

Commissioner Minutes of June 8, 2010

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session June 8, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Whittington. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chairman Whittington then welcomed Beaverton Boy Scout Troop 775 who was in attendance. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – *Frank Starkweather, EDC, would be added.*

The **Regular minutes of May 25, 2010** were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$62,737.20** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – Don Ellena, Veterans, came before the Board with an honor roll update. Mr. Ellena thanked the Board Members that assisted in the restoration. Commissioners Walters and Carl thanked Don and Ginny for all of their work.

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, *presented the Board with and update and discussed upcoming events.*

Resolutions for Consideration – Chairman Whittington then asked the Board for their consideration of the **Resolution to Levy Summer Millage**. Discussion. Denise Hall, Equalization Director, noted that it is the same resolution as last year with no Headley Rollback. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the resolution to levy the summer millage. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Killian – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, resolution 2010-11 declared adopted.*

Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to go into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation issues. Ayes carried, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$44,678.50 231 Fund - \$75,081.46.*

Correspondence from the Chairman:

- On the letter prepared by Attorney Jacobson in regards to the **DNR tower for HAM radio** use. Leo Gary spoke on the use and maintenance for the tower.

Sheriff Shea spoke on the need to have HAM radio back up to 911 functions during emergency procedures, and the need to keep 911 funds and Emergency Management funds separate. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Reid, to lease the DNR tower with Emergency Management to be responsible for maintenance and service.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Geoff Bellhorn, Volunteer Energy, came to the Board with a *gas rate proposal* for consideration. Discussion. Chairman Whittington referred the matter to the County Affairs committee for review.

Correspondence from the Chairman continued:

- On communication received from Martin Lee regarding budget preparation. Commissioner Rhode stated that the Finance committee would be scheduling a meeting with Mr. Lee and will report back to the Board.
- On an invitation from MSU to attend a meeting on **template agreements between MSU and County Governments**. The meeting will be held June 30th in Isabella County. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow attendance by any Board member that wishes to attend.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- The Region VII Area on Aging has submitted their 1st quarter report for review.

Chairman Whittington then asked for the Board's consideration in the **CRP grants for the Prosecutor and Friend of the Court**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign both agreements as presented.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

The Chairman asked that the Board make recommendation on the election to send an employee delegate to the **MERS conference** September 15-17 in Kalamazoo. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Clerk to conduct an election to allow one employee delegate to attend the conference.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Committee Reports-

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On the Rodeo held at the fairgrounds May 29th and 30th, noting it was a good turnout and things went well.
- On speaking at the Memorial Day Ceremony with Commissioner Smith, commenting that the wall looked great and Don Ellena did a great job organizing the project and following through until complete.
- On the passing of two local veterans: Charles Farnsworth, Gladwin Township – Korean War and Roy Trost, Beaverton City – WWII. The Department of Defense also announced the death of Lance Corporal Anthony Dillisio, 20, from Macomb County on May 30th while supporting combat of Operation Enduring Freedom.
- That his Township meetings are coming up.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the District Library Board meeting May 25, 2010. The book sale by Friends of the Library was successful. Additional volunteers are needed for Friends and for the Genealogy Room at the Library.
- On the Personnel committee meeting on May 29, noting Commissioner Rhode will give complete report.
- That she attended both Memorial Day presentations. I would like to compliment Commissioner Walters on the reading of the names of deceased veterans listed on the Honor Roll, and the names of the Gladwin county veterans who have passed this year. The response from attendees for these readings was wonderful. This was a great idea and the reading of county veterans will be done each year.
- On attending the Data Committee meeting on 6-4-10. Important items from this meeting are as follows:
 - The Centrex contract is up in November and we are searching for the best way to provide this service. More will be coming on this at a later date.
 - Dale Hickerson, representing OneSource Office Products met with the committee to discuss another avenue for our printintegration program.
 - Bob Frei gave his report and you have received the list of tasks he has been working on since the last meeting. He also listed items that were carried over from April and not completed, giving the reasons why. This is a list that Bob will be compiling each report for the committee.
 - Bob is also working up the “NEEDS” list so we will be able to begin the bidding process and plan for changing our printing needs.
 - Clare County has approved their program for this process, and we will be contacting the I/T director for suggestions and aid.
- That Christy VanTiem met with the Data Committee for approval to add tax information on line in conjunction with Gina Conrad’s GIS information. This will cost \$500.00 and will provide much needed information to our public. The Data Committee approved this and sent the Treasurer to the Finance Committee so it may be added to our agenda today.
- That she leaves tomorrow for the National competition, returning the 19th.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Gladwin Township meeting on the 19th.
- On the Building & Grounds meeting on the 20th.
- On attending the retirement party for Sherry Augustine on the 26th, commenting that it was a very nice event.
- On the Central Michigan Health Department meeting on the evening of the 26th.
- On attending the Planning Commission meeting on the 2nd.
- On the Data Committee meeting on the 4th of June.

Commissioner Carl then commented on an e-mail forwarded to the Board by the Secretary and read the following: “On June 2, 2010 the Board Chairman had our Secretary forward a copy of an email sent by Scott Govitz, Chairman of the EDC, for Gladwin County. It was a chronological listing of events that have taken place so far in regards to a possible merger of EDC and the Gladwin County Chamber of Commerce. In closing he made comments in regards to the Board of Commissioners quoting, “while they were all in agreement in a public idea of looking at this proposal, apparently at least one of them outside of that meeting began to shoot bullets at it”. It is unfortunate that a person in Mr. Govitz’s capacity, as Chair of EDC, to make these comments without checking the minutes of the Board of Commissioners as it has been discussed there at least on three occasions or with the Commissioners he assumes are shooting bullets at it. As a County Commissioner I feel it is my responsibility to represent my District to the best of my ability, which means that if we as Commissioners are going to ask the Townships to help financially support EDC and I have and now want to explore a merger of EDC/Chamber of Commerce then our Townships deserve to be kept abreast and have input. Obviously Commissioners

Posey and Smith felt the same way as they asked input from their Townships. Commissioner Smith reported that opposition was expressed by citizens present at the Tobacco Township meeting disputing the merger of EDC and the Chamber. Commissioner Posey reported that their Board had concerns with the EDC and Chamber merger. My Townships have a concern with this merger as to whether they could spend monies to help fund EDC then have this money spent for another purpose. I think this is a valid concern and someone should check with the Michigan Township Association for an opinion of spending Township monies on an EDC/Chamber merger because I feel we could not fund this without the Townships support. I feel we also have an obligation as a Board to ensure the actions we take are proper such as spending county monies for an EDC/Chamber merger. I checked with the Michigan Association of Counties, they spoke with legal council for MAC, which stated, "You cannot merge a public and private organization. You can however contact one to assist the other of their respective tasks." I gave a copy of the MAC email to Reverend Karen Blatt, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board, to review and share with whomever she felt appropriate. Yes, as Mr. Govitz said, we did agree to look at this proposal and we are doing so. I have, and continue to, support EDC and the possible merger of EDC and the Chamber but, given legal opinion of MAC, and concerns that have been shared, I feel we should exercise caution in making a decision." Commissioner Carl then asked the Clerk if the proposed budget for EDC and the Chamber had been combined. Laura Brandon-Maveal commented that the budget that has been worked on shows a combination of revenue and expense.

Discussion. Commissioner Reid commented at this time he does not feel any harm has been done. Commissioner Smith stated she believes that "merger" is the wrong term to use in this case.

Commissioner Killian reported:

- On communication with Gina Conrad on the next Gypsy Moth meeting.
- On attending the Memorial Day Parade, commenting that the Memorial looks very nice.
- On the Data meeting held on June 4th.
- On attending the Grout Township meeting on the 7th, noting that the Township is looking at putting a mosquito control question on the November ballot, but are working through some concerns.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Buckeye Township meeting, noting that they will have a mosquito proposal on the ballot.
- On the Memorial Service, commenting that the wall looks great and it was well attended.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 4th.
- On conversation with MMRMA in regards to the Trail Association and the need for liability insurance. MMRMA stated that because the Trail Association is a 501C3 Not for Profit organization they can't be covered. Commissioner Reid commented that further "tuning" that needs to be done to the contract.
Discussion. The pole barn at the Park also needs to be used for equipment storage. Further discussion will occur at the next Building and Grounds meeting.
- On the most recent updates on the Energy Grant. Valley Electric has been working in the Annex building and is almost finished there; and will go into the Animal Shelter today before beginning the Courthouse. Commissioner Reid commented on the sense of "community pride", noting all of the improvements going on throughout the County.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting on the 25th.
- On the Department Head meeting on the 26th, and the Central Michigan Health meeting the same evening.
- On attending the Personnel meeting on the 28th and discussion of the **Equalization Director's contract and the Drain Commissioner's position.** The committee has recommended that an ad be placed in the paper advertising for a part time Equalization Director with no benefits. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to place the ad as recommended by the committee.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Rhode commented on the discussion to make the Drain Commissioner position part time with no benefits, but needs to communicate with MAC to see when that change can begin.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 4th. The Treasurer came before the committee to request that she be able to place the **delinquent tax information online** for a cost of \$500.00. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Treasurer to place the information online as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Finance Matters:

1. Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, has requested the creation of two expenditure lines. Motion will be needed to allow the Clerk to establish the following two lines: 239-000-933.001 – Web Mapping Maintenance and 239-000-933.002 – Parcel Creation Maintenance. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to create the expense lines as provided.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
2. Laura Brandon-Maveal, County Clerk, has provided information to the committee on the purchase and maintenance of a vending machine to collect revenue from. Currently the machine located in the Courthouse does not pay rental or revenue to the County. The machine cost is \$2,600.00 with \$125.00 worth of free product each month for the first year. Estimation provides that it could pay for itself within the first year. Quill is offering 90 days before payment is due. Cost to be paid from Capital Outlay – Improvements with all revenue being deposited weekly into the vending machine sales revenue line that is already established. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the purchase as recommended.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
3. Susan Walker, Sheriff's Secretary, is requesting that the Board consider the donation of 160 hours from 6 employees to a 911 employee who will be having back surgery. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the transfer of hours as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
4. Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, has registered one dispatcher for a "Handling Domestic Violence Calls" training course in Port Huron. Cost is \$245.00 plus mileage and meal expense. Costs to be paid from 282-000-804.001. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the training as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
5. Undersheriff Hartwell has received current information on the COPS grant. Originally the Board gave permission to apply for 2 officers under this grant; which they were declined. Undersheriff Hartwell has received notification that funding is again available, and would like to apply for one position. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Undersheriff to apply for the grant as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Reid noted that the 4th year of the grant would be funded 100% by the County and that funds need to be set aside.
6. Barb Uhl has requested payment for 5 unused vacation days per the Courts Personnel Policy. Total payment of \$740.60 to be paid from 231-131-704.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to make the payment as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Rhode continued to report:

- That Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth Director, has sent letters to the Townships informing them of their point of contact for GIS.
- On the most recent budget figures, commenting that expenses are over revenue by \$160,000 and that each department should carefully watch their expenses.

Commissioner Whittington thanked the Boy Scouts for sitting through their meeting.

Denise Hall inquired if the Board was going to put an end date on the bid for the Equalization position and if there was wording for the bid. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to place an ad in the paper for a part time Equalization Director with no benefits and that the job description can be picked up at the Commissioner's office. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Public Comments:

Sheriff Shea stated that there would be an ad run in the paper for a 911 Telecommunicator, noting that there is one dispatcher looking to retire and two others with medical issues that leave shortages on the schedule.

*Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Reid, to receive and file various reports with corrections. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 11.10 a.m. until June 22, 2010 unless otherwise directed.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

Terry Whittington, Chairman