

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SESSION

September 4, 2008

1/ The Board of Commissioners of the County of Allegan, State of Michigan met in the Board Room of the County Services Building in the Township of Allegan on September 4, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., as set; Chairman McNeal presiding.

The invocation was offered by District #2 Commissioner McNeal.

The Clerk led the board in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The following Commissioners were present:

DIST # 1	TERRY BURNS	DIST # 7	DON BLACK
DIST # 2	STEVE McNEAL	DIST # 8	TOM JESSUP
DIST # 3	PAUL VanECK	DIST # 9	FRITZ SPREITZER
DIST # 4	MARK DeYOUNG	DIST #10	JON CAMPBELL
DIST # 5	DEAN KAPENGA	DIST #11	LARRY JONES
DIST # 6	MAX THIELE		

### **Public Participation – No Comments**

2/ Chairman McNeal opened the meeting to public participation and the following individual offered comments:

1. Naomi Whetzel, Hopkins Township, offered an apology for interrupting the meeting last week to discuss an issue regarding the disability community with Commissioner VanEck.
2. Dale Cook, from Commission District #2, requested the Board consider funding for Community Mental Health programs.

### **Minutes of August 7, 2008 Session – Adopt as Distributed**

3/ Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the minutes of the August 7, 2008 session as distributed. Motion carried.

### **Agenda – Additions and Amendment**

4/ Chairman McNeal called for any additions or amendments to the meeting agenda. Commissioner Campbell asked to move the CMH funding issue to the beginning of the agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Jones to authorize the amendment as presented. Motion carried.

### **Agenda – Approved as Amended**

5/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

### **Mental Health Funding**

6/ Chairman McNeal asked Commissioner Campbell to lead the CMH funding issue discussion. He recognized the Mental Health Services Board members and asked the staff to introduce themselves. He reviewed the history of the agency's funding situation and asked for

consideration for appropriating sufficient funds to allow them to provide services to the general citizenry.

He introduced Director Paul Brinkley who expressed his appreciation for the support that the board has given in the past. Paul asked Peggy St. John, CMH Finance Director to address the budget deficit for this year \$500,000 and reviewed the budget deficit plan developed by the staff. She explained that the increased demand for non-Medicaid services makes it even more difficult to deal with the reduced funding received from the State. Many of the Medicaid portions of the population at some point in time necessitate “spendowns” which require General Fund dollars to make up the difference. The department has also experienced increases in the number of clients who require placement in State facilities for which Medicaid dollars cannot be used. She reviewed the history of the local county match allocations which have dropped significantly since 2003. She stated that there has been an increased need to place children in special facilities. The closing of the Psych unit at the Allegan General Hospital will exacerbate the need for out of county placements, increasing the costs to CMH for which Medicaid funding cannot be used. She also addressed that since they are serving fewer of the insured clients because of the waiting lists, they do not have access to private insurance funds to use as “match” to leverage additional funds.

With a \$900,000 deficit in the General Fund, they cannot merely cut \$900,000 without that cut impacting other programs. A \$100,000 cut out of the administration program funds would net only \$17,000 reduction in the deficit because of the restrictions on how various funds can be utilized. They have identified a way to shift some of the general fund deficit expenditures to other programs but can find only \$800,000 in revenue that way. To reach the final \$100,000, they are requesting the County reinstate funding to the 2003 appropriation level of \$166,087.00. They will deplete their fund balance this fall.

#### **Break – 10:54 A.M.**

7/ Moved by Commissioner Burns, seconded by Commissioner Jones to recess for ten minutes. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 10:54 a.m.

Upon reconvening at 11:07 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Spreitzer, Campbell and Jones. Absent – none.

#### **Mental Health Funding, Continued**

8/ Jerri Roebing and Beth Durkee addressed how the Department is implementing the plan to address deficits. Bottom line was that without additional revenue from the county [\$166,000] approximately 18 workers would have to be laid off, jeopardizing their ability to deliver services. They cannot put Medicaid clients on a waiting list yet they would not be able to serve them if personnel should be laid off.

#### **Schedule Mental Health Funding on the September 11, 2008 Agenda**

9/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Spreitzer to place the CMH funding issue on the September 11, 2008 discussion agenda and have the Administrative team identify where funding might come from. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 11 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 0 votes.

### **General Updates**

10/ Rob reported that on September 18, 2008, there will be a 2 hour tour of the Perrigo company at 8:30 a.m. [later, Commissioner Spreitzer indicated that the tour may have to be rescheduled; Administration will notify everyone of the final plans, but the normal 9:30 a.m. meeting time will take effect if the tour is postponed.]

The joint County/City/Township meeting will be held September 25, 2008 at 6 p.m. and Rob stated he has asked the City and the Township to send him any questions they wish to have addressed.

### **Recess – 12:35 P.M.**

11/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Black to recess until 1:00 p.m. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 12:35 p.m.

Upon reconvening at 1:05 a.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Campbell and Jones. Absent – Commissioner Spreitzer.

### **Courthouse Security**

12/ Rob Sarro reported that the current courthouse security program costs \$90,118 per year. Does the Board wish to continue the program as is, or is there an alternative consideration that should be made? There was a great deal of discussion regarding this issue. Rob stated that he would recommend keeping the program in the 2009 budget and if alternative programs are to be considered, plan to do the investigation of alternatives and issue RFPs during the 2009 year for consideration during the 2010 budget process. To issue an RFP would take 4-6 months, so changes to the 2009 budget would not be practical. There appeared to be consensus to follow this recommendation.

### **2009 Personnel Budget - Changes**

13/ Rob addressed the Personnel Budget and reviewed the decision points reached at the last meeting. He reported that at this point, the budget is within \$95,000 of being balanced. Any changes would need to keep within the \$95,000 amount, otherwise changes to programs would need to be made.

### **Break – 2:30 P.M.**

14/ Upon reconvening at 2:40 p.m., the following Commissioners were present: Commissioner Burns, McNeal, VanEck, DeYoung, Kapenga, Thiele, Black, Jessup, Campbell and Jones. Absent – Commissioner Spreitzer.

### **Deputy Drain Commissioner I, Drain Maintenance Supervisor & Drain Maintenance Worker II**

15/ Becky Rininger, Drain Commissioner addressed her requests for reclassification of these positions. She feels the Deputy Drain Commissioner position is relatively equitable to the Tax Reversion position in the Treasurer's office and should be reclassified for fairness. She outlined the changes in the Maintenance position duties and explained that this request would not require General fund dollars.

Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve the requests of the Drain Commissioner to reclassify these positions. Motion failed on roll call vote: Yeas – 5 votes. Nays – 5 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

N	TERRY BURNS	N	DON BLACK
N	STEVE McNEAL	Y	TOM JESSUP
Y	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
N	MARK DeYOUNG	Y	JON CAMPBELL
Y	DEAN KAPENGA	N	LARRY JONES
Y	MAX THIELE		

**Family Court Collections Clerk – Do Not Fund**

16/ Rob reviewed the request and the group ranking.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Burns to rank this position as a priority 4. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

**Probation Officer for Sobriety Court – Do Not Fund**

17/ Rob reviewed this position and stated that there was also a nominal cost for equipment that would also be needed. Commissioner Burns said that effectiveness of these kinds of programs is questionable and he thinks the final cost would be greater than what is projected. Commissioner Jessup stated that with alcohol being one of Allegan County’s biggest problems, the position should be ranked as a higher priority.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Burns to rank this position as a priority 4. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 1 vote. Absent – 1 vote.

Y	TERRY BURNS	Y	DON BLACK
Y	STEVE McNEAL	N	TOM JESSUP
Y	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
Y	MARK DeYOUNG	Y	JON CAMPBELL
Y	DEAN KAPENGA	Y	LARRY JONES
Y	MAX THIELE		

**Health Department Nurse – Do Not Fund**

18/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to set this position as a priority 4. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 1 vote. Absent – 1 vote.

Y	TERRY BURNS	Y	DON BLACK
Y	STEVE McNEAL	Y	TOM JESSUP
N	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
Y	MARK DeYOUNG	Y	JON CAMPBELL
Y	DEAN KAPENGA	Y	LARRY JONES
Y	MAX THIELE		

**Hearing & Vision Technician, Records Management Technician, Probate Court Baliff, Parks & Tourism Assistant, Sheriff’s Department Corrections Officer and Domestic Violence Detective – Do Not Fund**

19/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Black to set these positions as a priority 4. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

**Animal Control Officer – Fund at 19 Hours/Week**

20/ This position was ranked at a higher priority but there was a great deal of discussion about whether a part-time position would afford existing staff enough flexibility to expand services.

Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to fund this position at 19 hours per week; without benefits. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 7 votes. Nays – 3 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

Y	TERRY BURNS	Y	DON BLACK
Y	STEVE McNEAL	Y	TOM JESSUP
Y	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
N	MARK DeYOUNG	N	JON CAMPBELL
Y	DEAN KAPENGA	Y	LARRY JONES
N	MAX THIELE		

**Transportation Secretary – Fund Part-Time**

21/ Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to fund a part-time secretary position in the Transportation Department. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

**Director of Senior Services – Reclassification**

22/ Rob explained that during the interview process it was discovered that the position was not classified correctly. He recommends reclassification to be equitable to other positions of similar responsibility.

Moved by Commissioner Black, seconded by Commissioner Jones to adopt the recommended classification increase. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 6 votes. Nays – 4 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

Y	TERRY BURNS	Y	DON BLACK
N	STEVE McNEAL	Y	TOM JESSUP
N	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
Y	MARK DeYOUNG	Y	JON CAMPBELL
N	DEAN KAPENGA	Y	LARRY JONES
N	MAX THIELE		

**Program Assistant for Senior Services – Approve Full-Time Secretary**

23/ Moved by Commissioner VanEck, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to reclassify the part-time program assistant to a full time secretary position. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

**Veteran’s Services – Full-Time Program Assistant**

24/ Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to approve a full time Veteran’s Services Assistant. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 10 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 1 vote.

**Non-Bargaining Employees – Increase Matching Funds by 1%**

25/ Rob explained that not all employees participate in the retirement program to avail themselves of the matching funds. Currently the County matches 6% of the funds employees defer and he would recommend increasing it by 1%.

Moved by Commissioner Thiele, seconded by Commissioner Kapenga to increase by 1% the county match for non-bargaining employees. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 2 votes [Commissioner Burns left at 4:00 p.m.]

**Drain Commissioner’s Requests – Reconsideration**

26/ Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Black to reconsider the reclassification requests of the Drain Commissioner. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 2 votes.

**Drain Maintenance Workers – Approve Reclassifications**

27/ Moved by Commissioner Kapenga, seconded by Commissioner Campbell to approve the reclassification of the Drain Maintenance Supervisor and Drain Maintenance Worker II positions. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 9 votes. Nays – 0 votes. Absent – 2 votes.

**Deputy Drain Commissioner I – Deny Reclassification**

28/ Moved by Commissioner DeYoung, seconded by Commissioner Black to deny the request for reclassification of the Deputy Drain Commissioner I. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yeas – 7 votes. Nays – 2 votes. Absent – 2 votes.

	TERRY BURNS	Y	DON BLACK
Y	STEVE McNEAL	N	TOM JESSUP
Y	PAUL VanECK		FRITZ SPREITZER
Y	MARK DeYOUNG	Y	JON CAMPBELL
Y	DEAN KAPENGA	Y	LARRY JONES
N	MAX THIELE		

**Schedule**

29/ The planning session on September 18, 2008 will start at the regular time; 9:30 a.m. At the September 11, 2008 meeting, Rob explained that the total Personnel Budget with the changes authorized today will be presented and then he will present the Operational Budget. The full Draft 2009 Budget will be presented at the September 18, 2008 meeting.

**410 Seminar at the Kalamazoo Radisson**

30/ Commissioner Thiele stated that he would like to attend the planning seminar at the Kalamazoo Radisson which will be held October 1 to October 4, 2008. He agreed to distribute copies of this seminar to other Commissioners to see if they would be interested in attending.

Moved by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner VanEck to set this item on the action agenda of the September 11, 2008 agenda. Motion carried.

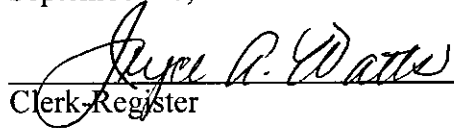
**Public Participation – Comment**

31/ Chairman McNeal opened the meeting for public participation and the following individual offered comments:

1. Naomi Whetzel thanked the board for their concern for Veteran Services and stated that many of them are now Seniors.

**Adjourn Until September 18, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**

31/ Moved by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Thiele to adjourn until September 18, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried and the meeting was recessed at 4:37 p.m.

  
Clerk-Register

# Allagan County Board of Commissioners



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## BOARD PLANNING SESSION-AGENDA

Thursday, September 4, 2008 - 9:30 a.m.  
Board Room - County Services Building

Revised 09/02/08

9:30 a.m. OPENING PRAYER: Commissioner McNeal  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:  
ROLL CALL:  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 7, 2008  
ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. General Updates
  2. 2009 Personnel Budget - Changes
  3. Mental Health Funding
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### OTHER ITEMS:

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

ADJOURNMENT: Thursday, September 18, 2008 @ 9:30 A.M. @ BOARD ROOM -  
COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING, COUNTY SERVICES COMPLEX @ DUMONT.

#### Mission Statement

"The Allagan County Board of Commissioners shall plan, develop, and evaluate the necessary policies and resources to ensure our county continues to progress and prosper"

September 4, 2008

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