

## Commissioner Minutes of October 13, 2009

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session October 13, 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. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to proceed with the agenda as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **Regular minutes of September 22, 2009 and the Committee of the Whole Minutes from September 1, 2009** were then considered. Commissioner Smith asked if the changes had been made as requested. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the minutes with the corrections. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$604,840.78 231 Fund - \$13,474.03.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$95,427.52** 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 –**

Jan Stewart, FORGE, notified the Board that the City Counsel has approved the use of the old Shull building for a recycling location.

### **Resolutions for Consideration –**

The Board then reviewed a **resolution from Huron County**. Commissioner Smith commented that it was very similar to the resolution from Lapeer County that was reviewed by the Board prior. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to include the resolution with the items to be received and filed. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Board then considered the **revisions to the Personnel Policy**. Commissioner Smith inquired if the change to Good Friday was located in the policy, as she had looked and was unable to find it. The Clerk informed Commissioner Smith that she had misspoke herself at the previous meeting, and that the Good Friday holiday is listed in the Non-Union Benefits Manual. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the revised Personnel Policy as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **revised EDC by-laws** that were tabled from last meeting were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid to approve the by-laws upon approval of the EDC Board at tomorrow's meeting.* Commissioner Smith stated that she does not feel comfortable voting on the by-laws right now and would ask that the Board wait until the EDC has formally approved them. Commissioner Walters

supported Commissioner Smith's thoughts. Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – no, Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – no, Smith – no, Whittington – yes. 3 yes, 4 no. **Motion fails.**

***Correspondence from the Chairman:***

On a letter received from MidMichigan Home Care requesting to use the front steps of the Courthouse November 4, 2009 at noon for a **bell ringing ceremony in recognition of National Home Care Hospice month.** *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the use of the Courthouse as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**On appointments that need to be made to the Parks and Recreation Committee.**

Commissioner Whittington asked Bev Przystas to discuss with the Board the recommendations that had come from their last meeting. Ms. Przystas informed the Board that they had reviewed the by-laws and looked at some changes. The committee also looked at interested persons that want to be involved with the Park and has given a list to the Chairperson for consideration. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington then asked the Board for their acceptance of the following:

*Appointed Members – Sharron Smith, Commissioner, Rick Ghent, Building Supervisor, Terry Walters, Commissioner, Kelly Gower, County Representative.*

*Advisory Committee Members – Mike Greer, Rick Seebeck, Christy VanTiem, Rebecca Townsend, Martin Looker, Mike Brubaker, Bev Przystas, and Joanne Varner.*

**The Board approved the committee members as listed.**

**Jim Doepker, Telegration,** then came to the Board with a **telephone contract proposal for local and long distance calls.** Mr. Doepker explained that the current contract had expired January 2009 and each local call was being charged at \$0.19/minute. Mr. Doepker reviewed the proposed contract that provided for a 2 year contract with \$0.09/local call and \$0.04/minute on long distance. The Board discussed several topics involving the ten months the County was out of contract. Comments were received from members of the audience. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign a two year contract for local and long distance with AT&T.* Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – no, Walters – yes. 6 yes, 1 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

*Chairman Whittington then called for a recess at 9:50 a.m.*

*The meeting was called back to order by Chairman Whittington at 10:00 a.m.*

**Committee Reports –**

**Commissioner Smith reported:**

- On attending the District Library meeting on September 22, 2009, noting that the Friends of the Library have pledged money to help with an addition to the Beaverton Branch Library. That the renovation is moving along nicely on Gladwin Library Building. We have the complete state census material (except 1904) and are one of 4 libraries in the state with this set.
- On attending the insurance meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, noting that Chairman Rhodes will give full report.
- That she attended the regular Data Committee meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the special Data Committee meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, noting that Chairperson Posey will give complete report with recommendations.
- That she attended the “Bosses Day” party organized by Debbie Primeau, commenting that the food was great and so was the socializing. Thanks to Deb for her organizing skills. It was fun.
- On attending the Tobacco Township meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, noting the various topics:
  - a. The purchase of property for the Beaverton Area Fire Hall has been closed. Plans are going forward with grant applications etc.
  - b. Tobacco Township will not participate in County Zoning. They will stay with their own.
  - c. Tobacco Township will pay \$4,000.00 to offset costs of Uniform Addressing implementation.

*Chairman Whittington then read a letter from Karen Donn, Clerk, Register of Deeds, in regards to her 2010 insurance plan.*

**Commissioner Walters reported:**

- On attending the Fair Board meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, commenting that they are looking at ways to upgrade the grounds.
- On the Veterans meeting, noting two more soldiers from Michigan were killed in the line of duty.
- That his Township meetings are coming up.

**Commissioner Posey reported:**

- On attending the Gypsy Moth Special meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On the quarterly Gypsy Moth meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup>, noting that there would be more spray area this year than last.
- On attending the Insurance meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Grout Township meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup>, stating that they are working on their budget.
- On the Data meetings on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and the following issues: The telephone contract that has been entered into, noting that the committee will continue to monitor the situation. The 911 department needed a new printer. One was purchased under \$500.00.
- On attending the Beaverton Township meeting the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On also attending the Bosses Day luncheon on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Commissioner Carl reported:**

- On attending the Central Michigan District Health Department meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On the Data meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Planning Commission meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- On the October 8<sup>th</sup> Butman Township meeting, noting discussion of zoning issues and fee structure. Commissioner Carl commented that this topic of discussion was also an area of concern in other districts of his township, noting that the townships felt zoning was needed but had reservations about the fee structure for the county to maintain zoning. In Commissioner Carl's opinion the consensus was that an across the board fee would not be fair to townships where a large percentage of property was state land (for example: Bourret and Grim) and that a per parcel fee would not be fair to townships with a large number of parcels such as Butman because it would cost them approximately \$16,000 to participate in county zoning and either of these plans would cause townships not to participate and drive up the costs for townships that did not want to participate. Commissioner Carl continued to note that the townships were already asked to help finance EDC, GIS, and the Uniform Addressing and it is not right to ask them to finance zoning. Commissioner Carl mentioned that Frank Starkweather, Director of EDC and Bob Moffitt, Gladwin City Administrator has attended the Planning Committee meeting for October and expressed concerns over the loss of County Zoning. In Commissioner Carl's opinion if the County lost zoning he does not see EDC being as viable and businesses and others would not locate here in the County, wasting \$14,000 in getting our zoning ordinances in compliance with the State, and \$40,000 in contributions to the EDC. Commissioner Carl commented that he felt both were good programs and that the county should find alternative ways to fund zoning.
- On attending the Personnel meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but missing the Data committee on the same day due to them both being scheduled at 9:00 a.m.

### **Commissioner Reid reported:**

- On the **Michigan Green Communities Challenge** – Energy Compliance Grant and the need to adopt the resolution of acceptance. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the resolution as outlined.* Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. **Resolution 2009-029 declared adopted.** Commissioner Reid then commented that he would like permission to send out the second phase of the resolution, Michigan Green Communities Challenge – **Intention and Progress Survey**, upon completion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the progress survey to be sent out upon completion.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Reid commented on the Co-op that is being developed between Arenac, Isabella, Clare and Gladwin to “buy bulk” with federal funds from projects.
- On attending the Land Bank meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Fire Awareness fair at Flynn's on the 26<sup>th</sup>, noting it went very well.
- On the October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Courts.

- On the Airport meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>, commenting on the fuel tank system update and a tractor issue.
- On a meeting for the MCOG Energy Grant on the 8<sup>th</sup>, noting that they would be meeting again on Thursday.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.
- On speaking with Jim Allen from Ogemaw County on the renovation of a 110 bed jail facility.

Commissioner Reid then asked the Board for their comments on a request from Richard Rondeau, Owner – Offroad Adventure. Mr. Rondeau is requesting that the Board waive the fees for the use of the County’s ORV map for use on a Statewide ORV map.

Discussion. Gina Conrad commented on the GIS pricing of the map, noting that it would be \$2,800.00 to an individual to purchase the data layer. Discussion. Commissioner Carl noted that the GIS program was established to provide revenue to continue to operate the GIS system. Discussion. Commissioner Reid stated that he would table the topic until he could meet with Public Safety for their consideration of the request. Commissioner Reid will bring further information back to the next Board meeting.

**Commissioner Rhode reported:**

- On the Uniform Addressing Committee meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Board meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On the September 30<sup>th</sup> Insurance meeting, noting an increase of 38.23% and the need to speak with the unions to raise the PPO 15 plan deductible. Commissioner Rhode commented that there are additional options in funding, but they are not available until June 2010.
- On speaking with the Courts on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Health Insurance options were discussed and the financial situation of the County for the balance of 2009.
- On the MCOG meeting at Gladwin City Hall on the 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Finance meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>, stating that zoning matters were discussed and **raises for non-union and Elected Officials**. Commissioner Rhode reviewed the proposed raises –

*Elected Officials 1.5% for 2009 and 2010 in a lump sum payment not to be added to their base until 2011.*

*Commissioner per diems changed from \$25/half day \$40/full day to \$25.00 per meeting.*

*Non-union full time employees would receive a \$0.25/hour for 2009 paid in a lump sum payment to be added to their base in 2010, and an additional \$0.25/hour in 2010.*

*Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Whittington, to approve the raises as outlined. Commissioner Carl noted the reason to freeze the wages was because of economic conditions at that time and that the economy was no better perhaps worse today. Commissioner Carl further noted that as a member of the Personnel Committee he is part of the bargaining committee for union negotiations, noting that one of the selling points in getting the unions to accept less of a raise was the fact the elected officials were not getting one and*

that the Commissioners should consider that the unions would now ask for the same increase with retroactive pay. Commissioner Posey commented that she is not comfortable with giving “retro” raises. Commissioner Reid commented that the Commissioner per diems are not a raise, but a way to group together meetings to save on mileage costs. Commissioner Smith questioned if the wage being paid for 2009 and 2010 to the Elected Officials is the 2008 wage. The Clerk noted that they were 2008 wages. Commissioner Posey commented that these are good wages and in these economic times and people losing their jobs, that the Elected Officials are making good wages. Undersheriff Hartwell explained the pattern of raises at the Sheriff’s Department and the unions receiving wages that make staff he supervises making more money than he does. Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Reid – yes, Posey – no, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – no, Carl – no, Rhodes – yes. 4 yes, 3 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed**.

- On attending the Personnel meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>, stating the need to **change the Non-Union Benefits Manual to include the full day closed on Good Friday**. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to make the revision as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed**.

**Finance Matters:**

1. The County Clerk has requested the below transfer to her supply line.

101-215-706.004		\$2100.00
101-215-727.000	\$2100.00	

*Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid to approve the transfer as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed**.
2. The County received their first contribution to the Uniform Addressing project. A motion is needed to allow the Clerk and Treasurer to establish fund 278 for deposit of these funds. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the creation of the 278 fund for Uniform Addressing.* Ayes carried, **motion passed**.
3. The Board needs to vote on funding **County Zoning for 2010**. There are townships that are waiting to find out if the County is going to maintain Zoning if there is not enough township contribution, so that they can prepare their township for 2010. After the vote the Board will need to send a letter of decision out to the townships for their preparation. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode to not fund the Zoning department after March 31, 2010 if there are not enough Township contributions.* Commissioner Carl stated he does not believe that this matter should be voted on at this time, as there is a meeting scheduled with the townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>, noting that the Finance Committee should look into ways to fund County Zoning. Commissioners Smith and Posey agreed with not voting until after the meeting with the townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>. **Motion died for lack of support.**

*Commissioner Rhode then asked that the Board review the proposed budget reductions and take a consensus vote on each items so that the budget committee can move forward with the final budget preparation.*

**Item #1 Reduce janitor position** (after retirement) to 25 hours/week no benefits. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey.* Roll call vote as follows: Posey – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #2 Reduce Data Clerk position in Equalization** to 25 hours/week no benefits. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey.* Roll call vote as follows: Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – no, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes. 6 yes, 1 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #3 Reduce Clerk in Prosecutor’s office** to 25 hours/week no benefits. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl.* Roll call vote as follows: Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Smith – yes, Posey – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #4 Remove additional hour of pay from the Maintenance Supervisor** for Parks and Recreation (8 months). *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl.* 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.**

**Item #5 Reduce one clerk in Construction Codes to 25 hours/week** with no benefits. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid.* Roll call vote as follows: Carl - yes, Rhode –yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #6 All departments to have a \$500.00 travel and training line item.** *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl.* Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Smith – yes, Posey – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #7 Animal Control Officer grandfathered until retirement then reduced to 25 hours/week with no benefits.** *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid.* 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.**

**Item #8 Closing of the Parks and Recreation building.** *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to close the building but leaving the grounds open as long as the maintenance is cost neutral to the County.* Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Posey – yes, Smith – no, Whittington – yes, Walters – no, Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes. 4 yes, 3 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Item #9**      **Eliminate Zoning effective March 31, 2010.** *This matter will be tabled until after the meeting with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>.*

Commissioner Rhode then reviewed other budget items that were considered, noting that today's actions would be taken back to the budget committee for the completion of the 2010 budget.

**Public Comments** – None

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

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Whittington, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m. until October 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.*

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Laura Brandon-Maveal  
County Clerk

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Terry Whittington  
Chairperson