

Commissioner Minutes of December 23, 2008

Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

The Regular and Executive minutes of December 9, 2008 were then considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance Report totaling \$66,693.01 was then considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments:

Michael Greer, District Court Magistrate, noted that today would be Judge Allen's last day in Gladwin. There would be an informal party in the District Court offices throughout the day if anyone would like to come and wish the Judge well in his retirement.

The Antrim County Resolution was then considered by the Board. Commissioner Reid noted that he is not ready at this point to consider this resolution, and may not be in favor of supporting the resolution. Commissioner Carl noted that this resolution may be better suited under receive and file. The resolution will be handled later in the meeting as a receive and file document.

Correspondence from the Chairman:

The Board received the 2008 Region VII newsletter for their review.

On the informational packet from the Michigan Mosquito Control Association.

On the grant received by Bob Duby for a new trailer. Commissioner Reid commented that the local fire departments will benefit from the trailer, as it can be used as a fill station for their oxygen equipment.

On four pieces of correspondence from attorneys on the current lawsuits the County is involved in.

Bob Moffitt, Gladwin City Administrator, came before the Board to wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and brief them on current EDC and City projects.

Commissioner Whittington then presented Commissioner Hoag a certificate of appreciation in recognition of his final Board meeting, and his years of service on the

Board. Commissioner Whittington thanked Commissioner Hoag for his service, and wished him well. Commissioner Hoag thanked the Board expressing his appreciation for all the help from the Board, noting that it has been a pleasure working with each of them.

Commissioner Rhode then made motion to go into Public Hearing to review the Master Plan. Motion supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Hearing – The Master Plan was reviewed with no discussions or questions of the Board, or the public. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to return to regular session for the adoption of the Master Plan. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Regular Session – Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the Gladwin County Comprehensive Master Plan for 2007-2012 as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to go into Public Hearing to review the 2009 Special Fund Budgets. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Hearing – Commissioner Rhode noted to the Board that the only change from the budget that was presented prior was to the 231 Courts Fund. Commissioner Rhode noted that the Budget committee met with Darrell Schlese and Mike Greer and with their help the 231 fund is now in balance. Commissioner Reid thanked Mr. Schlese and Mr. Greer for working through the budget process with them, noting that it only took about one hour to accomplish. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to return to regular session for the adoption of the 2009 Special Fund budgets. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Regular Session – Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to adopt the 2009 Special Fund Budgets as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. The 2009 Special Fund Budgets have been adopted.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Carl reported –

On attending the Gladwin Township meeting on the 17th.

On attending the Personnel meeting on the 22nd.

Commissioner Carl then commented on the per parcel increase that has been proposed to the townships for Equalization costs. Commissioner Carl stated that some of his townships were not in favor of the increase and he would like the Board to reconsider passing the increase as recommended for 2009. Commissioner Walters commented that the Sherman Township Supervisor was supposed to be present today to note his objection

to the increase due to the lack of funding for such increase. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to not increase the fees for Equalization services to the Townships, and in addition, that the employee affected by this cut in revenue be allowed to remain full time until which time the Budget committee can meet with the Equalization Director, and report back to the Board with a recommendation for funding the full time position in Equalization with the cut in proposed revenue. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – no, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes. 5 yes, 2 no. The 2009 rates for Equalization costs to the townships will remain the same as those for 2008.

Commissioner Hoag reported:

On attending the Beaverton City meeting on the 15th. The City has completed their audit, and passed, the water line project has been completed, and the Board has selected and sworn in a new council member for Ward #2 – Ernest Nunn.

On attending the DPW meeting on the 17th. There will be a hearing in Lansing on January 7, 2009 on the Chappel Dam issue.

On attending the Public Safety meeting on the 18th.

Commissioner Walters reported:

That he had missed the Sage Township meeting due to a power outage emergency.

On the Sherman Township meeting on the 16th, noting that the Equalization fees were discussed.

On attending the holiday party and swearing in ceremony on December 18th. Commissioner Whittington then thanked Carmen and others for helping with the holiday party stating that it went well and was a good time.

Commissioner Posey reported:

On attending the Fair Board meeting on the 16th. There were only ten members present, so only discussion of items, and no official business.

On attending the Public Safety meeting on the 18th.

Commissioner Reid reported:

That the tower contract for maintenance and utilities has been signed by the Road Commission, and that we are still waiting for the signed copy from City-County Transit.

On the Public Safety meeting. The ORV ordinance was discussed. Mark Sohlden from the Road Commission met with the committee to review the highlights of the how ordinance compared against the Arenac County plan already in place. There will be a meeting January 13, 2009 to announce the date of the public hearing. Commissioner Reid commented that the ORV enforcement is going well in Clare County, and the importance of continuing to work with the Road Commission and both Cities to put this ordinance in place. Discussion.

On the Building and Grounds meeting, noting there was discussion on ice removal from the roof and snow removal from the parking lot.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

On attending the Shelterhouse meeting on the 12th.

On the EDC meeting on the 11th.

On attending the Finance meeting on the 15th, and the Gladwin City meeting the same night.

On the Health and Human Services meeting on the 16th.

On enjoying the swearing in ceremony and Christmas party on the 18th.

On the Finance meeting of the 19th. Commissioner Rhode noted that the committee reviewed the costs of a maintenance contract and a lease contract on the copier for Equalization. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to obtain a leased machine for the Equalization department and canceling the maintenance agreement on the machine they are using. Commissioner Posey asked if Bob Frei was involved with this recommendation and where he was at with the department list he was compiling. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Posey voting no.

On the Unit #7 contract that still has not been signed. Commissioner Rhode made motion to have both parties review and agree on the wording before it is signed by either party. Motion supported by Commissioner Walters. Ayes carried, motion passed.

On attending the Health Department Finance meeting in Mt. Pleasant on the 22nd.

Finance Matters:

Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney Elect, has requested that his Assistant be able to come in at 100% of the salary upon his start date of January 2, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the request. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Walters voting no.

A request has been presented by Darrell Schlese for additional appropriations for the Law Library (269 Fund). Commissioner Posey asked if they are aware of their budget amount, and why money was spent if there were not funds there. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Treasurer to make the additional \$1200.00 appropriation to the 269 fund from the General Fund. Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – no, Hoag - no, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – excused. 4 yes, 2 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Attached are the semi-annual budget amendments for the 101 and 231 funds for consideration. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Clerk to make the budget amendments as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Sheriff Shea has requested that the Board allow him to advertise for the sale of three unused vehicles. If sold, the proceeds will be deposited into the sale of fixed assets – vehicle line. Discussion on potential use for the vehicles. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, for the sale of up to three vehicles as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Reid commented on the trailer acquired by Emergency Management, noting that the Fire Departments will be able to use the trailer as a portable air compressor to refill their tanks. Commissioner Walters stated that the dive team in Billings Township is also looking forward to using it. Commissioner Whittington informed the Board that the trailer will be here for viewing after the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Rhode presented to the Board a legal bill for \$1,496.53 representing payment for Eaton and Hartwell's attorney fees. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the bill for payment as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – no, Whittington – no, Walters – yes, Carl – excused, Rhode – yes. 4 yes, 2 no. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Reid stressed that both parties need to sit down to resolve this issue so that legal expenses do not continue to build. Commissioner Walters noted that Commissioner Elect, Sharron Smith, should obtain a copy of each of the ongoing lawsuits for her reading so that she is ready to make an informed decision when action is needed. Commissioner Posey noted that the number of lawsuits that the County has gotten involved in is far too large. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Board needs to determine when to file a lawsuit and not to act on a whim, questioning why we spend all of this money, battle it up, and then give in, costing the County a lot of money. Commissioner Walters stated that it is becoming difficult to go to the Township Boards when they present him with questions and he is only able to tell them that he is not able to discuss the matter. The townships feel as though they should be able to know what is going on because they as tax payers are funding these legal bills. Sharron Smith then thanked Commissioner Walters for his suggestion and request that she be able to receive a copy of the lawsuits for review. Further discussion.

Chairman Whittington then read to the Board a list of re-appointments to various committees, noting that each Commissioner and department would receive a list of the committee appointments once they have been prepared. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the re-appointments as read. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Sheriff Shea then approached the Board and briefed them on the special funds used for 911 operations and the State's anticipated used for these funds. Shea also discussed the ORV ordinance, and need to address within the County process the need for a permit to ride, and security or insurance for the rider. Sheriff Shea then thanked Commissioner Hoag for his years of appreciated service.

Chairman Whittington commented that the Board had also prepared certificates of appreciation for Mary Hess and Jordan Case whose last day would be December 30, 2008.

Public Comments:

Denise Hall thanked the Board for their consideration of her employee to stay full time until a different path of revenue can be sought.

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

Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. until January 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman