

Commissioner Minutes of November 24, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session November 24, 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.*

The **Regular minutes of November 10, 2009** were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$223,555.38 231 Fund - \$(62,884.93).*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$49,316.62** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – none at this time.

Correspondence from the Chairman:

Tom Tucholski has submitted his resignation from the Solid Waste committee. Any individual wishing to serve can contact the secretary.

With the board's permission, the Commissioner Whittington will re-appoint Sam Bagneski to the Region VII Area on Aging Board. The Board had no dispute.

Commissioner Whittington then reviewed the list of appointments that needed to be re-appointed before their expired term of 12-31-2009.

DPW – Adolph Presidio and Tom Cummins

Library Board – Barb Lyons

Community Mental Health – Terry Walters

Planning Commission – Frank Grimes and Don Birgel. Robert Whisler has asked to be removed from this committee; interested individuals can contact the Board Secretary.

Zoning Board of Appeals – John Turney and Richard Christie

Veterans – Joe White

Michigan Vietnam Memorial Monument – Tom Alward

D.H.S. – Sue Sprang

MidMichigan Community Action Agency – Kathy Wilton

Solid Waste – Jan Posey, Nancy Buzzel and Linda Ellis

Family Initiative Board – Howard Sweeny, Thomas McLaughlin, Thomas Evans, Lauren Essenbacher, Sue Sprang, and Ollie Todd.

Gladwin County Memorial Restoration – Bob Greaves and Ginny Grant.
EDC – Bill Rhode and Terry Whittington.

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the re-appointments as listed. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Chairman Whittington continued –

On the DNR newsletter available for review. There will be an open house on December 1st from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Gladwin DNR office.

That a **warranty deed** has been drafted for **the sale of County property** to the City of Gladwin. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to allow the Chairman to sign the deed as presented. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

The **MMRMA contract needs to be renewed.** The rates and history report is available for the Board to review. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Chairman to renew the contract as presented. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

The Zoning ordinance updates have been given to Board members for their review.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the Beaverton City meeting on 11-16-09, noting that the tree lighting ceremony will be at 6 p.m. on December 4, 2009 and all are invited to attend. The dam project is progressing, all gates are now installed, and the water will start to fill Ross Lake on or about December 1st.
- The she attended the District Library Board meeting on 11-17-09, noting the following: Progress is going well on the renovation. Barbara Lyons's term on the Board ends 12-09. She would like to continue serving on this Board, and she would urge the Chair to reappoint Barb to the District Library Board. Regretfully, following the Library Rules and Regulations, the Library Board voted unanimously for Dave Schwab to be removed from the Library Board for non-attendance and no contact with anyone for excused absences. Mr. Schwab has attended only 2 meetings since his appointment early this year.
- On attending the **County Parks and Recreation** Committee on 11-19-09, commenting on the following: Nine members were in attendance. The Parks and Recreation Committee would like to have the following clarified in the **Use Lease Agreement** with the Board of Commissioners: 1). Paragraph 2: "lands are approximately **160** acres in area". 2) Item number 3: The small shed currently housing the brush-hog, would be provided for the Trails Association to house the trail groomer. *Motion by Commissioner Smith to adopt the User agreement with the mentioned "technical" changes. Motion supported by Commissioner Reid. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Whittington voting no. The Committee also discussed plans for the future and those committee members responsible for discovering ways to implement those plans volunteered to come*

back with reports for the next meeting. Commissioner Smith then stated that the Parks and Recreation committee will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the MSU office, and that she would like the Board Secretary to include this meeting date and time with the weekly posted meetings that are circulated to the department heads and elected officials.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the MSU meeting in Gaylord on November 12th, noting the following topics were discussed:

In response to budget cuts for 2010 MSU are having meetings throughout Michigan to collect ideas and suggestions from Counties, to help make appropriate measures to continue selected program operations.

There were approximately 20 County Commissioners at the site in Gaylord. Many of them stated they have made deep cuts to their current extension departments, including staffing and had many concerns on how these additional cuts will impact that department.

The current tentative plan is to split upper and Lower Michigan into 9-14 districts. (See attached map) Each district will have a Director to oversee administrative duties and an Educator will oversee individual Counties.

We may need to consider establishing a district Council made up of Commissioners and Community members, a Commissioner and one Community member from each County. Our district with seven Counties, constitutes a fourteen-member board.

Currently the position of Director is funded by MSU. The change of title to educator for Counties will change how this position is paid. It is not completely clear and needs further clarification.

The most significant change will be to focus on four program areas, which will be determined by demographics and will reduce the funding necessary to continue serving each district.

Posting and filing the District Coordinator positions will be done by Feb-March of 2010.

An agreement with County Commissioners is slated for July 2010 at which time the transition is planning to be completed.

To contribute suggestions or make comments: www.angel.msu.edu

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On attending the Sage township meeting on the 12th, commenting that they are working on their budget.
- On the Sherman Township meeting on the 17th, noting that the County Zoning proposal was discussed.
- On attending the Fair Board meeting on the 17th.
- On the Parks and Recreation meeting on the 19th, noting that good things are happening.
- On the loss of two Veterans from Gladwin County. James Wentworth – Grout Township, Vietnam and Walter Colbeck – Tobacco, Korean.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 10th.
- On the Clement Township meeting on the 11th.
- On attending the Butman Township meeting on the 12th.
- On the Gladwin Township meeting on the 18th.
- On attending the Central Michigan District Health Department on the 18th.
- On attending the Building and Grounds meeting on the 19th.

Commissioner Carl then reported that three of his four townships opted into the County Zoning plan, with Clement doing their own zoning. Commissioner Carl then stated that two of his four townships opted into the Uniform Addressing Committee (Clement and Gladwin Township voted down). Commissioner Rhode stated the cost has been reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,500 and there is no deadline to enter at this point. Commissioner Carl then asked if the payment to enter into the Uniform Addressing is a one time fee, and will townships get the software if they have not opted into the GIS program. Commissioner Rhode stated that it is a one time only payment. Gina Conrad stated that all Townships that are part of Uniform Addressing will receive the software regardless of their belonging to GIS.

Commissioner Carl then voiced his concerns on the 211 report and the funding of church and business groups, but not individuals. Commissioner Rhode commented that areas are being corrected and new agencies are being added to assist with individual requests. Discussion. Commissioner Carl commented that without those explanations then the reasons given to the public would seem negative.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Veterans ceremony, noting that there is a traffic issue and that the committee needs to work with the Sheriff's department to have the road closed during the ceremony.
- On the Hay Township meeting on the 12th, noting that they have opted into the County Zoning proposal and that he fielded a lot of questions on the County budget.
- On attending the Airport meeting on the 12th.
- On the Budget meeting on the 13th.
- On attending the Secord township meeting on the 18th, noting that they had lots of questions on the County budget and health care costs.
- On attending the Public Safety, Building and Grounds, and Finance meetings on the 19th.

Public Safety matters: A Township report is being prepared on ORV issues. A purchase request for stop sticks, and grant application were discussed.

Building and Grounds matters: The repair costs for the stairs in MSU were discussed. The committee has recommended to Maintenance that they are water sealed for the winter, and that the \$1,500 for the repairs are not done until they can reassess the situation in the spring. It was also discussed that the parking lot will not be completely sealed in the spring, but that the Maintenance department will be doing crack seal instead.

Commissioner Reid then commented that he attended a service on the 22nd for Community Leaders and Volunteers hosted by the Ministerial Society, noting that it was well attended.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting on the 10th.
- On the EDC meeting held on the 11th, noting that Frank Starkweather gave an updated report.
- On the Finance workshop on the 13th.
- On attending the Gladwin City Counsel meeting on the 16th, noting that he has a December events schedule for those that are interested.
- On the Health and Human Services Board meeting on the 17th, commenting that 211 was discussed.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Board meeting on the 18th.
- On the Finance meeting held on the 19th.
- On attending the Uniform Addressing Committee on the 20th.

On Finance Matters:

1. Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, has requested that the below transfer be done to facilitate a purchase of 6-8 data recorders (approx. \$60.00 each) and bring his supply line out of the red.

101-229-801.001		\$3,000.00
101-229-727.000	\$3,000.00	

*Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the transfer and expense as outlined. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

2. The Undersheriff has requested that the **2010 Training Membership with Kirtland College** be renewed. Total cost of **\$1,625.00** can be paid from 285-000-804.000 if approved. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to renew the membership as requested. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***
3. Sheriff Mike Shea has requested to repair a marine boat before next season. Total cost from Strykers is \$1,195.00 to be paid from left over 2009 marine funds 101-331-932.001. No action taken.
4. The committee has reviewed a request from Laura Flach in regards to her retirees insurance. Mrs. Flach wants to be able to go off the County Insurance at a savings to the County of approximately \$6000/year with the option to come back on the retirees insurance in the event she loses her alternate coverage. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow Mrs. Flach to go off the County's retiree insurance and reenter in the event that she loses her alternate coverage. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***
5. The County Clerk has requested that the retiree insurance coverage for 6 individuals be adjusted to reflect the current contract language. Discussion on 2010 rates. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to allow the adjustment to the county contribution for the 2010 retiree rates. Commissioner Smith stated that as she can sympathize with these individuals, she can't see the County locking themselves into this for more that 2010 and that she would like to see it reviewed again next year. Commissioner Whittington amended his motion to include 2010 costs only. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

Commissioner Rhode then commented that the Judicial Management fund was \$64,173.00 in the red and that an additional appropriation may be needed before month end. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to increase the 231 appropriation by \$30,000. Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, stated that she believes this motion to be premature, noting that there are available funds in the 292 fund and that the Finance committee needs to address this transfer with Mr. Schlese and the Judge. Commissioner Rhode withdrew his motion.

The Board then reviewed the **resolution for appreciation** for Gary Gilbert, MidMichigan Community Action Agency. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to pass the resolution as prepared.* 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, **resolution 2009-036 declared adopted.**

Commissioner Whittington then inquired of the Data committee if they have a handle on the Centrex contract for the telephones, and if they need additional assistance. Commissioner Rhode stated that he has concern of the costs and that he had been in touch with Attorney Jacobson who has concerns. Commissioner Carl commented that if Attorney Jacobson has concerns that he should appear at the next Data meeting so that those concerns can be addressed. Commissioner Posey stated that the Data committee is working on a five year plan and this contract is a part of that. Discussion.

The Board then took a ten minute recess at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting called back to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Whittington.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Chairman Whittington turned the meeting over the Commissioner Rhode to handle the 2010 budget review.

Commissioner Rhode began with the 231 Judicial Management fund, noting that an appropriation from Unallocated in the amount of \$255,954 was used to balance their budget along with the use of the new insurance figures. Discussion of meeting with Dave Tanney and his respective union representatives and the letter of understanding for the new insurance program for 2010. Commissioner Reid stated that he would like to see that the Board agree on this budget today then a letter be sent to the unions to accept the insurance plan with “no strings attached”. Commissioner Whittington stated that Attorney Stoker has informed the union representatives that if there is no cooperation now, then the insurance will have to be dealt with during contract negotiations. Commissioner Carl asked that Attorney Stoker provide the Board with an update.

Commissioner Rhode then reviewed the General Fund revenues and expenditures. Commissioner Smith inquired of the increase to the Computer Software Support line of \$68,330.00. Commissioner Rhode explained that there is a \$50,000 software upgrade that needs to be handled next year for the accounting software and that the funds are

being paid for from the Tax Reversion fund. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode commented that the 371 Construction Codes budget and the 410 Zoning budget are still under discussion based on the response received by the Townships and that after review the Construction Codes department may go to two full time and one part time from three full time clerks. Commissioner Posey asked if the committee was still looking at the \$500.00 budget for each department's travel line. Commissioner Rhode stated that it was budgeted for mileage, but some departments have training costs included in their travel as well. Discussion. Commissioner Reid commented that Veteran burial costs may need to be increased in 2010, noting that expense is difficult to estimate. Comments from Department Heads in attendance. Commissioner Rhode stated that this budget will be presented for adoption contingent on the insurance proposal that has been sent to the unions. ***Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to set a Public hearing to adopt all fund budgets on December 8, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.*** Commissioner Carl asked if the Board needed to wait for union response before adopting the budget. Commissioner Reid noted that this budget is contingent in part of the unions' acceptance of the insurance proposal and would have to be amended in January if they are not willing to participate. Commissioner Posey asked if the appropriation from unallocated to the Judicial Management fund still left the County with their 10% fund balance. Commissioner Rhode stated that it would. Discussion. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Public Comments – None

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

*Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m. until December 8, 2009 at 8:45 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairperson