

Commissioner Minutes of November 10, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session November 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.*

The **Regular minutes of October 27, 2009** were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$400,152.17 231 Fund - \$(45,537.13).*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$32,212.58** was then considered for payment. *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.

Correspondence from the Chairman:

- The City of Gladwin had made a request to put up a **holiday lights display on the Courthouse grounds**. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the City's request to put up a lights display. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- On the letter received from Burnside and Lang stating that they would be merging with Andrews, Hooper and Pavlik.
- There is a vacancy on the MMRMA Planning Committee. Any Commissioner interested should let the Secretary know.
- On the letter from MSU in regards to a focus group meeting. Commissioner Posey has volunteered to attend the November 12th meeting in Gaylord.
- On the request from Walter Hart to place a **nativity scene on the courthouse grounds** through the ministerial society. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow Mr. Hart to place a nativity scene on the courthouse grounds as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- **A user license agreement has been drafted between the County and the Gladwin County Trail Association for the upkeep and maintenance of the Park and Recreation grounds.** *Commissioner Smith commented that she would make motion to sign the contract with a five year period versus a one year period for grant application purposes. In addition, Mr. Seebeck's title would need to be included on the contract. Motion supported by Commissioner Walters.* Commissioner Whittington stated that he is not in favor, stating that he believes there will be troubles down the road. Commissioner Posey inquired to the conditions of termination. Commissioner Smith stated that it is a 30 termination clause without reason. Commissioner Rhode commented that he believes that an agreement is not necessary, as permission has already been given. Commissioner Carl stated that this agreement is to know up front what the Board is dealing with and what is expected of the Trail Association, commenting that it is needed. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – no. 5 yes, 2 no. Ayes carried **motion passed.**
- On the **Airport contract revision and resolution** for the grant application for design and construction of a **ten-unit-t-hanger**. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner*

Reid, to sign the contract revision, and adopt the resolution as presented. Commissioner Carl questioned if there were funds set aside to accommodate the expense. Commissioner Rhode commented that it is grant money through the Airport and no General Fund money would be used. 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 2009-034 declared adopted.**

Carol Brubaker, City County Transit, came before the Board with a **contract revision and resolution for an energy audit.** Ms. Brubaker stated that this is a federal grant for \$4,000.00 that can be used for new furnaces, insulation, etc. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to sign the contract revision and adopt the resolution as presented.* 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, **resolution 2009-035 declared adopted.** Commissioner Reid stated that he hoped that Transit would consider using local contractors for this project.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Walters reported:

- That his Township meetings are coming up.
- On receiving a phone call from Mr. Grogg stating that the honor roll updates are not being done and that this matter would be discussed at the next Veterans meeting with Bob Greaves.
- On Veterans matters: There will be a Veterans Day service on the 11th at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Courthouse. Applebee's and Ponderosa will be hosting a "Veterans Eat for Free" day on the 11th. Veterans and Active Duty can come in their uniform, or bring in an ID card. The Church of the Brethren is hosting a "Third Sunday Supper" to welcome home the Veterans at 6:00 p.m. On another Michigan casualty, Brandon Steffey, 23, from Sault Sainte Marie. That three Veterans had passed away: Gerald Ogg, Hay Township – Vietnam, David Kinch, Sage Township – Vietnam, and David Bertram, Bentley Township – Vietnam.

Commissioner Smith reported:

On matters from the October 27, 2009 meeting that were not reported when she was excused for her husband's surgery-

- On attending the EDC meeting on October 14, 2009, commenting that it was interesting.
- On the re-organizational meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee on Sunday, October 18, 2009, stating that the full report was sent to all Commissioners for their examination.
- On attending the Beaverton City Council meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009.
- On the Insurance meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2009.

On Current Matters-

- On attending the Data meeting on Nov. 3, 09, noting that Commissioner Posey will give the full report.
- On the Tobacco Township meeting on Nov. 9, 09, and the following question that was asked at the meeting: Tobacco Township did a township-wide dog census this year. They found over 400 UNLICENSED dogs in this township. **What is being done about getting those dogs licensed?** This could be a big source of revenue for the county if Tobacco is any indication of how many unlicensed dogs are present in the county. Commissioner Smith stated that she spoke with the

Treasurer on this matter and the process would be explained to the Supervisor. The Treasurer then explained the procedure to the Board.

- That the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting would be held on November 19th at 5:30 p.m. in the MSU Office.
- That the Library Board meeting dates have been changed for November and December because of the holidays. Meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday rather than the 4th Tuesday for November and December only.

Commissioner Posey then asked that a copy of the Parks and Recreation contract be sent to Rick Seebeck for his records.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Grout Township meeting on the 2nd, commenting on Zoning conversation.
- On the Data meeting on the 3rd and the following matters: The digital phone system and the need for a five year plan. The complete link contract that the County attorney is looking into recouping some of the money lost. The committee is looking into eliminating extra phone lines that are not used. There are 3-4 phone bills that are being charged tax. Commissioner Whittington asked where Attorney Jacobson is at with the contract that was signed with AT&T. Commissioner Posey stated that he is working on it and will get back with her. The Data committee is also requesting that all contracts be filed by date so that they can review as they come up. Commissioner Smith commented that she believes that it is in the best fiduciary responsibility to have all the contracts in one location by expiration date. County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maveal, commented that all contracts are on file in her office alphabetically, but a shared spreadsheet could be established between her office and the Commissioners for their use.
- On being asked to attend the upcoming MSU focus group in Gaylord to discuss the MSU's budget that is slated to be funded until July 2010. Discussion.
- On the Beaverton Township meeting on the 9th, noting that it was a quick meeting with zoning discussion.

Commissioner Whittington asked if the Data committee had received a copy of the cell phone listing that they had requested. Commissioner Posey stated that she has received a lot of information, and that some lines could be reduced. Commissioner Posey also requested that a copy of the cell phone policy be given to data for their review.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- That his Township meetings for the month begin tonight.
- On attending the Data meeting on the 3rd.
- On the Planning meeting held on the 4th.

Commissioner Carl then stated as the Board's representative to the Planning Commission, he feels that it would be a shame to lose Mrs. Walling's experience in the closing of the Zoning department, noting that Townships also have the same concern. Commissioner Carl stated that he understands that if the Zoning and Construction Codes Department become combined that Mr. Schneider would have choice of who to hire to fill that position, but feels that the Board should make a recommendation to Mr. Schneider that Mrs. Walling be hired to fill the position.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending four different Finance meetings.
- That his Township meetings are coming up.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the Central Michigan Health meeting on the 28th in Roscommon.
- On the EDC executive meeting on the 2nd.
- On attending the Gladwin City meeting on the evening of the 2nd, noting new paving projects around town.
- On the Finance meeting on the 5th, noting that a budget is being worked on and the obstacles in trying to balance the budget.
- On attending the Eastern Michigan Counsel of Local Government meeting on the 6th, noting that Economic Gardening was discussed and there were several speakers.
- On the Finance meeting on the 9th with the Sheriff to discuss budget issues.

Commissioner Whittington stated that there should be a budget for the whole Board to review and adopt by the December 8th Board meeting. Commissioner Reid commented that there have been several difficult decisions and the loss of taxable values for 2010. Commissioner Reid asked if the Board would be in favor of asking for an additional 2.5% to 3% decrease from each department to balance the budget. Lt. Rabidue then presented the Board with a Letter of Understanding from the Command unit for their insurance. Commissioner Rhode commented that the Courts budget is \$308,000 short to balance their expenditures, but with the cooperation with their insurance, that could be reduced by \$52,000. Commissioner Rhode stated that one side should not have to continue to make cuts to balance the Courts, and that the Courts need to help out with the insurance. Commissioner Rhode stated that an appropriation similar to this year needs to be given to the 231 fund with the understanding that we need the Courts cooperation with the insurance costs. Discussion on zoning figures on being “solid” until more responses from the Townships. Commissioner Carl stated that he had spoke with Mr. Birgel at the Planning meeting and it was Grout Township’s understanding that they would have to spend \$6,000 not \$3,500 to \$4,000. Discussion. Commissioner Carl commented on the proposed cuts, 10% of adopted budget that needs to be set aside in Contingent, and the future upgrade of computers over the next few years. Commissioner Rhode then stated that the **Unallocated line should be changed to read “Unallocated/10% reserve”**. Commissioner Smith noted that it should be clear to the public that the Board is not hiding money, and that the Unallocated fund should be designated as such. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode made the recommendation to change the title of the Unallocated fund to Unallocated/10% reserve with an explanation of what that title means. Commissioner Smith commented that the public perception of “reserve” means “extra” and she suggests the word “mandated” to be used. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to change the title of the Unallocated fund to “Unallocated/10% Mandated” with the understanding that this fund is to be used for the set aside of 10% of the General Fund’s current year budget according to Standard & Poor’s, with the balance over the 10% mandated amount to be used at the Board’s*

discretion. 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.**

Public Comments – none at this time.

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

Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adjourn. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. until November 24, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman