

## **Commissioners Minutes of January 23, 2007**

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. Vice Chairman Rhode called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present with the exception of Chairman Whittington who had been excused.

Agenda – Michael Greer, newly hired District Court Magistrate, has been added to the agenda at 9:10 to meet the Board.

The minutes of the January 9, 2007 regular meeting and executive session were then presented for consideration. Commissioner Posey noted the public comments section should state that the Treasurer wished to handle both the summer and winter taxes in 2007. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes as presented with the stated correction. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance totaling \$72,417.25 was then reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **Public Comments – None**

Vice-Chairman Rhode then shared the following correspondence and information with the Board:

A letter was received from Florence DeShano, Master Gardeners, reporting the projects that have been done in the community, including the flowers planted at the Sports Complex.

That information on Term Health, Home, Automobile, and other insurances were available through MAC. Commissioner Rhode commented that the Insurance committee had looked into this offer and feels it could offer a savings to employees. Commissioner Rhode will be discussing this matter further in the department head meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Personnel Committee met with Court Administrator, Darrell Schlese, regarding payment of five vacation days per the request of Debbie Primeau. Commissioner Rhode commented that there are only two contracts that allow for the payment of unused vacation time. (Courts and Unit #7) The committee is recommending that because Ms. Primeau does not belong to either contract, and to the personnel contract, she is not eligible to be paid for the days as requested. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Reid, to deny the request for payment of unused vacation time as requested. 5 yes, Hargrave no, ayes carried, motion passed.

On attending the ECMPD meeting. Commissioner Rhode commented on the current financial status, and what the members are doing to get them out of a deficit. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode asked what the desire of the Board was to stay in at this point, or send the 180 day notice to not participate. Commissioner Reid stated his support behind staying in because of the grant development with EDC. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to stay with ECMPD and re-evaluate the situation in six months. Ayes carried, motion passed.

On attending the Human Services meeting, reporting the Board is in the process of buying two homes in Gladwin County.

On attending the Michigan Works meeting, noting nothing new to report. New officers were elected and old items were reviewed.

Bill Knight, Director, Gladwin City-County Transit, came before the Board to offer a resolution of intent to apply for state financial assistance. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Carl, in support of adoption of the resolution as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Hargrave – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – yes, Whittington – absent. 6 yes, 1 absent. Ayes carried, **resolution 2007-05 adopted.**

Bob Pettit, Bentley Township, came before the Board to discuss options on the disbursement of EMS millage collections. Mr. Pettit asked the Board to consider allowing Bentley Township to contract with Northern Bay services due to the service distance being 12 miles verses the 27 miles with the current provider. Discussion on amount of millage money collected by Bentley Township and the amount paid the current provider, and the savings by using Northern Bay service. John Shaffer, EMS, agrees that there is a service time difference in the two agencies and discussed the amount of calls and average response time to the area. Mr. Shaffer then voiced his concern of this exchange in service allowing other townships to go out to other First Responder agencies, resulting in financial obligations being “whittled” down to a balance that is not supportive to the service contract. Commissioner Hoag commented on the likelihood of other townships wanting alternate service. Mr. Pettit spoke to the effect of having an excess of money collected on the millage verses what the contract is paid, and the realistic funding for this service. Mr. Shaffer commented that his operations do not only budget on the millage money collected, but also relies on the revenue from call volume from each township. Commissioner Reid commented that he is not in favor of making a decision today and would feel more comfortable if this topic went into Public Safety for further review and a recommendation.

Aaron Miller, District Court Magistrate / Court Administrator, came before the Board to introduce Michael Greer. Mr. Miller explained to the Board that Judge Allen has hired Mr. Greer as his replacement, upon his resignation effective February 2, 2007. Mr. Miller requested that a formal motion be made to accept the hiring of Mr. Greer as District Court Magistrate / Court Administrator. Motion by Commissioner Hargrave,

supported by Commissioner Carl, to hire Michael Greer as District Court Magistrate / Court Administrator. Ayes carried, motion passed.

County Treasurer Christy VanTiem then asked permission of the Board to allow her to act as the interim tax billing agent for the year 2007, and to send a letter to townships explaining services and costs. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Posey to allow the Treasurer to act as the interim tax billing agent, and send out letters to the townships as requested. Discussion of past billing practices and costs. Denise Hall, Equalization Director, spoke to the effect of calculating the bills and the printing times and costs associated. Commissioner Posey stated that the townships were told there would be no increases this year, and that the Treasurer would try this process for 2007 and possibly make a cost increase recommendation to the Board for 2008. Treasurer VanTiem then stated that a budget amendment would be needed to allow funding to her office for the printing of such bills. The Treasurer will work with the Financial Coordinator on a budget transfer and have those figures available at the next board meeting. Ayes carried, motion passed. Treasurer VanTiem then asked that the Board allow for the elimination of petty cash in Probate Court. Discussion on the discontinued use, and auditor recommendation to take the liability off the books. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to eliminate the petty cash fund in Probate Court. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### ***Commissioner Hargrave reported:***

On attending the January 9<sup>th</sup> luncheon served by MSU. Noting that current programs were discussed, it was well attended. Commissioner Hargrave thanked Bev Przstas, and her staff, for a nice lunch and their presentation.

On attending the Sage township meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Rick Seebeck, Gladwin Schools Superintendent was there to talk to the people about upcoming Headlee millage question that would be on the February ballot.

On the January 16<sup>th</sup> Sherman township meeting, noting that junk issues and local road issues with four wheelers were discussed.

On the January 17<sup>th</sup> County Affairs meeting the Ron Taylor and the discussion of Animal Shelter volunteers from outside organizations and groups. Commissioner Hargrave stated that the committee feels that Mr. Taylor is doing a good job and that the committee will continue to allow Mr. Taylor to run his department without the Board constantly looking over his shoulder, stating that all groups and organizations need to deal with Mr. Taylor directly in regards to the daily operations of the shelter and leave the Board out of the supervision of the shelter. Marietta Spratt questioned why it was the desire of the Board not to be involved in the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Hargrave clarified that the Board will still be involved in with the Shelter, but will not do a daily supervision of Mr. Taylor's

duties. Discussion. There was then a question of the public that who will handle issues that get no response or cooperation by Mr. Taylor. Commissioner Rhode commented that those concerns be directed to the Board through Commissioner Hargrave.

The committee also met regarding two Library matters. Commissioner Hargrave commended Commissioner Posey on the research she did on the building, costs of construction, and payment on the property in question. The committee believes there are two issues in the request of the Library, and those requests need to be handled separately. 1) Payment of the indirect costs billing of \$46,815.00 that was billed to the Library on September 13, 2006. 2) The transfer of the building deed for the Beaverton Library from the County to the District Library. The Library had offered the Board \$26,000.00 to resolve the indirect costs billing and the transfer of the deed on the Beaverton parcel. The committee felt that this was not a reasonable offer, noting the indirect costs billing should not be a surprise to the Library as it is billed each year. The committee suggested that the Board continue to handle the matters separately. The committee will resume discussions of the deed transfer on the Beaverton parcel upon payment of the indirect costs billing. Discussion. Commissioner Hargrave then made the following motion: That the Library pay the 2006 billing of \$46,815.00 for the 2004 indirect cost allocation that was billed on September 13, 2006. If the amount stated is paid within 30 days, then the Board will take action to waive the 2007 billing for the 2005 indirect cost allocation. With this motion the committee is also recommending that no action be discussed or taken on the Beaverton parcel deed issue until the 2006 billing for the 2004 indirect cost allocation of \$46,815.00 is paid in full. Motion supported by Commissioner Posey. Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – no, Whittington – absent, Hargrave – yes. 4 yes 2 no. Ayes carried, motion passed.

***Commissioner Hargrave continued to report:***

On attending the Building & Grounds meeting. Main topic of discussion was Chappel Dam.

On attending the Public Safety meeting.

On attending the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Northern MAC meeting, noting that several issues and comments were very interesting.

***Commissioner Hoag reported:***

On attending the luncheon at MSU on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

On attending the January 19<sup>th</sup> Airport meeting. Commissioner Hargrave commented on the total number of aircraft that came into the airport from all over the country. The new hangers are physically completed, only waiting on Consumers to finish the electric, noting that there are currently three aircraft in the hangers.

On attending the January 15<sup>th</sup> Beaverton City meeting. The auditors had presented their final audit and it was approved by the council. Water main projects had been started.

On attending the January 16<sup>th</sup> County Affairs meeting.

On attending the January 18<sup>th</sup> Building & Grounds meeting.

On attending the January 18<sup>th</sup> Public Safety meeting.

On attending the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Insurance meeting.

On attending the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Data meeting. The committee is recommending that the contract with JP communications be signed by the Chairman for the County's 2007 service. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Posey to allow Vice-Chairman Rhode to sign the contract as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed. The committee is also recommending that Bob DUBY be allowed to purchase a new computer for \$1,167.00 from 101-900-970-426, noting that the old computer will be used as a backup for emergency services. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Carl to allow the purchase as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

***Commissioner Carl reported:***

On attending the Zoning and Planning meetings.

On attending the Building & Grounds meeting.

On attending all of his township meetings, main discussion at all was the tax bill preparation. Commissioner Carl stated that he was in attended the meeting with the townships where Denise Hall presented her desire to remove the tax preparation service from her office, and that the service would be continued to be provided by Treasurer VanTiem. Commissioner Carl stated there were concerns from all of the Townships on why it is the decision of the Equalization Director choose what her job is, and if the service is no longer being provided then why must they continue to pay Equalization for services they are no longer providing? Commissioner Carl then expressed his thanks to Denise and Christy for explaining what they perceive is the problem for the Equalization department and the townships, and how it could be handled, but feels that it is not the only solution. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to have the County Affairs committee investigate how best to continue providing summer and winter tax billings services for the townships. Furthermore, that the townships be allowed to give their input before the program is implemented. Discussion. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Board then recessed at 10:10 a.m.

Meeting recalled to order by Vice-Chairman Rhode at 10:20 a.m.

***Commissioner Reid reported:***

On attending the January 9, 2007 EDC meeting, noting that business is moving along well.

On attending the January 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast.

On attending the January 9<sup>th</sup> Building & Grounds meeting with Judge Mienk and Judge Evans regarding office space issues. The committee will pass the proposed office revisions and remodeling quotes on to Clare County for their review. A meeting will be scheduled with both counties and the Judges to discuss the proposal in February.

On attending the January 17<sup>th</sup> Secord township meeting.

On attending the January 18<sup>th</sup> Building and Grounds meeting. Devere Dennings and Mike Ridley from FED had presented to the committee options for construction and budgeting an addition for the courthouse. Discussion. The committee also met with Rick Seebeck, noting the consensus of the committee is that the property owners are not being represented. The committee was also presented with the proposal that additional taxpayers, "up and down the river", should be paying for a portion of the dam repair. Discussion of concern and liability of owning a dam. Commissioner Reid noted that the Drain Commissioner and the Board are moving forward in a confident decision in this matter. The committee also met with Don Spencer on an additional car for the Michigan Works program.

***Commissioner Posey reported:***

On attending the January 9<sup>th</sup> MSU luncheon.

On attending the January 10<sup>th</sup> Building & Grounds meeting.

On attending the January 17<sup>th</sup> County Affairs meeting.

On attending the January 19<sup>th</sup> Finance meeting.

**Finance Matters:**

1. Justin Eastman, Jail Administrator, has requested to purchase new portable radios for the jail. This expense was approved for the capital outlay portion of the 2007 budget. Because this expenditure is over \$500.00; a formal request for permission to purchase from jail capital outlay 101-900-

970.351 is in order. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the purchase as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

2. Aaron Miller, District Court Magistrate, has made a request to be paid out for the balance of sick and vacation time that remains on the books upon his resignation on February 2, 2007. If approved, the Clerk will verify the balance of hours and make payment to Mr. Miller on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February from line # 101-136-704.000. Because this expense was not budgeted for, there will be a line item budget amendment available the second meeting in February. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Reid to approve Mr. Miller's request as outlined above. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. The Board considered the request of Court Officer Harlen Brushaber at the January 9, 2007 meeting for controlled access into the courthouse in the amount of \$3,200.00. Follow up with MMRMA provided that a match grant of 50% of \$1500.00 could be reimbursed. If the Board considers continuing forward with the project a motion should be made to authorize the expense of \$3200.00 and allow the Financial Coordinator to write for the grant, allowing the chairman to sign as necessary for this purpose. If approved, expense to be paid from 101-900-970.001 – capital improvements. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to move forward with the controlled access project as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed. Hoag voting no.
4. The purchasing contract with Quill will expire February 2, 2007. The Board was presented with the renewal contract for review. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to allow the Financial Coordinator to sign the contract and continue with the County's purchasing through Quill. Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. Darrell Schlese, Court Administrator, has requested that an expense and revenue line be established to handle payment for Regional Detention Support Services (RDSS). These expenses will still be reimbursed 100% by the State, but payment services now must be handled through each respective county. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to create the following lines:

101-148-802.000	Contractual Services – RDSS
101-000-610.000	Probate Court – RDSS Reimbursement

Ayes carried, motion passed.

***Commissioner Posey continued to report:***

On attending the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Insurance and Data Committee meetings.

On meeting with Gina Conrad on the spray bid process on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sealed bids are being accepted and will be opened on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Discussion on the Gladwin Airport being used as a base for the surrounding counties.

On the Library meeting tonight, noting that she hoped everything goes well.

On the request of Sheriff Shea to present a carpet quote for the basement of the Sheriff's Department. Discussion on installation options. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to accept the quote from Gladwin Floor Covering for \$594.62. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Hoag then presented to the Board the Data committee's recommendation on the request of Judge Mienk for data related items. It is the recommendation of the committee to allow for the purchase of a cell phone and computer for Judge Mienk, and a computer for his secretary. All other equipment requested by the Judge will be handled by the data committee once the proposal for new office space is considered by Clare County and the arrangements have been made between both counties. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow for the purchases as presented.

Adolph Presidio then came before the Board to discuss the meetings he has attended through his appointment to ECMPC. Mr. Presidio presented the Board with minutes from the meetings he attended. Mr. Presidio discussed with the Board the progress of the Sue Fortune discipline actions and notifications by two counties and on township that they are dropping out of the program. Discussion of financial shortage and grant applications.

**Public Comments –**

Jan Stewart asked the Board how to get more people appointed to the Solid Waste committee. Currently the Board only has two members involved. Ms. Stewart stated that a desirable committee would consist of 6 or 7. Vice-chairman Rhode stated he will look into an additional appointment and get back with her.

Treasurer, Christy VanTiem then questioned the Board if quarterly appropriations have to be requested of the department, or if she may just transfer the money to their funds without a written request of the department head. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to allow the Treasurer update the directive memo to allow her to transfer money to funds as directed by the annual budget. Ayes carried, motion passed.

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

Commissioner Hoag then mover to adjourn, supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. until February 13, 2007 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon  
Chief Deputy Clerk

Bill Rhode  
Vice-Chairman