

Commissioner Minutes of February 10, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session February 10, 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 – There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

The minutes of January 27, 2009 were then considered. Commissioner Rhode commented that on page six under his report should state that the City will be paving the parking lot located on the corners of Grout and Arcade, not the roads. Commissioner Smith noted that she had given corrections to the Clerk already for consideration. County Clerk Laura Brandon commented that those have already been corrected. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with the corrections. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance report totaling **\$48,193.50** was then considered for approval. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments – None at this time.

Commissioner Whittington then asked Kelly Gower if she was here to report to the Board on the matter that she had discussed with him. Ms. Gower discussed with the Board the area of alternative energies, and their growing importance of discussion and review around the surrounding areas. Discussion. Chairman Whittington commented that Ms. Gower is welcome to come back to the Board and be put on the agenda with information for the Board to consider.

Sandy Walling, Zoning Administrator, presented to the Board her department's 2008 Annual Report. Discussion and review. Commissioner Carl commented that the Planning Commissioner has adopted an ordinance from Bay County as a template for energy, noting any new information will be brought to the Board for consideration.

Katie Becker, City County Transit, then came before the Board with a **contract for purchase of seven busses**. Discussion and review of expenses and funding needs. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow for the purchase of the seven busses per the contract submitted and to allow for the Chairman to sign the contract upon request. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Frank Starkweather, EDC, came before the Board with a resolution to submit an application to the USDA – RBEG program for Economic Gardening grant funds. Discussion. Mr. Starkweather asked that in addition to the Board allowing the EDC to apply for the grant funds, that the Board also prepare a letter of support to the application.

Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the **EDC to apply for the grant funds and prepare a letter of support for the same**. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **resolution 2009-005** declared adopted.

Cathy Roehrs, Deputy Drain Commissioner, came before the Board to discuss **purchasing the “dike property” connected with the Chappel dam from the D.N.R.** Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Walter, supported by Commissioner Carl, to go into Executive Session to further discuss the details of this transaction. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Executive Session

Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Reid, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, **to purchase the 19 acres of D.N.R. property as discussed from line #101-445-935.000, and to allow the Chairman to sign the Land Transaction Agreement** upon presentation. Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Smith then commented on concerns that came from the Beaverton City meeting she attended, stating that there is a critical safety issue that needs continued cooperation between the Chappel Dam workers and the Beaverton City Dam workers. Discussion on dam gates and the effects of them being opened and closed without notice.

Commissioner Smith reported:

On attending the Library Board meeting on January 27th.

On the planning committee meeting for the PACE program on the 28th of January, noting that this is a life long learning program for individuals over the age of 50. Anyone with interest should contact Melody Wentworth at MMCC.

On attending the Data meetings on February 3rd and 9th.

On attending the meetings at Beaverton City and Tobacco Township the evening of February 9th.

Commissioner Walters reported:

On the dedicated work of all the volunteers of the Veteran Affairs office, noting that each of them provide assistance to the director and are willing to help in any way possible. Commissioner Walters thanked each of the volunteers for their continued work with the Veterans department. Commissioner Walters then asked that Bill Babcock come forward to accept a certificate of appreciation. Mr.

Babcock then stood and thanked the Board for their recognition and shared with them some of his Veteran stories and thanked others for their time spent in the department.

Commissioner Walters continued to report on Veterans Affairs:

The outpatient clinic in Clare will be open beginning March 1, 2009.

That Joe White is recovering well from hip replacement.

That Administrator Ginny Grant will be out of the office on vacation soon.

That there are a lot of changes coming in the office, noting that Ms. Grant is doing a great job staying on top of everything and handling all of the current discharges.

That all Vietnam Vets are being encouraged to complete their physicals.

Correspondence from the Chairman:

There are corrections needed to the terms for the Construction Codes Board of Appeals. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the terms as outlined below. Ayes carried, motion passed.

<i>Don Kehoe</i>	<i>12-31-2010</i>
<i>Craig Wolfe</i>	<i>12-31-2010</i>
<i>Joe Pleiman</i>	<i>12-31-2010</i>
<i>George Alward</i>	<i>12-31-2009</i>

The billing for Employment Relations Advisors has been submitted and available for review.

The Department of Labor and Economic Growth has approved Mr. Robinette for certification to act as the County's Plumbing / Mechanical inspector.

Michigan Municipal Risk is hosting a PA 222 Workshop February 18, 2009.

There is new information for review on the Jarvis lawsuit.

The December 2008 legal invoices from Cummings, McClorey and Davis are available for review.

Chairman Whittington then asked the Board their position on allowing **night meetings in the Courthouse**. The Maintenance Supervisor has asked the Board to look at this issue for security reasons and make a determination. Discussion. Matter to be referred to the Public Safety committee for a recommendation.

The Board then recessed at 9:55 a.m. for 10 minutes.

Meeting called back to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Whittington.

Commissioner Posey reported:

On attending the MSU luncheon and program January 27th after the Board meeting, noting that it was very nice as usual.

On attending the Grout Township meeting on February 2nd.

On attending the Data meetings on February 3rd and 9th.

On the Beaverton Township meeting on February 9th.

On matters that came from the two Data meetings –

The **contract between Endless Journey and the County** has been worked out between Jason Schuster and Bob Frei. Attorney Jacobson has reviewed the contract without question and has recommended for signature to the Board. This is a 5 year trade of services agreement, gaining \$11,000.00 more in benefits to the County. Discussion. **Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to sign the contract as proposed.** Ayes carried, motion passed.

On the policy presented by Gina Conrad, and review by Attorney Jacobson, for resolution to **adopt a policy for Enhanced Access to Public Records.** Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the policy as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Bob Frei informed the committee of the upcoming changes to the BS&A programs. Upgrades will be starting in 2010, and approximately \$53,000.00 will be needed to accommodate the upgrades.

On the **“paperless” matter** that was sent to committee for review. The committee looked at the purchase of laptops, noting they thought this option was too expensive. The committee discussed other options that would save approximately \$4,600.00 in the first year. **The committee is recommending at this time that a purchase of a 52” monitor be purchased for \$1,500.00 and that the Board receive all information by e-mail before the meeting for review to alleviate the paper review the day of the meeting.** Kelly Gower then asked if the committee considered alternatives for those handicapped individuals of the public that would assist them in the review of paperless items. Discussion. Commissioner Smith noted that this is only the first step in going “paperless” and

that all components for the monitor and wiring be purchased with assistance from the elections budget. Discussion. The committee suggested that the matter is discussed at the next department head meeting. **Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the purchase and “paperless” procedure as discussed.** Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Whittington voting no.

Commissioner Carl reported:

On attending the Central Michigan District Health Department meeting in Harrison on January 28th.

On the Personnel meeting on the 29th.

On attending the Public Safety meeting on the 30th.

On the Data meetings on February 3rd and 9th.

On attending the Planning meeting on the 4th.

Commissioner Carl then noted concern from his townships on measures that have been put into place for emergency relief for those individuals that may need heating assistance to prevent a similar situation that occurred in Bay County with the gentleman that froze to death in his home. Discussion. Matter referred to County Affairs so that wording can be prepared for a public announcement. Frank Starkweather then commented on the measures Bay County is now taking to correct the situation.

Commissioner Reid reported:

On attending the January 28th Buckeye township meeting and the ORV discussion, noting that the Road Commission has made a labyrinth of un-networked roads that resemble swiss cheese. Commissioner Reid then commented that we continue to sit back and allow residents to go to Clare County for recreation and spend their money there, and that he is tired of the negativity of the Public Officials and members of the community. Commissioner Reid then noted that he doesn't want to sound mad only concerned about the communications between the Road Commission and the Townships and Cities, and sited the following:

The map provided by the Road Commission on open and closed roads is an enforcement nightmare.

Townships provide funds for improvement and maintenance of roads, and the road millage was just passed.

Concerns of businesses that have been left out due to the accessibility of the routes.

That the County could do nothing and as of July 17th, 2009, Townships could adopt their own ordinance which wouldn't be enforceable by the County.

Noted concern of the road closures in his districts.

Discussion. Commissioner Whittington commented that he agreed with Commissioner Reid and the maps that were proposed closures by the Road Commission were not open minded.

Commissioner Reid continued to report:

On attending the February 5th Finance meeting.

On attending the January 27th Public Safety meeting, and the funding discussions for an individual to handle Sergeant duties. Sheriff Shea then addressed the Board on the loss of a senior deputy to accommodate **the line item transfers he has requested to fund an additional sergeant position.** Commissioner Rhode stated that the Sheriff does have the money within his budget to fund the position. County Clerk, Laura Brandon, commented that **this is not payment to “add” personnel, but only an accommodation to meet the out of classification pay for the individual doing sergeant duties, providing her department with an “audit trail” for payroll purposes.** Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the request made by the Sheriff to **transfer money within his 2009 budgets for funding for the 4th sergeant position.** Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – no, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – yes. 5 yes, 2 no, motion passed.

Commissioner Reid then handed out to the Board members a copy of a letter from the Road Commission reviewing the proposed closed roads for the ORV ordinance, siting again that that he is concerned and hopeful that the Road Commission will be willing to work with the Townships on other options for the proposed plan. Commissioner Smith stated that on the 19th the Road Commission will be here and asked what the objective of that meeting is. Discussion on the plan to be reviewed for the Public Hearing on March 10th and the need for Commissioner Reid to sit down with the Road Commission to discuss other options.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

On attending the Central Michigan Health Department meeting in Harrison on January 28th.

On the Personnel meeting on the 29th and the discussions with the Undersheriff on the Bay City newspaper article on their Detective cuts and the request for budget transfers.

On the January 30th Eastern Michigan Counsel of Gov't meeting in Mt. Pleasant and their election of officers and Finance meeting.

On the February 2nd Gladwin City Counsel meeting and the announcement to the residents to allow their water trickle due to freezing water lines, noting that the residents would receive an adjustment to their billings to represent the extra water use. Gladwin City would also be holding their tax abatement hearing on February 19th at 5 p.m.

On the Central Michigan Health Department Finance meeting on February 4th.

On attending the Finance meeting on February 5th.

Finance Matters:

1. Jan Stoike, Ass't 911 Director, has requested that three dispatchers be allowed to attend one day training in Clare on February 18th. Cost of the training is \$229.00 per person and can be paid from 282-000-804.001. **Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the training as presented.** Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. Undersheriff Hartwell has made a request for Jim Cuddie to attend a Homicide Investigation training March 10-12 in Burton. Cost is \$295.00 for the seminar and \$267.00 for lodging. Costs can be paid from 302 training funds. **Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the training as presented.** Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. The Undersheriff has also requested that two deputies be allowed to attend Practical Fire/Arson Scene training. Total cost of the training is \$500.00. Discussion. **Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the training request as presented.** Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Rhode voting no.
4. Rick Ghent, Maintenance, has requested payment for five unused vacation days per his Unit #7 contract. Total cost of \$728.35 to come from 101-265-703.000. **Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve for payment as presented.** Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. Ron Taylor, Animal Control, has requested that he be allowed to make the annual purchase for the department's disinfectant cleaner. Total cost is \$738.38. **Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow for the purchase as outlined.** Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode then noted that the Unit #7 contract is ready to be signed after the Board meeting.

Public Comments: Bob Moffit, Gladwin City Administrator, made clarification that the tax abatement meeting on the 19th is to address three pieces of equipment for Packaging Direct.

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

Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Walters, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. until February 24, 2009 unless otherwise ordered.

Meeting was then called back to order at 11:15 a.m. to open the **sealed bids for the vehicle that was published for sale** that was forgotten during regular session. Commissioner Reid opened the sealed bids. Bids listed as follows: Gordon Ehms - \$311.00. Walter Tokaryzk \$601.00. Frank's Auto Salvage - \$201.00. Ginny Gladly - \$500.00. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to **award the purchase to Walter Tokaryzk for \$601.00**. Ayes carried, motion passed. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn at 11:20 until the same date and time as motioned earlier. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Laura Brandon
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman