

Commissioners Minutes of October 23, 2007

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, except Commissioner Hoag who was excused.

Agenda- no changes

The **minutes of the October 9, 2007** regular session as well as executive session were then reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The **semi-monthly Finance Report** totaling \$ 150,940.57 was then considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Frank Starkweather, Economic Development Corp., thanked the Board for the increase in his hours from 10 to 16 per week. Mr. Starkweather reported on current projects and activities underway to further economic development in Gladwin County.

Chairman Whittington reported:

- On communication from Mansfield and Associates regarding a waste facility – and requesting a hearing with the Board. A meeting will be scheduled.
- On a letter from Jan Stewart, Solid Waste Committee, noting that the Soil Conversation District has recommended the appointment of Mickie Jordan to serve on the Solid Waste Committee. Chairman Whittington appointed Ms. Jordan as recommended.
- On recent communications regarding current union negotiations.
- On communications received from the Dept. of Human Services.

Chairman Whittington then noted that the required **Public Hearing on Truth in Taxation** was scheduled for 9:15 a.m. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to go into Public Hearing as noticed. Ayes carried, motion passed.

PUBLIC HEARING

Equalization Director Denise Hall commented on need for the public hearing and on the procedure for the levy of millage.

General discussion on millage and taxation issues.

Commissioner Posey then moved to **return to regular session**, supported by Commissioner Hargrave. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode then moved to adopt the **Resolution setting millage rates** for Gladwin County. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hargrave. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Hargrave-yes, Carl-yes, Rhode-yes, Reid-yes, Posey-yes, Hoag-absent and Whittington-yes. Ayes carried, **Resolution #2007-24** is declared adopted. (Resolution attached)

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the October 16th Insurance Committee meeting.
- That on October 17th she attended the County Affairs Committee meeting.

Commissioner Hargrave reported:

- On attending the Sage Township meeting on October 10th.
- That he attended the Airport Commission meeting on October 12th.
- On attending the October 16th Sherman Township meeting and the discussions had regarding fire department and response issues
- On the Oct. 17th County Affairs Committee and meeting with Mr. Schlese regarding foster care and the placement of juveniles.
- That County Affairs also met with Sheriff Shea regarding the personal use of county vehicles. The Sheriff informed the committee that he would not enforce current board action that all county owned vehicles (with exception of the Sheriff's county car) not be taken home – but parked.
- That the Veterans Committee is still looking for a Korean veteran to serve on that committee.
- On the Solid Waste meeting that would be coming up next week and that he anticipates that group will be seeking some funding from the County.
- On recent lake board meetings and the exotic plants now being found in our lakes that need to be dealt with.

The **Apportionment Report for 2007** was then presented. Equalization Director Denise Hall reviewed the report for the benefit of board members and those present. Discussion was had regarding various segments of the report. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to approve the report as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- That he attended the Bourret Township meeting on October 16th.
- On attending the Clement Township meeting on October 17th.
- On the Butman Township meeting of October 18th
- On the Gladwin Township meeting scheduled for the 24th.
- On the reports requested from Emergency Management and the information that he had received from Mr. DUBY. He felt that the information was helpful and should be distributed to the townships. It was also noted that townships should be kept abreast of EDC activities

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That Jim Breault had contacted him regarding the tower property and the need to install a gate-- Breault's would do so at their cost. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow Breault's to install a gate at their cost. Ayes carried, motion passed.
- That Mr. Ghent has submitted a cost proposal from Peter **Bierlein Painting for repairs** as follows:
 - Labor and material to repair ceiling and wall in upper hall (3rd floor)
\$450.00
 - Repair and paint ceiling in Register of Deeds office
\$200.00
 - Repair wall where register was removed and paint (Circuit Courtroom)
\$530.00Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to have the repairs done by Bierlein as quoted. Ayes carried, motion passed.
- That Mr. Ghent has also submitted **snow plowing bids** as follows:
 - DeLisle Lawn Care \$220.00 per plow
 - Cloverleaf \$255.00 per plowMotion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to have the snow plowing for 2007/2008 done by Delisle Lawn Care. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Reid continued reporting:

- On Attorney Pat Kaltenbach's reply **regarding use of county vehicles for personal use** and comments on cases throughout the state. Commissioner Reid spoke on the Board's concerns and position on the use of county cars for personal use.

Sheriff Shea spoke on the differences between departments and use of vehicles, noting that as a co-employer he feels it necessary that certain employees – specifically the Detective, have cars in their possession –enabling them to respond to incidents on a timely basis. Sheriff Shea also noted that the Detective only uses about 10 gallons of gas a week and that he feels that this is not a great expense to insure the welfare of county residents.

The Board then discussed the fact that the Detective drives to and from his residence in St. Helen every day – and questioned the reasoning for providing the vehicle year round so the officer could cover calls after regular working hours-- perhaps 4-5 times a year. Questions were posed as to the ability of other officers' or agencies' ability to cover any situations until the detective could arrive on the scene.

Commissioner Hargrave suggested that in light of recent communication from Attorney Kaltenbach, this matter be sent to committee and asked that in the mean time the Sheriff comply with current Board ruling, and have the vehicles parked and not be driven home by employees. Chairman Whittington referred the matter to the public safety committee.

Board then recessed for a short break. Recalled to order by Chairman Whittington.

Clerk Laura Flach then presented the **2008 Salary Schedule** for the Board's consideration. Ms. Flach commented that it is the responsibility of the Board to adopt the Salary Schedule by the end of October each year. It was also noted that the figures contained in the schedule were those as currently approved by the Board—UAW #7 and Corrections contracts currently in place for 2008 with others listed at the 2007 rates. Ms. Flach also explained that the Schedule would be amended upon contract ratifications and future Board action. Motion by Commissioner Hargrave, supported by Commissioner Posey, to **approve and adopt the 2008 Salary Schedule** as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Chairman Whittington then commented on Commissioner Hargrave's request that the Sheriff abide by the current action of the Board and require the parking of the county owned vehicles.

Commissioner Hargrave noted that current action is that county owned vehicles not be driven home-- with the exception of the Sheriffs car, and that he feels that the Sheriff should abide by the Board action and require that the vehicles in question be parked.

After further consideration, Chairman Whittington noted that he will send the matter to the County Affairs committee rather than Public Safety.

Sheriff Shea again stated that he would not require the Detective to park the car he currently drives to and from work.

Commissioner Reid continued reporting

- Regarding Building and Grounds matters and the recent proposal for remodeling of the Clerk’s Office. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to deny the remodeling request. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Rhode voting no.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the October 9th Housing Commission meeting and the need for adoption of a Master Plan.
- That on October 10th he attended the Economic Development meeting.
- On the Fair Board meeting of October 16th.
- That on October 17th he attending the C. Mi. Health Finance meeting in Mt. Pleasant and also attended the Gladwin Township meeting.
- On attending the October 19th Finance committee meeting.
- On matters before Finance as follows:

1. That Magistrate Michael Greer has requested the following transfers within his budget:

101-136-706.0		\$14,450.00
101-136-811.0	\$ 1,250.00	
101-136-813.0	\$ 2,700.00	
101-136-815.000	\$ 500.00	
101-136-815.0	\$ 9,000.00	
101-136-860.0	\$ 1,000.00	

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, seconded by Commissioner Carl, to approve transfers as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

2. On needed transfers from 911 Wireless fund 282 and the Jail Booking Fee fund 264 to reimburse the General Fund for approved training. Once the transfers are approved the County Treasurer is to make the appropriate entries to the expense lines and the also the cash line of each fund.

<u>Due From 264 Fund</u>		<u>Due to 101 Fund</u>	
264-000-804.000	\$11,781.83	101-351-703.000	\$10,261.34
264-000-860.000	2,100.00	101-351-706.004	2,634.00
		101-351-720.0	986.49

<u>Due From 282 Fund</u>		<u>Due to 101 Fund</u>	
282-000-804.001	\$ 4,143.56	101-422-704.000	\$ 4,143.56

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting on finance matters:

3. That the Treasurer had met with the committee –noting that the Jail Telephone fund does not have the revenue base to make the budgeted 2007 appropriations to the General Fund. Commissioner Rhode moved that should any funds become available in the Jail Telephone fund –they be applied to the appropriation due to the General fund and if at the end of the year there is a balance still owing, it be waived. Motion seconded by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode then commented on the invitation to an “informational” luncheon being hosted by Cadillac Insurance on November 1, 2007 and reminded Board members that if they wished to attend they should notify the Secretary so that reservations could be made.

Commissioner Hargrave then commented on the activity report received from Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Duby and asked that Mr. Duby put dates, times and locations on his next report.

Commissioner Posey then reminded Board members of the Council of Local Government Harvest Supper to be held on October 29th at Buckeye Township Hall.

The Board then went into the scheduled “**budget workshop**” to work on proposed 2008 budget matters:

Financial Coordinator Laura Brandon explained that there were five matters that were addressed in committee based on recommendations from the last workshop.

1. The **Drain Commissioner** question on wages for her Deputy Drain Commissioner. The committee recommends holding off on setting a wage until Union matters are settled. The matter will be addressed at a later time.
2. **Funding for Soil Conversation** – the committee still feels that in light of current economic issues and budget demands, they cannot recommend funding for 2008.

Commissioner Hargrave noted that this service as been funded for many years, and he would like to see funding restored in the 2008 budget.

3. **Tax Reversion Fund transfers** – noting that appropriations would be made to cover the Treasurer’s Department expenses.

Deputy Treasurer MarLynn Muma commented that the Treasurer only wants \$250,000.00 to be used from Tax Reversion.

Laura Brandon relied that the expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$248,000.00, so that would be no problem.

Ms. Muma again insisted that that the Treasurer wished to spend \$250,000.00 from the fund.

The Budget and Finance committee will meet with the Treasurer on Oct. 25th to clarify the matter.

4. **Emergency Management** – that the wages for the assistant director had been removed from the proposed budget.

5. **Construction Codes Department** – the committee had addressed concerns with moving a full time employee to part-time status. The committee recommends that the clerk in question be “full-time” status during the busy months April 1 – October 31 and then “part-time” 5 hours 5 days a week for Nov. 1 – March 31.

Discussion was then had on the proposed changes in the employee Health Insurance choices –noting that the proposed county savings of \$370,000 had already been included in the proposed 2008 budget to support current services.

It was noted that the proposed budget contains anticipated raises pending current union negotiations and board action.

Commissioner Hargrave questioned the addition of any staffing in the proposed budget.

Ms. Brandon explained that that matter had been covered at the October 9th meeting, that there was one additional person for the Prosecutors office which would be covered up to 80% by Maximus grant funding and that there was an additional clerk for the County Clerk’s office to accommodate the increased workload created by the additional Judgeship.

Commissioner Hargrave noted that he is opposed to any additional staffing unless it can be fully funded.

County Clerk Laura Flach replied that Commissioner Hargrave was well aware that the Clerk’s office was a “service” department, and did not have means to directly fund any of her employee’s. Mrs. Flach went on to explain that she cannot continue providing services with the number of staff she has. She noted that the Court Reporter position was abolished with the installation of the video recording and that the whole responsibility of maintaining records of court proceedings fell to her office, with no additional help. It was also explained that now there are two circuit judges –doubling the time that her clerks spend in the courtroom. Mrs. Flach noted that is not uncommon to have two courts in session at once –which takes both court clerks from her office leaving no one to file, schedule and send the required court notices. Mrs. Flach also informed board members that Clare County has four clerks to handle the same caseload that she is struggling to handle with only two clerks.

Discussion. **Commissioner Rhode** commented that outside of the County Treasurer matter, the budget should be ready to be presented as is.

Further discussion. Commissioner Hargrave then moved that the financial advisor move forward in preparing the proposed 2008 budget without the additional employees. Motion supported by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Rhode voting no.

Commissioner Rhode then commented on the house numbering project and progress being made on that project.

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

Commissioner Carl then moved to adjourn, supported by Commissioner Rhode. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 12 noon until November 13, 2007 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Flach
Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman