

Commissioner's Minutes of June 26, 2007

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday June 26, 2007 in regular session. Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – there were no additions or corrections.

Chairman Whittington stated that on behalf of the Board and their secretary that they would like to express their deepest sympathy and regret to Sheriff Shea and his family on his loss of his father.

The **minutes of the June 12, 2007** meeting were then reviewed. Deputy Clerk Laura Brandon noted that County Clerk, Laura Flach, and Commissioner Carl had amended the last section on page four under Commissioner Carl's report upon his request to read, "That Butman Township is concerned with the costs of the maintenance fee for townships doing their own tax rolls, and would like the Equalization and/or the Finance Committee to revisit these costs." Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approved the minutes with the correction as made. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The **semi-monthly Finance Report** totaling \$40,532.18 was then considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approved for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments: None

Correspondence from the Chair:

Chairman Whittington Reported:

- On a letter received from Justin Eastman, Jail Administrator, regarding his thanks to Rick Ghent for his participation in the additional of the new jail ramp. Mr. Eastman commented that the ramp project is a great addition to the jail that provides a safe visitation entrance and emergency exit for both visitors and inmates.
- On correspondence from Region VII Area Agency on Aging in regards to first and second quarter funding information and the need to resubmit a response to the analysis issues from their letter dated June 13, 2007.
- On correspondence from the Albright Shores Parade Committee providing information on the parade and line up times.

Chairman Whittington continued reporting:

- On correspondence from Bruce King, Executive Director, Region VII Area Agency on Aging regarding the proposed Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2008. The letter noted that action is needed by Board to approve the plan, requesting a letter of support or resolution for the plan.
- On correspondence from Lauren Essenmacher, Director, Region VII Area Agency on Aging regarding Second Quarter Performance Analysis #2.
- On the 2007 MAC Annual Summer Conference Agenda that was provided for review in each Commissioner's Board folder. Chairman Whittington noted that if any Commissioner is interested in attending that they should register with the Board Secretary.
- On the Notice of Grant Awards for additional funding for the FY 2007 from Bruce King, Region VII Area Agency on Aging.
- On the June 19, 2007 letter from ECMPC.

Bev Przystas, MSU Leadership Group, came before the Board with leadership members Karen Blatt and Tom Tucholski. Ms. Przystas reviewed with the Board the activities and accomplishments of the program over the past year with a PowerPoint presentation.

Tom Tucholski handed out brochures and applications for the leadership program for anyone interested in being a part of next year's program.

Karen Blatt commented on the need to continue to work on County Leadership Development and the skills that could be learned. Discussion on blight issues and the continued need to be addressed. Ms. Blatt commented that this is a great community and that we need to "look as good as we feel."

Ms. Przystas commented that the current group is still meeting and working on programs and fund raisers. Ms. Przystas then requested of the Board that the Leadership Fund that has been established as part of the county's budget stay in the county so that the accounting procedures will continue as usual. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to allow the Leadership Fund to remain as established. Ayes carried, motion passed. Ms. Przystas then commented on Fair week and how well it went, noting that 4-H camp is this week. Commissioner Carl asked for attendance figures for the fair. Ms. Przystas noted that it is too early to know that information, but will report back to the Board once she has those figures. Ms. Przystas then thanked Gina Conrad for her help with the Leadership PowerPoint presentation.

Bruce King, Region VII Area Agency on Aging, came before the Board with Zane Rybkowski, Program Manager, and Member Adolph Presidio to present an informational update. Mr. King went over statistics of the 10 counties and the proposed increases for 2008. The My Choice Waiver Program was explained and discussed with the Board. Mr. Rybkowski reviewed the Fiscal Plan breakdown; including the budget for 2008. Discussion. Mr. Rybkowski then requested of the Board a letter of support or resolution supporting the document presented by July 31, 2007. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Hoag to draft a resolution in support. Roll call vote was started then was found that several commissioners would like additional time to review the document before voting in support. Commissioner Carl then rescinded his motion. The Board will take action at their next meeting on the resolution of support.

Chairman Whittington then stated that an Executive Session had been requested by Laura Brandon to discuss a personnel matter. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave to go into executive session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Hoag, supported by Commissioner Reid to returned to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Hoag reported:

- On attending the DPW meeting on the 20th, noting no old business was discussed. New business included discussions with Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, and actions with Lake Board and possible renegotiations on the Lake Appropriations that had been established. Commissioner Hoag noted that he is thoroughly disgusted with this entire matter.
- On attending the Beaverton City Meeting. Matters discussed were the new Alltel tower now in full service, noting service should be better. That a new City Administrator was named - Kerry Posey. It is unknown of the start date of Mr. Posey, noting that he would be a big asset to City. This appointment has left the City without a Police Chief, and the Council will be looking to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Hoag then extended his congratulations to Kerry Posey on his new appointment.

Commissioner Whittington informed the Board that Randy Torronex, Clare County Administrator, would be leaving to accept a new position in Iowa.

Commissioner Hargrave reported:

- On his participation in “Fair Week”, noting that his mornings started at 5 a.m. picking up the donuts for the 4-H stand and preparing the coffee. Commissioner Hargrave commented that the weather was great, and the 4-H programs are a plus for this community and the children involved, noting the Midway seemed to do well while merchant stands looked low in numbers in comparison to past years.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 12th. Issues discussed were blight concerns and high speed internet coverage. Jason Schuster, E-Journey, is looking to put up 3 small antennas in the Pratt Lake, Wiggins Lake, and Contos area, for better high speed coverage.
- On attending the Lake Improvement meeting on the 14th noting there were two issues of concern - weed control and spray.
- On attending the Airport Commission meeting on the 15th. Issues involving equipment were being addressed with the Airport Manager. The committee was given a tour of the runway and the hangers noting that there were cracks in the runway that need to be sealed, and some cement repairs needed in some of the hanger areas.
- On attending the Northern MAC meeting on the 18th. A representative from Wayne County provided a presentation in support of a Tri-County Alliance between Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties for Cobo Hall renovations. It was presented that the renovations be funded through the Convention Facility Tax fund and that Cigarette Tax for the next 8 years be advanced up front to the counties in lieu of a reduction in the Convention Facility Tax to the counties that would be used to fund the renovations. Commissioner Hargrave noted that most of the commissioners that were present from other counties did not seem to be in favor of the proposal and would urge that any commissioner that is able to attend the MAC conference should, as this will be a large topic of discussion. Commissioner Hargrave informed the Board that legislative action is still needed, before these funds can be used toward Cobo Hall renovations and overall it was a very interesting meeting. Another issue that was discussed was the legislation in Lansing that will change the sentencing guidelines and the burden this will create for the County in housing additional inmates. Discussion on treatment facilities and additional cuts that will be made. Commissioner Hargrave noted to the Board that he will be staying on top of these issues and will report back to the Board as these issues develop.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 19th noting no big issues, only some road and blight issues.

Commissioner Hargrave continued reporting:

- On attending the County Affairs meeting also on the 19th.

The committee reviewed a policy to be drafted to allow for the recording of minutes. Recording equipment is an issue, and quotes are being obtained. Concerns addressed were the process of duplicating the tapes and that all public comments will need to be addressed at the microphone rather than from the back of the room.

The committee then addressed the tax bill issue with Marti Miller, and her concern that one of her property tax bills were not received. The committee discussed that penalties and interest were assessed on the parcel and later it was found that wrong a name and address was attached to the parcel and sent to the wrong person. Ms. Miller informed the committee that she feels that this is a county error and she should not be assessed the fees for penalty and interest. Several remedies have been looked at between the County Affairs Committee, Equalization Director, and Treasurer. Commissioner Hargrave noted that he met with the Treasurer yesterday with some remedy. Treasurer Christy VanTiem then addressed the Board regarding her discussion with Stamas office and the opinion granted from Department of Treasury that they support the Treasurer's decision in imposing the fees, but did have sympathy for the property owner. Ms. VanTiem then reviewed the 6% on summer bill paid to township, the summer bill total of \$359.16, the winter bill of \$495.15, the \$34.17 penalty amount, and \$54.50 in interest. Commissioner Posey stated her concern of this discussion being part of minutes and the problem of this becoming a policy, or used to set precedence. Commissioner Reid stated that this tax bill situation has also happened to him. Denise Hall, Equalization Director, informed that Board on how these mistakes happen. Discussion. Commissioner Hoag stated that he agrees with those who are against waiving the interest and penalties, stating that you as a tax payer should know you're your taxes are billed/due. Commissioner Hargrave stated that he sees both sides of the issue, and feels that an error was made at the county level and there is an avenue to remedy that, noting that he does not see that this will set precedence. Commissioner Hargrave continued to state that the county has an obligation to check into errors, and error was made and the attitude is that the taxpayer should know. **Commissioner Hargrave** stated that there is an avenue to say that we can waive that penalty, and would make **motion that the Board waives the penalty of \$34.17 with the interest being the responsibility of the taxpayer.** Motion supported by Commissioner Whittington. Commissioner Carl questioned how many errors similar to this have been found in the past 5 years. Ms. Hall noted that this is not an isolated issue and there is not any avenue that the County can take to resolve the issue. Commissioner Hargrave commented that there is an avenue and that there should be relief given to the taxpayer. Discussion. Commissioner Hoag questioned if there is a responsibility for those statements to be mailed. Ms. VanTiem quoted the statute regarding mailing of tax bills. Roll call vote as follows: Commissioner Carl – no, Commissioner Rhode – yes, Commissioner Reid – no, Commissioner Posey – no, Commissioner Hoag – no, Commissioner Whittington – yes, Commissioner Hargrave – yes. 3- yes, 4- no. **Penalty of \$34.17 will not be waived.**

Commissioner Hargrave continued to report:

- On attending the Public Safety meeting on the 21st regarding the Sheriff Department's request to purchase batons, noting that Commissioner Reid would be addressing that further in his report.
- On attending the Wiggins Lake Board meeting on the 21st regarding weed control. Discussion on the Dam was brought up, but the Board noted that it was not appropriate for that meeting.
- On attending the Finance Committee meeting on the 22nd, noting that Commissioner Rhode would report further on that meeting.
- On attending the Skate Park opening in Gladwin on the 23rd. Commissioner Hargrave noted that it was a great facility and addition to the community and that Beaverton City is looking to do a similar facility and that he has been asked to sit on that committee.
- On attending the Veterans Affairs Committee Meeting on the 25th. Main issue discussed was the need for a flag pole in front of Annex Building. Ginny will check with a couple of business people for a donation. If no donation can be utilized, then the cost should be approximately \$200.00. Other business included: approvals of 9 burials, 1 aid voucher for food, and organizations that are advertising attorney assistance for veterans, noting that these "organizations" could be scams, and that all questions or concerns should be directed to Ginny.

The Board then recessed at 10:35 a.m. for a short break. Recalled to order by Chairman Whittington at 10:44 a.m.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the County Affairs meeting on the 19th that Commissioner Hargrave already commented on.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 12th.
- On attending the Clement Township meeting on the 13th.
- On attending the Butman Township meeting on the 14th, noting that the Board passed a motion to opt out of Equalization maintenance program.
- On House Bill 4780, noting that a discussion meeting was held in Lansing on the 20th and support for the bill is growing.

Commissioner Carl continued reporting:

- On attending the Building and Grounds meeting on the 21st.
- On attending the Personnel Meeting on the 25th.
- On the tour of Chappel Dam with Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, and Commissioner Reid on the 25th.
- On the Council of Local Government meeting on the 25th.
- Commissioner Carl then commented on the need for all commissioners to attend the MAC conference. Discussion of 911 funding and State and County 911 services that are set to sunset at the end of this year. HB 4852 is also a concern to keep funding decisions at the county level. Commissioner Carl then made motion to go on record to support SB 410 and 411 with the Board to send a letter in support. Discussion. Commissioner Reid asked that those items that would require support or decision be brought to the Board with time to review before presented so that he will have time to review and make a decision. Motion supported by Commissioner Hoag. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Hargrave pointed out that these issues will be a big point of discussion at the MAC conference and that the county should make attendance.

Chairmen Whittington then noted that Commissioner Hargrave's two month service is done on the Finance Committee, noting that Commissioner Reid is next in line to serve as a Finance member.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Public Safety meeting on the 21st. The committee reviewed the request to purchase batons from 101-900-9070-301, noting that a \$750.00 donation by Crime Stoppers had been made. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Hoag to allow for the purchase as recommended. Ayes carried, motion passed.
- On the June 13th EDC meeting, noting that he was not able to attend, but Commissioner Whittington sat in for him.
- On attending the June 14th Hay Township meeting, commenting that the township just went through another portion of their blight ordinance and that junk ordinance is so important to the entire county.
- On attending the Secord Township meeting on the 20th.
- On attending the June 21st Public Safety meeting.

Commissioner Reid continued reporting:

- On the June 21st Buildings & Grounds meeting. Topics included: a generator needed for the Courthouse, noting that this may be a possible addition to the 2008 budget. Emergency lighting that has been installed in the Courthouse hallways. HVAC project is still ongoing, and that Bonham's will be finishing the project soon, with some wall repair needed at a small added cost. The Parks & Rec rental fee was discussed and has not been changed in a few years. The committee feels that costs are still being covered by rental fee, and that no increase is needed at this time. Commissioner Reid made motion to leave the rental fees and policy as they currently are in place. Motion supported by Commissioner Carl. Ayes carried, motion passed. (Commissioner Hoag voting no)
- Commissioner Reid then reported on the Wiggins Lake Association matter that was discussed. Commissioner Reid noted that there is a deadline on the DEQ permit and the contractors are out there looking to start. The County's attorney has been asked to expedite this matter so that we do not run into penalties in using the permit. The DEQ permit can be extended once the litigation is not pending. If the permit expires then we need to reapply and pay for an additional permit.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the June 12th Central Michigan Health Department Meeting at 2 pm, then the Housing Commissioner meeting on the same date at 7 pm.
- On attending the June 13th EDC meeting, noting that Commissioner Reid had submitted his resignation as chairman of the committee. The committee postponed any appointment to chair position until next meeting, hoping that Commissioner Reid would be interested in staying on as a committee member.
- On attending the June 18th City Counsel meeting. And the Health Department meeting the same night in Mt. Pleasant. The 3% appropriation increase was discussed along with the concern on the loss of the Convention Facilities Tax.

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting:

- On attending the June 20th Gladwin Township meeting where the house numbering project was questioned.
- On attending the June 21st Michigan Works meeting in West Branch.
- On attending the June 22nd Finance Committee.
- On attending the June 25th Personnel meeting.
- On attending the June 25th COA meeting in the evening.

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting:

– Finance Matters:

1. **Jan Stoike, 911 Ass't Administrator** has requested **that three dispatchers attend an "officer down" training course**. Cost is \$195.00/person plus 1 night lodging with 2 rooms. Cost to come from 282-000-804.001. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid to approve the request as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. **Mike Brubaker, 911 Administrator**, presented a **\$711.32 bill for electrical services for the installation of the new 911 furniture**. Because this project is over \$500.00, a motion for approval is required. Cost to come from line 282-000-933.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to approve the services as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. **Sheriff Shea** has requested permission to enter into **an agreement for summer law enforcement with the Sugar Springs POA**. The Sheriff would like the Board's permission to enter into an agreement with a start and end date of the contract to be determined by the POA. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to allow the Sheriff to enter into the agreement as presented and allow the Chairman to sign the agreement as needed by the Sheriff. Ayes carried, motion passed.
4. Christy VanTiem, **County Treasurer**, has requested **permission to establish the fund 852 (Debt Retirement Fund)** as requested by the Drain Commissioner. Motion to establish Fund 852 as requested by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, motion passed.
5. **Darrell Schlese, Court Administrator**, has asked the **Board for additional appropriations for the 292 Child Care Fund**. At this time the committee is recommending an additional \$80,000.00 be allocated to the fund on an as needed basis. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to allow the additional appropriations as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
6. **Barb Uhl, Judge Mienk's Secretary**, has **requested payment for 5 unused vacation days**. The personnel policy that this employee falls under does not provide for payment of unused time. Since action was taken for Ms. Primeau for the same request, the committee is recommending that this action be allowed with a letter to the Court Administration stating that both employees will not be eligible for payment of unused vacation time at the time of their next anniversary. Motion made by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hoag, to allow for payment with provisions as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed. (Commissioner Whittington voting no)

Commissioner Rhode continued reporting on matters before finance:

7. **Probate Court** is in the need to purchase **500 case binders** for their office. Total cost of \$490.00 plus shipping is over the \$500.00 limit. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow for the purchase from line #101-148-727.000 as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

8. **Gina Conrad** has requested that there be a **budget amendment** made to her department to accommodate the 5 townships still left to be completed for the GIS project. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the below transfer as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

239-00-802.0		\$26,000
239-00-810.0	\$26,000	

9. **Bev Przystas, MSU**, has requested to attend her National 4-H conference in Atlanta, GA. Registration cost is \$410.00 to be paid from 101-257-860.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the request. Ayes carried, motion passed.

10. The **MAC Conference is August 20-21** at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. The committee is recommending that the Board make motion to allow any commissioners, and the Financial Coordinator, the option to attend with costs to be paid from 101-101-860.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow those interested to attend. Ayes carried, motion passed.

11. The **3rd quarter appropriation from unallocated** needs to be transferred one week early. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the early transfer as requested.

Public Comments: none

Commissioner Carl then made motion to receive and file various correspondence and reports. Motion supported by Commissioner Rhode. Ayes carried, motion passed

Commissioner Hoag moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reid. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m. until July 10, 2007 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon
Chief Deputy Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman