

Commissioner Minutes of September 8, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session September 8, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Whittington. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maveal, has asked to be added to the agenda to handle the election of three Canvass Board members.

Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, brought before the Board a **letter of understanding** for two of his employees. Mr. Miller explained that these two positions are grant funded and only gives them a “job title” for grant purposes. Mr. Miller also stated this is not a request for additional pay, and that this process is for the ease of budgeting. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Chairman to sign the Letter of Understanding as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal, County Clerk, then passed out ballots for the election of three canvasser positions. Mrs. Maveal commented that there is one term expiring for the Republican position, currently held by Judith Ford. Additionally, there are two positions on the Democratic side for term expiring by Mary Offenbecker and vacancy created by Harold Cripe. The Clerk collected the ballots to tabulate the results.

The **Regular minutes of August 25, 2009** were then considered. County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maveal, noted that there were grammatical errors that had been corrected. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with the revisions. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management fund were then read. *General Fund - \$630,130.71 231 Fund - \$11,914.42.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$69,592.50** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments –

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, commented on the special meeting held tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. Discussion on the depositing of grant revenue. Mr. Starkweather noted that there should be the creation of two line items titled “EDC Economic Gardening – MACF” 244-000-570.000 and “EDC Economic Gardening – USDA” 244-000-571.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to create the two line items as requested. The County Clerk then stated that the grant money that was deposited in error should be moved to the new account, and that any further grant submissions should be copied to both the Treasurer and Clerk for depositing and auditing purposes.

Lauren Essenmacher, Housing Commission Director, then came before the Board with an amendment to her funding award through the CDBG Grant. Ms. Essenbacher went over figures of increase to the funding. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Smith,

supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the Chairman to sign the amended agreement as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed. Ms. Essenmacher then introduced Karen Blondie, a program director who will be taking the place of Katie Becker. Ms. Essenmacher reviewed the potential funding cuts being passed down that may affect the home delivered meals program. Discussion.

Laura Brandon-Maveal then gave the results of the Canvass Board Election. The Republican elected was Judith Ford, and the two Democrats elected were Joanne Hoag and Mary Offenbecker.

Sandy Walling, Zoning Administrator, came before the Board with proposed changes to the zoning ordinance. Discussion. Commissioner Reid asked if there was a need for attorney review before the Board adopted the proposed changes. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the changes to the zoning ordinance as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Walter – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion passed. Ms. Walling noted that letters were mailed to the townships for the 2010 proposed zoning fees and that a copy had been given to the Board for their review.

Correspondence from the Chairman-

- On a resolution received from Lapeer County, asking the Board's direction on the matter. There was no action taken.
- On the donation of 450 pounds of food and litter donated to the Animal Shelter by Marcus Gravelle. The Board will send a notice of appreciation.
- The MMRMA update was available to the Board for their review.
- On correspondence received from Region VII Agency on Aging.

Committee Reports –

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the Library Board meeting on August 25, 2009, noting that progress on renovations is coming along. The genealogical research room is complete and expanded.
- On attending the Data Committee meeting on September 1, 2009, noting that Commissioner Posey will present the information from this meeting.
- That she attended the Committee of Whole on September 1, 2009, commenting it was a very informative meeting and was glad that it was held.
- That Ross Lake in Beaverton is being drained in preparation for renovation of the dam.
- That she is leaving today for the Fall National Championships and will return late next week.

Commissioner Smith then stated that she will not be able to attend the October 13, 2009 meeting, noting that her husband will be having a heart catheterization procedure that day in Saginaw and she will be at the hospital with him.

Chairman Whittington then voiced his concern over the IT director and his lack of cooperation in finishing projects and false promises to the committee to complete tasks. Chairman Whittington commented that he has tried to contact him all morning to discuss these issues with him, with no response. Commissioner Carl asked that he be contacted so that the Board can address him before any further actions or comments are made.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On the Veterans meeting held on the 25th, noting that a High School student is doing field study work in the office one hour a day, 5 days per week doing filing and shredding. On the loss of Eric Hario, age 19, of Monroe, stating that flags are to be flown at half staff September 19th per Governor order.
- On attending the Mental Health meeting, noting that a lot of finance issues were addressed including insurance and wage freezes.
- That his township meetings are all coming up and will be reported on next meeting.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Grout township meeting on the 31st, noting that the township had contracted for mosquito spray service.
- On attending the Committee of the Whole and the Data meeting on the 1st.

Data Matters –

- Pitney Bowes has given the County an upgrade contract for the building's mail machine. The contract is for the same pricing, but includes a new postage machine for the Courthouse. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Smith, to have the Chairman sign the contract upon presentation. Ayes carried, motion passed.
- The Clerk's Office backroom project is wrapping up and should be done.
- The computer upgrades have been completed in the courthouse this summer by the Michigan Works employee.
- The committee is reviewing the copy machine use by department. The committee is recommending that a code be established and given to the Probation/Parole, Veterans, and MSU departments so that the committee can track the copies made.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the CMDHD meeting on the 25th with Commissioner Rhode, noting discussions of the flu shots.
- On the Committee of the Whole and Data meeting held on the 1st.
- On attending the Planning Commission meeting on the 2nd.

- On the meeting with the unions held on the 3rd.
- That his Township meetings are coming up.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Finance meeting on Friday.
- That all of his Township meetings are coming up.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On the EDC meeting on the 25th and discussion on the energy grant.
- On attending the Department Head meeting on the 26th.
- On the Central Michigan Health Board meeting.
- On attending the addressing committee meeting on the 27th, noting that letters are being sent to the Townships.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting on the 2nd in Mt. Pleasant.
- On the meeting with the Unions on the 3rd, noting that those in attendance were having difficulties in understanding the original budget figures vs. the second budget figures presented.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 4th.

Finance Matters –

1. Ron Taylor, Animal Shelter, has requested that the Board waive the adoption fees on adult cats (4 months+) from September 15th to November 30th. The Michigan Human Society is willing to offer free spay and neuter during that time. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to waive the fees as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. The Construction Codes Department has asked that registration fees for five employees be paid from 101-371-801.000 in the amount of \$750.00. To accommodate the expense, they have also requested a budget transfer between the following lines.

101-371-727.000	\$150.00	
101-371-801.000		\$150.00

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to pay the registration fees, and transfer the funds as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode then inquired of the Board on their interest in selling any county owned property. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Board needs to take direction on the closing of the Parks and Recreation facility. Many people commented on the pros and cons of keeping the building open. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to shut down the facility to any public use for 2010. Commissioner Reid commented on the economic draw and winter events. Commissioner Posey commented that if budget cuts are needed then this is one area that the Board can take action on and should. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – no, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – no. 4 yes, 3 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Laura Brandon-Maveal, County Clerk, then asked that the Board reconsider their motion for the retro payment for the Corrections Unit. Mrs. Maveal stated that the Board made a very vague motion to pay the unit \$300.00 for retro payment. After the Board meeting, it was unclear on the repayment of half of the total cost by the Union's association. Mrs.

Maveal asked that the motion state that she be allowed to pay out the total retro of \$256.75 and that any fringe costs attached to the payment of retro be allowed to be billed back to the Union's association by the Clerk and receipted into appropriate lines by the Treasurer. Sheriff Shea stated that he was not aware of the "repayment" by the Union, and asked that he be allowed to check with the Union to verify the matter.

Chairman Whittington then called for a short recess at 10:10 a.m.

Meeting called back to order at 10:20 a.m. by Chairman Whittington.

Sheriff Shea commented that the Union's association was in favor of reimbursing 50% of the total retro cost including fringes. Commissioner Posey and Commissioner Smith then made a motion to rescind their prior motion from the August 25th meeting. Ayes carried, motion passed. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Clerk to pay the retro in the amount of \$256.75 and that 50% of the wage and fringe costs be charged back to the Union's association for reimbursement. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The Board then revisited the selling of two County parcels. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Posey, to sell the two parcels at a reasonable cost, and that the matter be referred back to the Finance committee to gain a reasonable price and work out the selling details. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Carl then asked if Mrs. Walling, Zoning Administrator, had received any notice by townships on interest in participating in the County Zoning proposal. Mrs. Walling stated that she had planned to do a follow up with each township, and that a written agreement would need to be prepared. Discussion.

Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, commented on the lowering of Wiggins Lake.

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to receive and file various reports. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until September 22, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon – Maveal,
Clerk

Terry Whittington,
Chairman