

## Commissioner's Minutes of March 25, 2008

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

**Agenda-** Frank Starkweather, Bob DUBY and Sandy Walling were added to the agenda. Ron Taylor will be moved from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

The **minutes of March 11, 2008 and March 17, 2008** as well as executive session minutes from both meetings were reviewed.

**Commissioner Rhode** noted that his report regarding the child care funds should include that the fund is *DHS fund 290*.

**Sheriff Shea** asked that the following clarifications be included: On page 2 paragraph 3 that “ *in that a resolution was being done today for action already taken place in December*” be included with his comments, also on page 3 following Commissioner Posey’s comments regarding the law suit that it be included that he “*questioned “where the savings was: which led into discussion of the cars in question being “re-assigned” to other departments and Commissioner Posey noting that there were supposedly 16 cars with only 10 people to drive them*”

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with clarifications as noted. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The **semi-monthly Finance Report** totaling \$ 52,147.05 was then reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Frank Starkweather EDC Director** – brought a brief update on EDC activities and grant applications. Mr. Starkweather also commented on the 2008 CEDS Capital Improvement Plan (project list) needing approval for submission to EDA. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid to approve the list as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**State Representative Tim Moore** came before the Board with a report on current activities in Lansing. Mr. Moore commented on work being done on the State budget and concerns he has with some budget issues. Board members expressed their thanks to Mr. Moore for his representation in Lansing and his cooperation on issues of concern to Gladwin County.

**Linda Kaufman, Executive Director of Central Michigan Community Mental Health**, came before the board with an agency update. Ms. Kaufman reviewed various services offered by the agency and commented on current activities. General discussion.

**Bob Duby Emergency Management Director** came before the Board seeking input – Mr. Duby commented that Sage Twp has been designated as the alternate EDC and reviewed the option of having the alternate EDC site at the County Recreation area. Mr. Duby also spoke on Homeland Security grant dollars – noting that he is seeking grant for a storage facility for Emergency Management. Discussion – these questions will be further addressed in committee.

Mr. Duby then informed the Board of up-coming meetings and training sessions and asked if the Commissioner's Chambers could be used. It was noted that ICS classes were scheduled for April 4, 5 and 12<sup>th</sup>, further ICS classes on April 25 and 26, a weather spotter program is scheduled for April 29 and an exercise scheduled for May 9, 9 a.m-1 p.m. Mr. Duby was advised to check the Board calendar for availability of the Chamber room for those dates.

**Sandy Walling, Zoning Enforcement**, came before the Board with a proposed resolution that would decrease the number of members on the Planning/Zoning Commission from 8 to 7 members. Ms. Walling noted that the Planning/Zoning Commission has approved this action and asks that the Board adopt the resolution to take this action. Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call as follows: Commissioner Walters-yes, Carl-yes, Rhode-yes, Reid-yes, Posey-yes, Hoag-yes and Whittington-yes. Ayes carried, Resolution #2008-13 declared adopted. (Resolution attached)

Mr. Gary Benjamin with the Michigan Health Care Security Ballot Campaign Initiative of 2008, appeared before the Board to explain the proposal that he hopes to get on the 2008 November ballot. Mr. Benjamin commented on dealing with rising health care costs and what the Initiative hopes to accomplish. Comments were had on the number of signatures needed to get the proposal on the ballot, as well as the various groups in support of the initiative. A resolution in support of the Initiative was presented for the Board's consideration. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Carl-yes, Rhode-yes, Reid-yes, Posey-yes, Hoag-yes, Whittington –absent, and Walters-yes. Ayes carried, Resolution #2008-14 declared adopted. (Resolution attached).

*Chairman Whittington was called from the meeting during Mr. Benjamin's presentation and Vice Chairman Rhodes took over conducting of the meeting.*

**Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth Coordinator**, came before the Board with a proposed Data Usage/Sharing Agreements for the Board's consideration. Ms. Conrad explained that these dealt with the use of GIS data by City and Township officials. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adopt the agreements for use as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Ms. Conrad also commented on the remaining townships left to be completed –asking that contracts be authorized for those townships. Ms. Conrad also noted that funding in needed to complete the work for the next two townships. Ms. Conrad is requesting to finish phases 7 & 8 of the GIS project and to have funds to complete the project, is asking that the budgeted Gypsy Moth Indirect Costs be moved to 239-000-810.00 and be used to pay the project costs. Once revenue is collected from GIS sales –that revenue will go back to the Indirect Cost line and paid to the General Fund. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve project funding as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed. (Commissioner Hoag voting no).

Commissioner Reid then moved to approve contracts for Bourret and Sherman Township, and authorize signing by the Chair. Motion supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**Alison Fegan, Child Abuse and Neglect Council**, came before the Board requesting permission to put up flyers and/or posters in the Courthouse lobby for the month of April which has been designated as Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect month. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the request as submitted. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Board then recessed for a short break. Recalled to order by Vice-Chairman Rhode.

**Vice-Chairman Rhode** reported on the resignation of Steve Cameron from the Planning/Zoning committee and noted that after consideration of names submitted - Don Birgel would be appointed to fill that vacancy.

**Commissioner Hoag reported:**

- That on March 17 he had attended the Special Board meeting.
- On the Beaverton City Council meeting of March 17<sup>th</sup>.
- That he attended the March 19<sup>th</sup> County Affairs meeting and discussions had regarding land banks.
- That he had also attended the Dept. Head meeting.

- That he would not be able to attend the 911 meeting scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner Walters reported:**

- That he attended both Sage & Sherman Township meetings and items of discussions there. Noting that several of the officials in Sherman would not be seeking re-election.
- That he had attended the County Affairs meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the March 24<sup>th</sup> finance committee meeting.
- That today he is celebrating his 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Commissioner Posey reported:**

- That she attended the March 15<sup>th</sup> Solid Waste committee meeting.
- That she also attended the March 17<sup>th</sup> Special meeting.
- On the March 18<sup>th</sup> Fair Board meeting and plans for the Fair
- That on March 19<sup>th</sup> she had attended the County Affairs committee meeting and also the Dept. head meeting.

**Commissioner Carl reported:**

- That on March 11<sup>th</sup> he had attended the Bourret Township Board meeting.
- That he had also attended the Clement Township Board meeting.
- On March 13<sup>th</sup> he had attended the Butman Township Board meeting.
- On attending the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Courts.
- That he had attended a meeting with POAM on March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- That he had also attended the Gladwin Township Board Meeting
- On the Building and Grounds committee meeting.

**Commissioner Reid reported:**

- On the last EDC meeting.
- On attending the March 13<sup>th</sup> Airport Commission meeting and projects being addressed at the airport.
- That he had also attended the special meeting of March 17<sup>th</sup> with the Courts
- On attending the March 19<sup>th</sup> Secord Township Board meeting.
- On the Building and Grounds and Public Safety meeting of March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner Rhode reported:**

- That he had attended numerous meetings, including committee meetings, but for the sake of time would not report in depth on them.
- On matters before finance as follow:
  1. That Undersheriff Hartwell has requested that 3 deputies be allowed to attend a “Practical Photograph” class, with the total cost of \$750.00 to be paid from 285-000-804.000 if approved. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve attendance as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
  2. That Undersheriff Hartwell has also requested that 2 deputies be allowed to attend “Homicide Investigation Training, with total cost of \$1100.00 (including lodging and meals) to be paid from 285-000-804.000 if approved. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve attendance as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**Undersheriff Hartwell** then questioned the reassignment of vehicles (cars in contention) and who they were to be “reassigned” to.

*Vice Chairman Rhode explained that the cars were to be reassigned to Zoning Dept. and Construction Codes, in accordance with discussions had at budget time.*

**Undersheriff Hartwell** then questioned where Commissioner Posey received her information, when she stated on March 11 that the Department had 16 cars – noting for the record that they currently have only 13 cars.

Vice Chairman Rhodes commented that since there was nothing further to be addressed the Board should recess until afternoon – noting that Mr. Taylor who was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. would be re-scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

Board then recessed at 10:40 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Board was again called to order by Vice Chairman Rhode at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, moved to go into Executive Session for discussions regarding negotiations with the Courts. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**Vice Chairman Rhode** then noted that Commissioner Walters would be appointed to serve on the Mental Health Board.

Review was then had of the **Animal Control 2007 Yearly Activity Report**. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to accept the report as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Discussion on various issues while awaiting arrival of the Judges, who were scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Discussion was then had regarding lap top computers acquired by Mr. DUBY with Homeland Security funds and what purposes they can be used for. Commissioner Posey noting that perhaps they could be assigned to commissioners for use. Commissioner Walters commented that equipment obtained through Homeland Security is usually designed for specific use – and in this case the computers would be used by EOC personnel. Commissioner Posey then moved that use of the computers be reviewed further, supported by Commissioner Reid. Ayes carried, motion passed.

**Judge Evans, Judge Mienk, Court Administrator Darrel Schlese and Attorney Addis** arrive at 1:50 p.m. and discussions begin.

**Judge Evans** spoke on his understanding of the mediation that took place on March 17<sup>th</sup> and that it had been suggested that a meeting be scheduled with the Board to work through this situation. Judge Evans stated that he really had no new ideas- that the Court has a valid contract and that the union has the option to file suite to enforce the contract.

Judge commented on other County union contract agreements and noted that there is no “tie-bar” between those units and the courts.

**Judge Evans** also commented on the Board’s desire to realize additional revenue from the Courts – noting that both he and Judge Mined have reviewed those concerns and feel that they can be more “pro-active” in collection of moneys owed the court. Since there are now two judges, it is felt that more time can be spent on collection efforts. Judge continued in that the courts intend to work with the defense attorneys – making it clear that the court expects payment on ordered payments – even to the point of collecting a substantial portion of them at sentencing.

Judge concluded by stating that they (the Court) have negotiated a contract with their employees, which is reasonable and necessary, taking into consideration all factors that needed to be taken into account.

**Vice Chair Rhode** then questioned the Judge as to what could be done regarding the health care.

**Judge Evans** replied that the contract allows for two plans – Plan A which is currently in effect with the only change being the employee contribution, and Plan B that can be evoked by the County –that being the HRA PPO 15 plan with reimbursement to employees to PPO II, \$10/20 RX at no cost to employees.

**Vice Chair Rhode** noted that other county employees have the HRA PPO 15 with reimbursement to employees to PPO II, \$10/40 Rx at no cost. Those county employees choosing to be reimbursed to PPO II, \$10/20 Rx have an employee cost, noting that if court employees were the same as county employees there would be an employee cost share of over \$16,000 per year. To give the court employees the better coverage cost free would mean the county would not realize \$16,000 in revenues.

The Courts contention is that the only dollars lost would be in actual reimbursements.

General discussion was then had regarding health insurance costs.

**Mr. Addis, Attorney for the Courts**, advised that the Court is willing to give the Board a Statement of Intent regarding revenues, but it could not contain any definite figures. Mr. Addis further noted that the Judges are willing to make this commitment within the legal limitations of the law.

**Mr. Borushko**, Labor Relations Negotiator for the County, questioned exactly where all stands regarding the health insurance.

**Judge Evans** stated that the contract has two plans already negotiated and he does not see the court employees agreeing to anything else.

Discussion was then had regarding fact that both Clare and Gladwin County court employees are in the same unit –that Clare court employees out-number Gladwin employees and the affect that that has on the whole contract dynamics. (Gladwin employees could agree to something and be out voted by Clare employees)

Discussion was then had on “public perception” of court employees vs. county employees. Several Commissioners noting that they could not justify to their constituents that while being fiscally responsible with the taxpayers’ dollars – they support a court contract which in essence gives court employees over and above what is given to county employees.

**Judge Evans** commented that the public at large is not going to faint over a 1.5 % increase every six months as opposed to a 1.5% a year. Judge continued in stating that the courts can raise revenue and he could guarantee that they can do better than has been done in the past.

On behalf of the County Board, **Mr. Borushko**, then requested that the court unit be split and that there be separate bargaining units for Gladwin and Clare Counties. Discussion.

**Attorney Addis** noted that the matter could be looked into, and he would prepare the Statement of Intent regarding revenues.

**Commissioner Reid** asked if the Statement of Intent, while dealing with revenue increases, could also contain some commitment on the part of the Courts to curtail or limit expenses.

Attorney Addis commented that he felt that would be in order.

### **Meeting with the Judges was concluded at 3:15 p.m.**

Commissioner Walters then moved to receive and file the various reports and correspondence, supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Walters then moved to go into Executive Session for further discussion regarding Court negotiations. Motion supported by Commissioner Reid. Ayes carried, motion passed.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Commissioner Walters then moved to adjourn, supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. until April 8, 2008 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Flach  
Clerk

Bill Rhode  
Vice Chair

County of Gladwin

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT  
OF  
THE MICHIGAN HEALTH CARE SECURITY  
BALLOT CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE OF 2008**

**Resolution #2008-14**

**WHEREAS:** rapidly rising health care costs and lack of access to affordable health care have created a national health care crisis. Reports issued by the Michigan Department of Community Health indicate that 11.4 percent or approximately 1.1 million Michigan residents are uninsured and thousands more are under-insured, lacking sufficient health coverage to care for serious illness or injury; and

**WHEREAS:** 700,000 Michigan residents between the ages of 18 to 64 are uninsured and almost 100,000 children, under the age of 18, are uninsured; and

**WHEREAS:** most of Michigan's uninsured are the working poor. An estimated 60,000 households with a worker eligible for health coverage elects not to take it, 65 percent cannot afford their share of the cost. About 25% of the uninsured are below the 2005 Federal Poverty Level, which means they live on annual incomes of less than \$9,570 for an individual or \$16,090 for a family of three; and

**WHEREAS:** since 2000, premiums for family coverage have increased by 73% while earnings have only increased by 16%. In 2005, Families USA estimated that, in Michigan, the cost of a family policy increases by \$730 and an individual policy by \$274 per year; and

**WHEREAS:** the percentage of employer-based health coverage continues to steadily decline. The loss of manufacturing jobs combined with the sluggish economy and the rising cost of insurance have eroded employer-based coverage in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS:** Michigan's large automotive industry has been devastated by rising health care costs, which added approximately \$1,500 to the cost of each vehicle according to the Michigan Advisory Council for the Planning Project for the uninsured. Michigan companies are not able to compete globally with foreign companies with government-based health care; and

**WHEREAS:** rising health care costs burden local health care systems and threaten the survival of individual providers and hospitals. Families USA reports that \$1.1 billion worth of uncompensated care was provided to Michigan's uninsured in 2005; and

**WHEREAS:** rising health care costs not only jeopardize Michigan's economy but also jeopardize access to and quality of health care for both the insured and uninsured; and

**WHEREAS:** studies show that health insurance coverage is an important element in keeping people healthy. The uninsured receive less preventive care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, receive less care and have higher mortality rates than the insured; and

**WHEREAS:** on January 8, 2008, the Michigan Health Care Security Ballot Campaign was initiated, it would place on the November 2008 ballot a proposal mandating health care coverage for all residents; and

**WHEREAS:** the ballot proposal would amend Article 4, Section 51 of the Michigan constitution of 1963, to read as follows:

The State Legislature shall pass laws to make sure that every Michigan resident has affordable and comprehensive health care coverage through a fair and cost-effective financing system. The Legislature is required to pass a plan that, through public or private measures, controls health care costs and provides for medically necessary preventive, primary, acute and chronic health care needs.

**BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008 urges reform to Michigan's health care system to eliminate the devastating effects of the rising costs of health care, which continues to hinder the growth of Michigan's economy and jeopardizes access to and quality of health care.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners endorses the Michigan Health Care Security Ballot Campaign and encourages all citizens to support the ballot proposal.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Michigan's health care system must be restructured and strengthened to provide adequate and affordable health care to all residents.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:** that copies of this resolution be sent to Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, the Michigan Legislative leadership, State Senator Tony Stamas and State Representative Tim Moore.