grant submissions, amendments, renewals, and acceptances along with the monthly contract report; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report of Contracts and Final Payments and Grants for the month of March, 2000.

PUBLIC WORKS – Contract Award for Reconstruction of Larpenteur Avenue between Arona Street and Oxford Street

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-145)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Public Works, in cooperation with the Cities of Falcon Heights, Roseville and St. Paul, has developed plans for the reconstruction of Larpenteur Avenue between Arona Street and Oxford Street, S.A.P. 62-630-45; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, via Resolution 2000-82 dated March 14, 2000, approved the plans and authorized the Public Works Department to advertise for bids for the project; and

WHEREAS, Bids were taken for this project on April 12, 2000 and the low bid received was from Shafer Contracting Company, 30405 Regal Avenue, P. O. Box 128, Shafer, Minnesota 55174, in the amount of \$3,728,051.79; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Project Engineer has reviewed the bids and recommends award of the contract to Shafer Contracting Company; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves award of Contract CC000836 to Shafer Contracting Company, 30405 Regal Avenue, P. O. Box 128, Shafer, Minnesota 55174, on file with the Chief Clerk, in the amount of \$3,728,051.79 for the reconstruction of Larpenteur Avenue between Arona Street and Oxford Street, S.A.P. 62-630-45; and Be It Further

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

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

INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUE

1998 17114 550880 314606 CSAH Construction Regular P033075 \$3,559,538.29

1998 17114 550880 314101 Participation-Falcon Heights P033075 84,813.50

1998 17114 550880 314101 Participation-Roseville P033075 41,350.00

1998 17114 550880 314101 Participation-St. Paul P033075 42,350.00

1998 17114 550880 311703 Engineering Revenue P033075 37,280.00

INCREASE APPROPRIATION

1998 17114 550880 442305 Larpenteur Avenue- P033075 \$3,765,331.79

Arona to Oxford

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a temporary cash loan not to exceed \$3,765,331.79 from the County General Fund to the 1998 Capital Improvement Program Fund until receipt of County State Aid Highway and participating reimbursement funds.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – 2000 Capital Improvement Program Bonds

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-146)

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COMPETITIVE NEGOTIATED SALE OF \$16,380,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BONDS, SERIES 2000A

BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Commissioners of Ramsey County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. Finding; Amount and Purpose. It is hereby found, determined and declared that Ramsey County, Minnesota (the "County"), should issue its \$16,380,000 General Obligation Capital Improvement Plan Bonds, Series 2000A, to defray the expense of acquiring and constructing (1) various capital improvements authorized in the County's Capital Improvement Plan under the County's home rule charter and (2) the Lake Owasso Residence.
2. Meeting. This Board of Commissioners shall meet on the date and at the time and place specified in the form of Terms of Proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A for the purpose of awarding the sale of the Bonds.
3. Competitive Negotiated Sale. The County has retained Springsted Incorporated as an independent financial advisor, and the Board of Commissioners hereby determines to sell the Bonds by private negotiation, by way of a competitive sale in response to Terms of Proposal for the Bonds which are not published in any newspaper or journal.
4. Terms of Proposal. The terms and conditions of the Bonds and the sale thereof are fully set forth in the "Terms of Proposal" attached hereto as Exhibit A and hereby made a part

hereof.

5. Official Statement. The County Manager and other officers or employees of the County are hereby authorized to participate with Springsted Incorporated in the preparation of an official statement for the Bonds.

EXHIBIT A

THE County HAS AUTHORIZED Springsted INCORPORATED TO NEGOTIATE THIS ISSUE ON its BEHALF. PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

TERMS OF PROPOSAL
\$16,380,000
Ramsey County, Minnesota
General Obligation Capital Improvement
Plan Bonds, Series 2000A
(BOOK ENTRY ONLY)

Proposals for the Bonds will be received on Monday, May 22, 2000, until 2:00 PM, Central Time, at the offices of Springsted Incorporated, 85 East Seventh Place, Suite 100, Saint Paul, Minnesota, after which time they will be opened and tabulated. Consideration for award of the Bonds will be by the County Board on Tuesday, May 23, 2000 at 9:00 A.M., Central Time.

»SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Springsted will assume no liability for the inability of the bidder to reach Springsted prior to the time of sale specified above. All bidders are advised that each Proposal shall be deemed to constitute a contract between the bidder and the County to purchase the Bonds regardless of the manner by which the Proposal is submitted.

(a) Sealed Bidding. Proposals may be submitted in a sealed envelope or by fax (651) 223-3002 to Springsted. Signed Proposals, without final price or coupons, may be submitted to Springsted prior to the time of sale. The bidder shall be responsible for submitting to Springsted the final Proposal price and coupons, by telephone (651) 223-3000 or fax (651) 223-3002 for inclusion in the submitted Proposal.

OR

- b. Electronic Bidding. Electronic Bids may be submitted to Dalcomp/Parity (an "Approved Provider"). For purposes of the electronic bidding process, the time as maintained by the Approved Provider shall constitute the official time with respect to all Bids submitted to such Approved Provider.

Each bidder shall be solely responsible for making necessary arrangements to access the Approved Provider for purposes of submitting its electronic Bid in a timely manner and in compliance with the requirements of the Notice of Sale. Neither the County nor its agents shall have any duty or obligation to provide or ensure electronic access to any qualified prospective bidder, and neither the County nor its agents shall be responsible for any failure in the proper operation of, or have any liability for any delays or interruptions of or any damages caused by the Approved Provider's service. The County is using the

services of the Approved Provider solely as a communication mechanism to conduct the electronic bidding for the Bonds, and the Approved Provider is not an agent of the County.

If any provisions of this Notice of Sale conflict with information provided by the Approved Provider, this Notice of Sale shall control. Further information about the Approved Provider, including any fee charged, may be obtained from:
Dalcomp/Parity, 395 Hudson Street, New York City, New York 10014, Customer Support, 212/803-8304.

DETAILS OF THE Bonds

The Bonds will be dated June 1, 2000, as the date of original issue, and will bear interest payable on February 1 and August 1 of each year, commencing February 1, 2001. Interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months.

The Bonds will mature February 1 in the years and amounts as follows:

2001 \$570,000	2006 \$ 825,000	2011 \$660,000	2016 \$ 860,000
2002 \$525,000	2007 \$ 875,000	2012 \$690,000	2017 \$ 900,000
2003 \$700,000	2008 \$ 915,000	2013 \$725,000	2018 \$ 950,000
2004 \$740,000	2009 \$ 965,000	2014 \$775,000	2019 \$1,015,000
2005 \$780,000	2010 \$1,020,000	2015 \$815,000	2020 \$1,075,000

Proposals for the Bonds may contain a maturity schedule providing for a combination of serial bonds and term bonds, provided that no serial bond may mature on or after the first mandatory sinking fund redemption date of any term bond. All term bonds shall be subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption and must conform to the maturity schedule set forth above at a price of par plus accrued interest to the date of redemption. In order to designate term bonds, the proposal must specify "Last Year of Serial Maturities" and "Years of Term Maturities" in the spaces provided on the Proposal Form.

BOOK ENTRY SYSTEM

The Bonds will be issued by means of a book entry system with no physical distribution of Bonds made to the public. The Bonds will be issued in fully registered form and one Bond, representing the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds maturing in each year, will be registered in the name of Cede & Co. as nominee of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), New York, New York, which will act as securities depository of the Bonds. Individual purchases of the Bonds may be made in the principal amount of \$5,000 or any multiple thereof of a single maturity through book entries made on the books and records of DTC and its participants. Principal and interest are payable by the registrar to DTC or its nominee as registered owner of the Bonds. Transfer of principal and interest payments to participants of DTC will be the responsibility of DTC; transfer of principal and interest payments to beneficial owners by participants will be the responsibility of such participants and other nominees of beneficial owners. The purchaser, as a condition of delivery of the Bonds, will be required to deposit the Bonds with DTC.

REGISTRAR

The County will name the registrar which shall be subject to applicable SEC regulations. The County will pay for the services of the registrar.

OPTIONAL REDEMPTION

The County may elect on February 1, 2008, and on any day thereafter, to prepay Bonds due on or after February 1, 2009. Redemption may be in whole or in part and if in part at the option of the County and in such manner as the County shall determine. If less than

all Bonds of a maturity are called for redemption, the County will notify DTC of the particular amount of such maturity to be prepaid. DTC will determine by lot the amount of each participant's interest in such maturity to be redeemed and each participant will then select by lot the beneficial ownership interests in such maturity to be redeemed. All prepayments shall be at a price of par plus accrued interest.

SECURITY AND PURPOSE

The Bonds will be general obligations of the County for which the County will pledge its full faith and credit and power to levy direct general ad valorem taxes. In addition the County will pledge to a portion of the Bonds, reimbursements to be received from the State of Minnesota for the operation of the Lake Owasso Residence which is licensed as a supervised living facility and certified as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded. The proceeds will be used to finance County capital improvement projects authorized in the County's 2000 Capital Improvement Plan and to finance the replacement of the Lake Owasso Residence.

TYPE OF PROPOSALS

Proposals shall be for not less than \$16,380,000 (Par) and accrued interest on the total principal amount of the Bonds. Proposals shall be accompanied by a Good Faith Deposit ("Deposit") in the form of a certified or cashier's check or a Financial Surety Bond in the amount of \$163,800, payable to the order of the County. If a check is used, it must accompany the proposal. If a Financial Surety Bond is used, it must be from an insurance company licensed to issue such a bond in the State of Minnesota, and preapproved by the County. Such bond must be submitted to Springsted Incorporated prior to the opening of the proposals. The Financial Surety Bond must identify each underwriter whose Deposit is guaranteed by such Financial Surety Bond. If the Bonds are awarded to an underwriter using a Financial Surety Bond, then that purchaser is required to submit its Deposit to Springsted Incorporated in the form of a certified or cashier's check or wire transfer as instructed by Springsted Incorporated not later than 3:30 P.M., Central Time, on the next business day following the award.

If such Deposit is not received by that time, the Financial Surety Bond may be drawn by the County to satisfy the Deposit requirement. The County will deposit the check of the purchaser, the amount of which will be deducted at settlement and no interest will accrue to the purchaser. In the event the purchaser fails to comply with the accepted proposal, said amount will be retained by the County. No proposal can be withdrawn or amended after the time set for receiving proposals unless the meeting of the County scheduled for award of the Bonds is adjourned, recessed, or continued to another date without award of the Bonds having been made. Rates shall be in integral multiples of 5/100 or 1/8 of 1%. There is no limit on the interest rate spread if quoted in ascending order; however, no rate for any maturity shall be more than 1% lower than any prior rate. Bonds of the same maturity shall bear a single rate from the date of the Bonds to the date of maturity. No conditional proposals will be accepted.

AWARD

The Bonds will be awarded on the basis of the lowest interest rate to be determined on a true interest cost (TIC) basis. The County's computation of the interest rate of each proposal, in accordance with customary practice, will be controlling.

The County will reserve the right to: (i) waive non-substantive informalities of any proposal or of matters relating to the receipt of proposals and award of the Bonds,

(ii) reject all proposals without cause, and, (iii) reject any proposal which the County determines to have failed to comply with the terms herein.

BOND INSURANCE AT PURCHASER'S OPTION

If the Bonds qualify for issuance of any policy of municipal bond insurance or commitment therefor at the option of the underwriter, the purchase of any such insurance policy or the issuance of any such commitment shall be at the sole option and expense of the purchaser of the Bonds. Any increased costs of issuance of the Bonds resulting from such purchase of insurance shall be paid by the purchaser, except that, if the County has requested and received a rating on the Bonds from a rating agency, the County will pay that rating fee. Any other rating agency fees shall be the responsibility of the purchaser. Failure of the municipal bond insurer to issue the policy after Bonds have been awarded to the purchaser shall not constitute cause for failure or refusal by the purchaser to accept delivery on the Bonds.

CUSIP NUMBERS

If the Bonds qualify for assignment of CUSIP numbers such numbers will be printed on the Bonds, but neither the failure to print such numbers on any Bond nor any error with respect thereto will constitute cause for failure or refusal by the purchaser to accept delivery of the Bonds. The CUSIP Service Bureau charge for the assignment of CUSIP identification numbers shall be paid by the purchaser.

SETTLEMENT

Within 40 days following the date of their award, the Bonds will be delivered without cost to the purchaser through DTC in New York, New York. Delivery will be subject to receipt by the purchaser of an approving legal opinion of Briggs and Morgan, Professional Association, of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, and of customary closing papers, including a no-litigation certificate. On the date of settlement, payment for the Bonds shall be made in federal, or equivalent, funds which shall be received at the offices of the County or its designee not later than 12:00 Noon, Central Time. Except as compliance with the terms of payment for the Bonds shall have been made impossible by action of the County, or its agents, the purchaser shall be liable to the County for any loss suffered by the County by reason of the purchaser's non-compliance with said terms for payment.

CONTINUING DISCLOSURE

On the date of actual issuance and delivery of the Bonds, the County will execute and deliver a Continuing Disclosure Undertaking (the "Undertaking") whereunder the County will covenant for the benefit of the owners of the Bonds to provide certain financial and other information about the County and notices of certain occurrences to information repositories as specified in and required by SEC Rule 15c2-12(b)(5).

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

The County has authorized the preparation of an Official Statement containing pertinent information relative to the Bonds, and said Official Statement will serve as a nearly-final Official Statement within the meaning of Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. For copies of the Official Statement or for any additional information prior to sale, any prospective purchaser is referred to the Financial Advisor to the County, Springsted Incorporated, 85 East Seventh Place, Suite 100, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101, telephone (651) 223-3000.

The Official Statement, when further supplemented by an addendum or addenda specifying the maturity dates, principal amounts and interest rates of the Bonds, together with any other information required by law, shall constitute a "Final Official Statement" of the County with respect to the Bonds, as that term is defined in Rule 15c2-12.

By awarding the Bonds to any underwriter or underwriting syndicate submitting a proposal therefor, the County agrees that, no more than seven business days after the date of such award, it shall provide without cost to the senior managing underwriter of the syndicate to which the Bonds are awarded 250 copies of the Official Statement and the addendum or addenda described above. The County designates the senior managing underwriter of the syndicate to which the Bonds are awarded as its agent for purposes of distributing copies of the Final Official Statement to each Participating Underwriter. Any underwriter delivering a proposal with respect to the Bonds agrees thereby that if its proposal is accepted by the County (i) it shall accept such designation and (ii) it shall enter into a contractual relationship with all Participating Underwriters of the Bonds for purposes of assuring the receipt by each such Participating Underwriter of the Final Official Statement.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – POS Agreement with African American Adoption & Permanency Planning Agency

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Haigh. Roll Call: Ayes – Rettman, Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 7. Nays – 0. (2000-147)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County and African American Adoption & Permanency Planning Agency, Inc., have worked aggressively to promote the adoption of African American special needs children since 1998; and

WHEREAS, The African American Adoption & Permanency Planning Agency (AAAPPA) is committed to servicing children in Ramsey County who are in need of placement with adoptive families; and

WHEREAS, The agency has demonstrated its ability to serve the African American community and it is recognized throughout the State of Minnesota as a resource in this area; and

WHEREAS, AAAPPA provides recruitment, training, home studies, and pre and post adoption services to insure finalization of the adoptions and prevent disruptions; and

WHEREAS, The County currently has 99 children of color awaiting adoption; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves a new Purchase of Service Agreement, on file with the Chief Clerk, with the African American Adoption & Permanency Planning Agency, Inc., 1821 University Avenue, Suite N-263, St. Paul, MN 55104 for the period April 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 at a cost of \$48,517; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Request for salary grade allocation for the job class Director of Ramsey County Consolidated Workforce Development position

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

Commissioner Rettman said that because the job description still includes housing, until that determination is made, she would not vote in favor of this.

Commissioner Guerin referred to a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, and asked Terry Speiker, Acting County Manager, if Ramsey County is okay on this now. It sounded as though the Chamber was questioning the classification requirement.

Commissioner Wiessner said when she read the letter, it sounded consistent with concerns brought up last week at the Workshop. The write-up doesn't seem to reflect some of the other qualities being sought. Her assumption is that it will be changed.

Commissioner Rettman said amendments have already been made, with the exception of the housing reference.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the version the Chamber saw was not with those amendments.

Chair Ortega said he feels comfortable with this.

Roll Call: Ayes – Wiessner, Bennett, Guerin, Haigh, Reinhardt, Ortega – 6. Nays – Rettman – 1. (2000-148)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved a Joint Powers Agreement for the consolidated Ramsey County/City of St. Paul Workforce Investment Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board authorized the County Manager to develop a plan/process for establishment of a new County Department in accordance with the requirements in the Ramsey County Charter and the County's Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to initiate a recruitment process to select an individual to lead this newly established department; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Human Resources Department recently developed a class specification for the new job class of Director of Ramsey County Consolidated Workforce Development, and conducted a job evaluation and internal and external salary comparisons; and

WHEREAS, The Human Resources Department has determined that the appropriate salary grade allocation for the job class Director of Ramsey County Consolidated Workforce Development is Grade 43 on salary schedule 98B of the County's compensation pay plan; and

WHEREAS, The recommended salary grade allocation is in accordance with the guidelines established by the Ramsey County compensation policy (Resolution 87-361);
Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the salary grade allocation of Grade 43 on salary schedule 98B for the job class Director of Ramsey County Consolidated Workforce Development.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, stated that with the discussion on TANF, both the House and Senate have agreed that there should be about \$270 million used from that reserve over a period of three years. It has not yet been decided how that money should be spent. The question is whether there will be time to finish this; there are five legislative work days left, with May 22 as the final deadline.

OUTSIDE REPORTS

Commissioner Haigh reported:

- On a meeting she attended initiated by the St. Paul Area Coalition for the Homeless. This was an attempt to look at shelter issues from a regional perspective. This group will meet

again in two months.

Commissioner Reinhardt reported:

- On a meeting of the MetroGIS Policy Board, started in January 1997. A plan was created to keep the policy board in place. The Met Council will be providing funding, but leaving the policy decisions to the policy board. There are all kinds of issues and problems that can come up on the private sector side. In working with that industry, they will form a work group with representatives from the counties, technical staff, surveying area, legal staff and private sector individuals to serve on this committee, to find out about costs, where are the barriers, and how to make this happen.
- On a meeting of the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative open forum where they spoke about time-share study funding.
- On a Mosquito Control District Board meeting with an individual attending from the Minnesota Department of Health to talk about how it is determined when there is a health risk.
- On a meeting of the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board.
- On a meeting of the Ramsey-Washington Resource Recovery Board.
- On her participation in "Bring Your Daughters to Work Day" at Ramsey County.
- On an exhibit on Corrections in Minnesota, at Metro State University.

Commissioner Wiessner reported:

- On the rail corridor, which is proposed to run from Minneapolis to White Bear Lake. There was a lot of interest in preserving the right of way.
- On the many clean-ups going on because of the environmental day. She thanked the residents of Little Canada who helped with the Lake Gervais clean-up.

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- On attending a tax-forfeited land auction.
- On the University of Minnesota soccer field, referring to the first report out on this.
- On the League of Women Voters Changing Faces/Changing Communities meeting, a document will be distributed at a later date.
- She and Commissioner Wiessner attended the labor AFL/CIO recognition of all volunteer hours in facilities where the County has participants.
- She met with Isaiah, which is an ecumenical group in regard to one of the issues they are

pursuing in terms of housing.

- On the Eden Alternative event on how to make affordable senior housing more livable so that people do not lose contact with pets and the stimulation that they provide.

Commissioner Bennett cancelled the Regional Rail meeting.

Commissioner Rettman suggested holding the Public Works, Parks and Solid Waste Committee following the Administrative meeting due to the length of time needed for discussion at the Health Services Committee.

Commissioner Haigh reported:

- On the non-profit organization called "Circus of the Stars", which had announced that a big top facility will be built in Highland Park. This is a program that teaches kids how to become circus performers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Ortega declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Bonnie C. Jackelen
Chief Clerk – County Board