

Commissioner Minutes of January 2, 2009
Organizational Meeting

County Clerk Laura Brandon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Ms. Brandon requested that Commissioner Whittington act as the temporary chairperson to conduct the meeting until nominations and elections of Chairman and Vice Chairman were complete. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters to allow Commissioner Whittington be appointed temporary Chairman. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Whittington opened the nominations for Chairperson. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to nominate Whittington for Chairperson position. Motion by Commissioner Posey, with no support, nominating Commissioner Smith for Chairperson. No further nominations were made. Roll call vote on the nomination for Whittington as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – no, Smith – no, Whittington – yes. Commissioner Whittington elected Chairman. 5 yes, 2 no.

Chairman Whittington then opened the nominations for Vice Chairperson. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Whittington, to nominate Rhode for the Vice Chairman position. No other nominations were made. Motion by Whittington, supported by Carl, to elect Commissioner Rhode to the Vice Chairman position by acclamation. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The Board Rules were then reviewed. Commissioner Smith stated that her constituents are concerned that all of the Board meetings are held during the day when most individuals are at work. Commissioner Smith then made motion that six of the twenty-four meetings be held at 7:00 p.m. beginning the 4th Tuesday of February and continuing in the months of April, June, August, October and December as requested by the constituents of her Township and City. Motion supported by Commissioner Posey. Commissioner Carl noted that evening meeting have been held in the past, but there was an incurred cost to the County by keeping the employees here, and the overtime payment they would receive. Commissioner Whittington commented that the evening meetings provided fewer individuals in attendance then the morning meetings. Commissioner Posey suggested that given the economic times; the interest is now there, and people do want to attend. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – no, Rhode – no, Reid – no, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – no, Walters – no. 2 yes, 5 no. Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the Board Rules as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Chairman Whittington then reviewed the procedures for submitting bills. Discussion. It was noted by Commissioner Whittington that if bills are submitted under the direction of the policy, then there would be no reason for payments to be delayed.

Chairman Whittington then made a temporary assignment to the Finance committee. At this time the present committee will remain until a list of appointments are prepared and distributed by the Board Secretary. Commissioner Carl questioned whether the third member of the Finance committee would be rotated as it was last year. Commissioner Smith noted that as a new commissioner she would like the opportunity to serve on the Finance committee; as the knowledge from working with the finances will prepare her in making responsible decisions. Chairman Whittington then stated that the third member rotation will begin in March with the current members of Rhode, Reid, and Whittington staying appointed through January and February. Commissioner Walters stated that he did not wish to be included in the rotation schedule.

Public Comments –

Bob Moffitt, Gladwin City Administrator, came before the Board to wish the Board a Happy New Year and welcome Commissioner Smith. Mr. Moffitt also stated that the City has changed their meeting time from 7pm to 6pm on the first and third Monday of each month.

Chairman Whittington then congratulated the previous Board on the adoption of the 2009 budget stating that this was something that has not been accomplished in the 14 years he has been here, and that hard decisions had to be made.

Bev Pryzstas, MSU Extension, welcomed Commissioner Smith and wished the Board a Happy New Year. Ms. Pryzstas then invited the Commissioners to attend a welcoming lunch at the Extension building on January 27th at noon with the Extension Counsel.

Commissioner Reid commented on the Finance meeting on the 30th, noting a few items that would need to be addressed in committee. The Data committee will be handling a request from the Sheriff's Department for new computer equipment and software for the deputies to prepare their reports from their unit rather than report back to the station; potentially saving overtime costs. The Sheriff will be present at the next Data meeting with this request. Commissioner Reid also stated that he had requested a CD copy of the video recording of the front entrance door to the courthouse. This video will verify which employees were present for work on December 26, 2008, and be compared to the timesheets that are turned in for payment. Commissioner Reid then voiced his appreciation to Commissioner Smith on her concern for the night meeting times, but stated he was not able to vote yes because of the costs to the budget. Commissioner Smith commented that for those members of the Board that have the Commissioner phone listing; her number has been printed incorrectly, and has asked that it be corrected.

Commissioner Carl then took the time to tell the Finance and Budget committee good job for their work on the 2009 budget, noting that Bay County also chose to make an elimination to their detective. Commissioner Reid thanked Commissioner Carl, but cautioned the Board that there is still a lot to do for next year, and that every expense be reviewed that has not been included within the budget. Discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Whittington to adjourn.
Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am until January 13, 2009 at
9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman