

Commissioner Minutes of January 13, 2009

Vice-Chairman Rhode called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, except for Commissioner Whittington who had been excused.

Agenda – Gina Conrad would also be addressing G.I.S. at 9:30 along with her program updates.

The Regular and Organizational Board minutes of December 23, 2008 and January 2, 2009 were then considered. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to accept the minutes as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance Report totaling \$103,180.00 was then considered. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments –

Laura Brandon, County Clerk, introduced Chief Deputy Cheryl Edgar to the Board. Ms. Brandon noted that she would be at conference during the next Board meeting, and that Ms. Edgar would be preparing the minutes.

Correspondence from the Chair –

On receiving training literature from Michigan Citizen Planner.

The Board received the January MAC Legislative Update.

Copies of Attorney billings from CMDA.

On a letter received by Rosalie King asking for the Board's support in her election to the MAC Board.

Katie Becker, City County Transit, then came before the Board requesting approval of the 2009-10 operating budget. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Walter, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the operating budget as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, motion passed. Resolution 2009-001 declared adopted.

Ms. Becker then presented the Board with a contract agreement for the purchase of two new busses for \$211,488.00. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Vice-Chairman to sign the contract as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused, Walters – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, came before the Board with a program update. Ms. Conrad passed out a summary sheet from her completed fall survey. Discussion. Ms. Conrad shared with the Board that the bid process for the spraying would begin January 23, 2009, with all sealed bids due into her office by February 23rd at 11:00. The Gypsy Moth committee will be available that day to review the bids, so that a contract recommendation can be made to the full Board on February 24th. Discussion on fuel purchases at the local airport. Ms. Conrad then briefed the Board on the GIS program. Phase 8 – Sage Township is getting started and Ms. Conrad will be going to the Sage Board tomorrow to request their permission to enter into an agreement to begin this phase. Discussion on county funds and township contribution. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the contract to be signed to begin the phase for Sage Township to be completed. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, brought before the Board three resolutions for consideration. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the resolution for Depository Designation. Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused, Walters – yes, Carl – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, Resolution 2009-002 declared adopted. Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the resolution for Investment. Roll call vote as follows: Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, Resolution 2009-003 declared adopted. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the resolution to Borrow against Anticipated Delinquent 2008 Property Taxes. Roll call vote as follows: Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, Resolution 2009-004 declared adopted. Ms. VanTiem then requested that the Board appoint Dave Schwab as the Township resident representative for the Land Bank Committee, and to approve the following term dates of the members to the Land Bank:

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer

Terry Walters, Board of Commissioners Representative.
Term expiring December 31, 2010

Bob Moffitt, City of Gladwin Representative.
Term expiring December 31, 2009

Kerry Posey, City of Beaverton Representative.
Term expiring December 31, 2010

Dave Schwab, Representative of Townships.
Term expiring December 31, 2011

Theresa Newman, General Public Representative
Term expiring December 31, 2009

Tom Hindman, General Public Representative
Term expiring December 31, 2010

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the appointment of Mr. Schwab and the expiration dates of the above listed Land Bank members. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments –

Frank Starkweather, EDC, came before the Board to brief them on EDC activities and training sessions he has attended. Discussion of potential growth for local business. Mr. Starkweather presented the Board with a flyer for the “Manufacturers’ Defense Industry Forum”, noting that it would be held January 30, 2009 at the MMCC campus in Mt. Pleasant.

Bev Przystas, MSU, presented the Board with a handout for the “Community Conversation” being held January 21, 2009 from 7-9 p.m. Ms. Przystas then announced that the Trial Association would be holding a Winter Trail Day at the County Park area this Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.; hotdogs, chili, and hot cocoa will be provided. Ms. Przystas then reminded the Board of the luncheon hosted by her staff after the next Board meeting in the Annex Building at noon.

Vice-Chairman Rhode then asked that the Board allow the appointment of Dave Schwab to the Library Board. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to make the appointment as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Smith reported:

On attending the Data meeting on the 6th.

On attending the Tobacco Township meeting last night, noting that items of discussion included the weed control contract for Wixom Lake.

On also attending the Beaverton City meeting last night. Items of discussion included a lawsuit filed by the City against Loose Plastics.

Commissioner Smith then informed the Board that this Thursday would be the kickoff to the PACE program in the Gladwin Community Arena at 9:00 a.m. Courses would be offered all day and lunch would be provided. Commissioner Smith continued to tell the Board about memberships into the program and several events that members attend throughout the year. If there is anyone interested; they can contact Melody Wentworth at MMCC. Commissioner Carl noted that a flyer, or information, should be sent to the Sugar Springs POAM for interested participants.

Commissioner Walters reported:

That his Township meetings are coming up.

On several Veteran Affairs issues:

That Veteran, Connie Grove, from Billings Township had passed away.

The Secretary of State now has “troop plates” for sale for \$35.00, noting that \$25.00 of the purchase is used towards Veterans Administration.

The Veterans Clinic is now open in Clare.

Bill Babcock, Veteran Affairs volunteer, received a letter of appreciation from the Grand Rapids home for Veterans for his work in setting up a collection program for Veteran donations. Commissioner Carl noted that a Certificate of Appreciation should be sent to Mr. Babcock from the Board expressing their thanks for his service.

Commissioner Walters commented that advertising had been done to fill the vacancy of the Korean Veteran to the committee. Mr. Cline has submitted his notice that he would like to serve again, and Mr. Ford also submitted his interest. Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to appoint Fred Cline as the Korean War representative. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Walters continued to report:

That Sage township resident and business owner of Michigan Propane, Tim Whitney, has passed away. Commissioner Walters noted that he would be missed.

He wanted to wish a Happy Birthday to Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Posey reported:

On attending the January 5th Grout township meeting, noting that things are gearing up for the New Year.

On the January 6th Data meeting; welcoming Commissioners Carl and Smith to the committee. Issues that were discussed are as follows:

Sheriff Shea has requested that he be allowed to purchase two computers, software, and a scanner for the RMS system. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the purchase as outlined from line item 101-301-983.000. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Mandates for the digital radio requirements were also discussed with the Sheriff. The Data committee requested that a timeline be prepared and brought back to the committee for their review.

The telephone maintenance contract from J.P. Communications was reviewed and sent to Finance for their recommendation.

Commissioner Posey continued to report:

On the January 8th Solid Waste Committee, noting that was the second meeting that there were not enough members in attendance to hold the meeting, and that a different date would have to be looked at.

On attending the January 12th Gypsy Moth committee meeting. Items discussed were already addressed by Ms. Conrad in her report to the Board.

Commissioner Carl reported:

On attending the Organizational Board meeting on the 2nd.

On the Data meeting held on the 6th.

On the Personnel meeting held with Unit #7 on the 6th, noting that they had another tentative agreement.

That on the 7th he had attended the Planning commission meeting, noting that any questions, or concerns, involving alternative energy can be taken to the Planning for their consideration.

Commissioner Reid reported:

On attending the Finance meeting on December 30th.

On attending the Hay township meeting on the 8th, noting struggle with their blight ordinance, but working at getting things cleaned up.

On the January 9th Finance meeting.

On the Appellate Court hearing on January 7th regarding the Wiggins Lake issue.

That there would be a public hearing on March 10th at 8:30 a.m. in regards to the ORV ordinance. A letter will be sent out to each city and township so that they may attend. Commissioner Smith commented that March 10th was also the day for the townships to hold their Board of Reviews; and asked if that would be a conflict. Commissioner Reid noted that each township will have communications with the Road Commission on which roads they would like to see closed or open for enforcement, and if their respective township will be opting into the enforcement ordinance. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to hold the public hearing on March 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' chamber. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Reid then returned to the Finance meeting of the 30th, and areas of concern in regards to the number of employees at work on Friday, December 26, 2008. Concern was

expressed to Commissioner Reid on the few vehicles in the parking lot the day after Christmas. With the permission of Sheriff Shea to review the surveillance tape, Commissioner Reid found a head count of 18 employees that came into the building before 9:00 a.m. Upon review of the timesheets submitted, 23 employees had marked that they were here working that day. Commissioner Reid commented that these are “facts” and only reflect the employees of the Courthouse and none of the other county buildings; and that the CD has been destroyed after permission to access the system was granted by the Sheriff. Commissioner Reid asked the Board on how they would like to proceed on this matter, noting that the budget committee has worked very hard with each department to preserve the employees that they have; but there are still these reports that these violations are occurring. Discussion. Commissioner Posey made motion to revisit the time clock situation. Discussion on the accountability by both the department head and the employee to be truthful. Motion supported by Commissioner Reid. Denise Hall commented that she would welcome a visit from any commissioner to her office, noting that she does not see enough of them. Commissioner Carl stated for the record that he would be voting no because he feels the matter should go back to County Affairs for review. Roll call vote as follows: Smith – no, Whittington – excused, Walters – yes, Carl – no, Rhode – no, Reid – yes, Posey – yes. 3 yes, 3 no, 1 excused. Motion fails. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, that the issue be sent to County Affairs so the committee can have the chance to meet with the Department heads on the issue of time clocks and accountability standards. Roll call vote as follows: Whittington – excused, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, motion passed. The committee will be meeting January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss this matter.

Commissioner Reid commented on the e-mail from Sheriff Joe Arpaio, noting that he found it very interesting and hoped that the Courts could look to more community service program sentences versus jail time. Sheriff Shea noted that not all inmates are good candidates for community service programs, and must meet certain criteria. Magistrate Mike Greer commented that the Judge and Probation Officer are looking at community service sentences where they apply.

Commissioner Reid then asked that the Data committee look into a paperless solution, possibly laptops for the Board, to avoid the piles of wasted paper that is sent up to each Board meeting. Discussion on ways to “go paperless”. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to refer this matter to Data for review. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Rhode then called for a short recess at 10:40 a.m.

Meeting called back to order at 10:45 a.m.

Commissioner Posey then made a motion to recommend the bid from CBI for the copy machine contract for the Annex building. Motion supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

On attending three Finance meetings and one Personnel meeting in the last two weeks.

Finance Matters:

1. JP Communications has submitted the 2009 maintenance contract for the telephone system. Total cost is \$6,993.00 and can be paid from 101-297-850.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to sign the contract as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. Bev Przystas, MSU has requested that her clerical staff that was reduced to 25 hours per week in the 2009 budget year, be allowed to work 30 hours per week. The additional cost would be approximately \$3,900.00 for the year with no benefits. Discussion. Commissioner Reid commented that he does not have any problem with doing this as long as the funding comes from the MSU's department budget, and no additional county funds are contributed. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the increase of hours for the MSU clerical staff with funding for the increase to come from the department's current budget. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. Denise Hall, Equalization, met with the Finance committee for review of the revenue cost proposal to the townships for services provided, and for the potential reduction to her staff. It is the recommendation of the committee to allow Ms. Hall to bill the townships an additional \$0.10 per parcel per quarter effective January 1, 2009. The committee and Ms. Hall will be reviewing the costs for 2010 at an additional \$0.10 per parcel per quarter. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow for the increase for Equalization services, and that a letter be sent to the townships advising them of the increase. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – no, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused. 5 yes, 1 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, motion passed.
4. Laura Brandon, Gladwin County Clerk, has requested to attend the MACC conference in Lansing January 25-28. There will be no lodging costs, only the registration fee of \$150.00 which includes meals. Upon approval costs will be taken from 101-215-860.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Clerk to attend the training as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, has requested that she and Deputy Tammy Lane be allowed to attend the MACT Winter Conference in Bay City February 1st – 4th. Lodging costs are \$288.36, with a registration fee of \$200.00. Upon approval costs will be taken from 101-253-860.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Treasurer and her deputy attend the training as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

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

Sheriff Shea commented to the Board that before the public hearing on the ORV ordinance he would like to sit down and discuss a structured law enforcement plan, and finances to enforce the ordinance. Sheriff Shea pointed out that early enforcement equals compliance. Commissioner Reid commented that this matter could be addressed in Public Safety on the 15th at 2:30 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. until January 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon
County Clerk

Bill Rhode
Vice-Chairman