

Commissioner Minutes of February 24, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session February 24, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Vice - Chairman Rhode. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, *except Chairman Whittington who was in a court proceeding.*

Agenda – Commissioner Smith asked that after the Board minutes from February 10th are considered; that there be time set to review “*old business*”.

The **Regular Board minutes of February 10, 2009** were then considered. County Clerk, Laura Brandon, noted that corrections and suggestions were submitted by Commissioner Smith and are now included. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the minutes with the corrections as presented.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

The **Executive Session minutes of February 10th** were then reviewed. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes as written.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Old Business-

Commissioner Smith then questioned if the request for letter of support for the EDC had been prepared since the last Board meeting. Board Secretary, Carmen Chavez, noted it was prepared and mailed and that she would make sure each Board member received a copy.

The **semi-monthly Finance report** totaling **\$64,142.43** was then considered for approval. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the bills for payment as presented.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Public Comments: None at this time.

Correspondence from the Vice-Chairman:

- On receiving a letter from the ERLP Committee regarding their Land Conservation Expo held February 25th from 5-7 p.m.
- On the Region VII correspondence regarding 1st quarter 2009 performance analysis.
- On the MMRMA information letter naming their committees.
- On the MMRMA Financial report.
- On the **MMRMA renewal for Property and Casualty insurance**, and to allow the net asset distribution funds to be applied to the Stop Loss Fund. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Chairman to sign the renewal contract and allow the net asset distribution funds in the amount of \$64,213.00 to be applied towards the County's stop loss fund.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- On receiving the D.H.S. minutes and financial reports.

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, then came before the Board to request a **transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Tax Reversion fund to the Land Bank for start up funds.**

Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the transfer as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Ms. VanTiem then explained that the 2008 appropriation from the 275 fund to the General Fund was incorrect. Ms. VanTiem then asked that the Board allow her to **correct the 2008 appropriation back to the 275 fund for the amount of \$5,992.00.** Commissioner Posey then asked the Treasurer about the cash balance in the General Fund and appropriation standings. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Treasurer to make the correction transfer in the amount of \$5,992.00 as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, came before the Board to review the bids for the 2009 spray applicators. Only one bid from **Hatfield's Spraying Service was received for \$24.93/acre.** Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the Chairman to enter into the spray agreement as presented by Ms. Conrad.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Walters then clarified to the Board a spray block situation in Sherman Township in regards to spraying State Land.

Commissioner Rhode then acknowledged and welcomed back Bonnie House, Registrar of Deeds.

Commissioner Rhode then presented to the Board the **Central Service Cost Allocation Plan from Maximus**, noting that this contract is up for renewal and needs Board approval to be signed. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the Chairman to sign the Maximus contract upon presentation.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

The Board then reviewed the proposal from Mr. Borushko from Employment Relations Advisors LLC. **Mr. Borushko has proposed a flat rate monthly service fee of \$750.00 from March 2009 through April 30, 2010, and \$1,000.00 per month from May 2010 through July 2010.** Discussion. Commissioner Reid noted that he believes this matter should be researched through Finance before the Board makes a decision. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to not accept the monthly payment schedule as presented.* Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – no, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – no, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – excused. 4 yes, 2 no. **Proposal not accepted.**

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the MSU Luncheon, noting it was very nice.
- On attending the Counsel of Local Government meeting on the 23rd, commenting that it was interesting and a short meeting.
- That all of her regular meetings have been completed for the month.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On the Sage Township meeting on the 12th, noting concerns of the citizens that use the lake for ice fishing and the need for a warning to the fisherman if the dam gates are going to be opened.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 17th.
- On attending the Fair Board meeting on the 17th, noting that there was also a Mental Health meeting that day he was unable to attend.
- On attending the Democratic meeting on the 18th.
- On the ORV safety meeting on the 19th, commenting that it was a good meeting.
- On the Counsel of Local Government meeting on the 23rd, noting that the meeting was short, but good.
- On the Parks and Recreation meeting, noting discussions of the use of the building for Hunter Safety classes, and alternate areas that could be used.

Commissioner Walters then expressed his thanks to Fred Cline for filling in at the Veterans department while Ms. Grant was on vacation, noting that all of the volunteers are super.

Commissioner Walters then remarked on the work he had done to get the information published on the heating cost assistance to the residents of the County. Discussion on various agencies that are able to assist those that need help with their winter heating costs. At this point Commissioner Walters was unable to get any publication on this matter, but stated he would continue to try to have an informational article published for the residents.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Solid Waste meeting on the 12th, noting that the Farm Show would be held March 19th.
- On the Department Head meeting on the 18th in regards to the paperless proposal, noting that there were not many comments.
- On attending the Public Safety meeting with the Townships in regards to the ORV ordinance, noting that it was a good meeting.
- On the Counsel of Local Government meeting on the 23rd, commenting that it was very quick.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Bourret township meeting on the 10th.
- On the Clement township meeting on the 11th.
- On the Butman township meeting held on the 12th.
- On attending the Gladwin township meeting on the 18th, noting that each of the townships had discussions on the ORV ordinance.
- On the Building and Grounds meeting on the 19th.
- On the Counsel of Local Government meeting on the 23rd.

Commissioner Carl then commented on the Stimulus money and the ability to track the grant funds online, noting that he would like the Board to keep a watch on those funds

that could be eligible to Gladwin County. *Commissioner Smith commented on the Library grant that was applied for through the stimulus money and the proposed renovations to the building.*

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That a large majority of his townships held ORV discussions at their meetings.
- That he has had several communications from RTAF, noting that there is no funding at this point. Commissioner Reid would like to write for grants through ECMPC for several Courthouse improvement projects that need to be done.
- On receiving a communication from MIOSHA on a mold test issue within a department in the Courthouse. A response was sent to MIOSHA with the documented evidence of what the Board has done to correct the mold issue. Commissioner Reid will bring the outcome back to the Board once he receives further information.
- On attending the **ORV meeting**, noting that it went very well. Several townships were present and noted what they would like to see happen. Discussion. Clarence Cremans questioned the Board what the economic advantages were to this ordinance passing. Commissioner Reid described the process and goal where the Board saw potential benefits. *Commissioner Posey clarified that it is to the County's advantage to open all the roads and then allow the Township to close any roads that they wish. Commissioner Reid stated that this is the best way to achieve uniform countywide enforcement. Commissioner Smith noted that there are needs for meal and propane for those that ice fish this time of year.* Commissioner Reid expressed to the Board the need to move forward on this ordinance to be prepared for the meeting on March 10th. Discussion with Attorney Jacobson on drafting and review of County ordinance. **Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow Commissioner Reid to work with Attorney Jacobson to prepare and "fine tune" the ordinance to allow all the County roads to be open for ORV use. Ayes carried, motion passed.**

Commissioner Rhode then asked the Board to consider **sale of the Airport car**, noting that the City Counsel has already given permission to do the same. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the car to be sold by the Airport. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Reid then informed the Board that the couch that was for sale by bid was awarded to Loretta Smith for \$77.77.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the February 10th Gladwin Housing Commission meeting. Discussion was had on the various funding of over budget programs.
- On the EDC meeting on the 11th, noting that many things are going on right now that will serve to be a County benefit.
- On the Addressing committee meeting on the 12th, noting that progress is being made, but it will be a long process.

- On attending the City Counsel meeting on the 16th.
- On attending the Human Services Program on the 17th.
- On the Personnel meeting with Corrections on the 18th, also attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting in Mt. Pleasant the same day.
- On attending the Michigan Works meeting on the 19th in West Branch. The Economic Stimulus package was distributed in easy read form, and is available for the Board to review. Discussion on the Unemployment rate in the County.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 20th.

Commissioner Posey then questioned the **Road Commission's practice in hiring for the two positions that were currently open**, noting that at the Counsel of Local Government meeting there was no direct answer to the question if they were hiring residents of the County. Discussion on the Road millage that had passed, and the unemployment in Gladwin County. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to send the Road Commission a letter expressing concern over not hiring locally.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Finance Matters:

1. Rick Ghent, Maintenance, has requested to **donate 14 hours of unused personal time to an employee in the Clerk's office.** This request does meet the required guidelines set under the Personnel Policy. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the donation as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
2. Michael Brubaker, 911, has submitted the **2008 training costs to the Clerk for reimbursement to the General Fund.** Total amount of training funds is \$3,111.10. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Treasurer to transfer \$3,111.10 from 282-000-804.001 to 101-422-704.000 as a 2008 expense.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Reid then asked the Board to consider **sending a letter to the Road Commission, noting the concern of the community that all roads be open for use and that the Townships make the decisions on which roads be closed.** Commissioner Carl suggested another meeting with the Road Commission and Township Officials before the March 10th meeting. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to send the letter as discussed.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Smith noted that she would be the next rotation on the Finance committee for the months March and April.

Bev Przystas, MSU, came before the Board with updates on the following: MSU 2008 County report, Farm Show information, Benefit Dinner for Allison Ogg, and the Leadership Academy.

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

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. until March 10, 2009, unless otherwise directed.*

Laura Brandon
County Clerk

Bill Rhode
Vice – Chairman