

Commissioners Minutes of October 9, 2007

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2007. Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – added Bill Borushko at 9:45 and selection of Board of Canvass members.

The **minutes of September 25, 2007** were then considered. The following corrections were made:

Page 1 – note that Commissioner Carl was absent as he was on vacation

Page 3 – Commissioner Reid’s report “working to keep from eliminating any County positions”

Pg. 4 item #3 add “Ayes carried, motion passed.”

Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The **semi-monthly Finance Report** totaling \$ \$79,227.62 was then presented for review. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to authorize payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Chairman Whittington reported:

- On communication received from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority regarding the summit scheduled for October 16, 2007 on Building Partnerships to End Homelessness in Michigan.
- On communication from Campbell, Kusterer & Co. P. C. of 9/27/07.
- On communication from CMU on the Economic Health of Rural Michigan conference.
- On communication from the State Department of Labor regarding survey and remonumentation.
- On the letter received from Judge Evans regarding the court union negotiations.
- On the request from the **County Road Commission** requesting authorization to increase their **mileage reimbursement from 30 cents to 48.5 cents per mile**. Motion by Commissioner Hargrave, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to authorize the increase effective immediately. Ayes carried, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Evans addressed the Board regarding communication he had received from the Board's hired "non attorney" negotiator, William Borushko. Judge Evans stated that it is unfortunate that Mr. Borushko has stooped to such a low-- by embarrassing himself by the manner in which he conducts himself. Judge further stated that inaccurate insurance figures were presented on several occasions during negotiations, and that Mr. Borushko is solely responsible for those inaccuracies. Judge Evans then noted that he has lost all confidence in Mr. Borushko's ability to accurately communicate the County's position in these negotiations, and that the negotiations have fallen behind by several months because of it.

Rick Ghent, Maintenance Supervisor, then addressed the Board, asking that they would **reconsider the action on parking of County owned vehicles**. Mr. Ghent noted that he often gets called out two to three times per week and that he keeps his personally owned tools in his truck. If the truck were to be parked, he would have to take time to gather the tools, before he could address any call-in situation --that this would take more time and in the long run cost the county more.

Commissioner Hargrave stated that he feels the "Blanket" policy in parking all vehicles is not good -- that individual situations should be addressed if there is abuse, and also noted that he felt the matter should be referred to committee to review the whole action.

Ron Taylor, Animal Control Officer, commented on overtime issues and that having the vehicles at home, actually saves on overtime.

Sheriff Shea commented on the vehicles used by his employees, and the diversity of vehicle use between departments. The Sheriff spoke on 312 arbitration matters from southern Michigan which already addresses situations such as these.

Drain Commissioner Sherry Augustine commented on **needed emergency repairs to the dam at Lake Lancer** and asked for adoption of the resolution allowing expenditure of over \$10,000 for the emergency repairs. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adopt the resolution as requested. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Hargrave-yes, Carl-yes, Rhode-yes, Reid-yes, Posey-yes, Hoag-yes and Whittington-yes. Ayes carried, Resolution # 2007-23 is adopted. (Resolution attached) Mrs. Augustine also commented on other concerns at Sugar Springs and noted that the Wiggins Lake matter is still at Court of Appeals. Discussion was had with Mrs. Augustine on various drain issues.

Commissioner Hoag reported:

- on attending the Sept. 27th 911 committee meeting.
- That he had also attended the Oct. 2nd Data committee meeting
- On the Oct. 5th finance committee meeting
- That on Oct. 8th he attended the Tobacco Township meeting
- On keeping up-to-date on the Beaverton dam issues.

Commissioner Hargrave reported:

- On the Veterans affairs meeting on Oct. 2nd and presented other informational statistics.
- That he will be attending his other committee and township meetings later this month.

Commissioner Carl commented on his experiences in union negotiations, noting that he feels Mr. Borushko is doing a good job for the County. Commissioner Carl then moved to go into executive session with Mr. Borushko regarding current negotiations. Motion supported by Commissioner Rhode. Ayes carried, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Commissioner Posey reported:

- That she had missed the Grout Township meeting because of illness.
- On attending the Beaverton Township meeting on October 8th and noted items addressed at that meeting.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Planning committee meeting on Oct. 3rd.
- That he had also attended the Personnel committee meeting in Harrison on Oct. 4th

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That he had attended the Buckeye Township meeting on Sept. 26th.
- On attending Personnel committee meetings on Sept. 28th and October 1st.
- On the October 2nd Data committee meeting and the committee recommendation that tax funded entities be allowed to post information on the County Web site. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, that Mr. Frei be allowed to see about setting this up. Ayes carried, motion passed.
- On the recently adopted fee schedule for soil erosion permits and the need to adopt permit procedures as well. Discussion was had on moving the effective date of the new fees from Jan. 1, 2008 up to Nov. 1, 2007. Motion by Commissioner Reid to **adopt the permit procedures and move the effective date of the new fee schedule to Nov. 1, 2007**. Motion supported by Commissioner Hargrave. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the various personnel committee meetings
- That he had attended the Gladwin City Council meeting on Oct. 1st.
- On the October 2nd Emergency Management meeting
- That on Oct. 3rd he had attending the Health Department meeting in Mt. Pleasant.
- On the Oct. 5th finance meeting and matter before finance as follow:
 1. That **County Clerk Laura Flach** has submitted a **request to purchase the software upgrade to the Candidate Management System** at a cost of \$599.00 to be paid from 101-191-727.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to allow purchase as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
 2. That the **CBI copy machine contracts** are up for renewal and the costs of the leases will continue to be paid from 101-296-983.001. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to renew the contracts and authorize signing by the Chairman. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting on financial matters:

3. That the Finance Committee has had several requests from **Sheriff Department employees** over the past few weeks for reimbursement of mileage for personal vehicle use to and from training. The committee would like **to remind those employees that it is not an option to take personal vehicles to training as there are county vehicles available for use.** No reimbursements will be given to employees that opt to drive their personal vehicles in lieu of taking a county vehicle to training.

4. That **County Clerk Laura Flach** has asked the finance committee **for authorization to deviate from normal procedures in handling employee Deferred Compensation deductions in order to re-issue and disburse deductions held by the County Treasurer, in the form of an “outstanding” check, since March of 2005.**

Clerk Laura Flach noted that she makes the deductions from payroll and mails out deduction checks –that the payroll bank account is handled and balanced by the Treasurer’s office, and that no report of this “outstanding” check was made to the Clerk until last week when Ms. Muma inquired about escheating it to the State of Michigan. Mrs. Flach informed the Board that the check is payroll deductions from 31 employees, 9 of which are no longer employed by the County, or no longer contribute to the program, and that these employees have lost interest income on their contributions for the 2 ½ years that the Treasurer’s Office has been holding the check as “outstanding”.

Discussion was had on time-tables for holding and practices for the handling of “outstanding” checks. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Clerk to disperse the funds with letters of explanation, as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting:

- On the recent letter from Judge Mienk regarding the requested addition of a law clerk position. It was noted that Clare County Board would be voting NOT to fund the requested position. Commissioner Rhode then moved that in light of the County’s tight financial situation, that funding of the requested additional law clerk position be denied. Motion supported by Commissioner Hargrave. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode continued:

- On recent communication from Court Administrator Darrell Schlese, requesting an **additional \$100,000.00 for payment of child care expenses** Discussion on the huge cost of child care, State reimbursements toward Child Care and that recent proposals will only “shift” further burden from the State to the County. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to authorize \$100,000.00 to Child Care as requested. Further discussion. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Patricia Curtis, local foster care provider, commented that she has not received any calls from Gladwin County to provide foster services, but does have kids from Midland County. Ms. Curtis questioned the placement of kids from Gladwin County –how and where are they being placed?

Discussion. The County Affairs committee will look into the matter and seek clarification on child placement questions.

Frank Starkweather, Economic Development Director, came before the Board and updated them on various Economic Development activities and projects. Discussion with Mr. Starkweather on economic issues of interest to members.

Discussion was then had regarding the Emergency Management Report and it was noted that the Board would like to see monthly reports containing more details of current projects and activity.

Commissioner Carl commented on the service and of Mr. Borushko, the Board’s hired negotiator -- that he feels he is doing a good job and moved that the Board go on record that they will continue to have Mr. Borushko represent them in current union negotiations. Motion supported by Commissioner Hoag. Ayes carried, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Drain Commissioner Sherry Augustine noted that due to vacation scheduling her office hours will vary over the next two weeks. It was noted that hours would be posted but may have to be adjusted to allow inspections and outside meetings.

Sheriff Shea commented on the 312 arbitration reports dealing with county vehicle use and distributed copies to board members.

County Clerk Laura Flach then informed the Board that this was the year in which terms of two **Board of Canvass members** expire: Democrat Betty Gavin and Republican Bill Crandall. . It was explained that the political parties are contacted and asked to submit three candidates – the Board then votes by ballot to select members to fill the four year terms. Mrs. Flach noted that both Ms. Gavin and Mr. Crandall have been on the Board for several years and were extremely competent members. The Democrat party had submitted two names for consideration: Betty Gavin and Harold Cripe. The Republican party had submitted only one name: Robert Schafer. Board members proceeded to vote by ballot and **results were that Mr. Schafer and Mr. Cripe were elected to the County Canvass Board for terms 11/1/2007 – 10/31/2011.**

Ms. Flach then asked that in light of their lengthy and much appreciated service on the Canvass Board – Mr. Crandall since June of 1994 and Ms. Gavin since November of 1999; that the Board consider issuing Certificates of Appreciation for these members. .

Commissioner Hargrave then commented on the Korean veteran vacancy on the Veterans Committee due to the passing of Bob Tarzwell and that an appointment would need to be made once candidates are presented. .

Board then recessed for a short break. Recalled to order by Chairman Whittington.

The Board then proceeded into the posted **“Budget Workshop” on the 2008 General Fund Budget Draft.**

County Financial Coordinator Laura Brandon distributed copies of the 2008 General Fund Budget and the 2008 Judicial Management Fund Budget as drafted by the Budget Committee.

Ms. Brandon outlined procedures that were followed in obtaining Department Budget requests as well as arriving at anticipated revenue figures.

Review was then had on the anticipated revenues and department by department proposed expense budgets for 2008 –with Ms. Brandon noting budget changes from 2007, and the committee’s rationale for making certain increases or decreases in budget lines.

Discussion was had on several issues, specifically staffing in the Construction Codes Department and the Emergency Management Budget, both of which will be further addressed in committee. It was noted that once another budget workshop could be held, the budget would then be prepared for the required public hearing and adoption in November.

Commissioner Hoag then moved to receive and file the various reports and correspondence. Motion supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Hoag then moved to adjourn, supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. until October 23, 2007 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Flach
Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman