

Commissioner Minutes of January 27, 2009

Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

The Regular Board minutes of January 13, 2009 were then considered. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Walters, to accept the minutes as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance Report totaling \$49,978.76 was considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments:

None at this time.

Correspondence from the Chair:

Letter from Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth. The County's Application has been approved and effective February 2, 2009, Gladwin County will become responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Michigan Mechanical and Plumbing Codes within the County.

Memo-Debbie Stabenow

Letter from Jerry R. Hubbard/Branch County Commissioner, asking for Board's support to be elected, to the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Board of Directors.

Letter from Denise Hall/Equalization Department, regarding the .10 cent increase per/parcel maintenance fees.

RETAF-Commissioner Reid will discuss later in the meeting.

Commissioner Whittington received a request from Shelterhouse to place a tree w/ribbons in the lobby of the Courthouse during the month of April, to create an awareness of Child Abuse. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow Shelterhouse to place a tree in the lobby. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Whittington mentioned the Court of Appeals decision regarding the Wiggins Lake matter. Discussion. Drain Commissioner, Sherry Augustine commented that Wiggins Lake POA can ask the Appellate Court to reconsider. Tim Moore's office has contacted us regarding stimulus money and Sherry has sent the information back to his office. DEQ permit for Chappel Dam/Wiggins Lake is still in effect.

Commissioner Whittington, on the various law suits involving the County.

Public Comments-

Kevin Courtney, Crouch Communications, came before the Board and presented the FCC Narrow-Banding Mandate. He provided each of the Commissioners with a spiral bound copy of his presentation. Mr. Courtney explained Narrow-banding, VHF & UHF radio systems traditionally operate on channel bandwidths of 25 kHz. Radio systems in these frequency bands MUST change to 12.5kHz bandwidth. The intent of the FCC is to migrate to 6.25kHz bandwidth systems eventually. Analog or Digital modulation will be permitted. He explained some common myths, such as licensees must implement digital equipment, licensees will end up with twice as many channels, and that Narrow-banding is the same as re-banding. Benefits were listed as; Narrow-banding should reduce congestion in the highly populated VHF & UHF bands eventually, and provide manufacturers with the opportunity to develop new technologies that are less susceptible to interference.

He cautioned that Narrow-banding is NOT an option. There may be interference as new frequencies are granted by the FCC. He stated the transition may be gradual. Current radios will work and can be reprogrammed. He also issued a warning to beware of purchasing used equipment, E-Bay is a hot place for used radios, he cautioned these radios might not be capable of programming-doesn't recommend. Mr. Courtney then discussed timelines; January 1, 2011 no new or modification 25kHz applications will be accepted by FCC. January 1, 2013 all existing radio systems MUST be 12.5kHz compliant.

He went on to cover efficiency standards, exceptions and equipment requirements for manufacturers. In planning for Narrow-banding, we need to plan ahead and discuss how to conduct the transition. Nothing needs to be done today, existing radio systems can be used until January 1, 2013. Some issues to consider; there may be interference on our existing wide-band channels when used next to a new narrow-band channel, the 2011 deadline significance, after January 1, 2011 "Dual-Mode" equipment can not be used, establish a timetable, give some thought to what we would like this system to look like when its done. Mr. Courtney noted, that after installation of the system some areas have seen a 10% decrease in fuel usage, because dispatchers know where their cars are. In conclusion, Mr. Courtney stated that he will be glad to help in any way he can. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington thanked Mr. Courtney for his presentation.

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, discussed the Economic Gardening Project; he has been negotiating with the Center for Business and Economic Development at SVSU, to be included in a new round of pilot projects for the State of Michigan. We have been included as applicants in this new round of pilot projects. On February 10th, Mr. Starkweather will present to the Board for their consideration all the appropriate resolutions authorizing the application to the USDA, the signatories, and a letter of support to accompany the application.

Recess - 9:55 a.m.

Back in Session - 10:06 a.m.

Mike Hargrave, Gladwin Airport Manager, provided the Board with a 2008 Review of the Gladwin/Zettel Airport. During 2008 there were a total of 485 planes to use the airport, 416-pleasure, 48-business, 3-medical, 6-military and 12-DNR. Twenty-one airplanes are based at the Gladwin Airport, including three twin engine aircrafts. Maintenance performed in 2008; repaired and painted segmented circle, repaired airport hangar, new aluminum eaves, painted the building, repairs to terminal building including doors and new windows. Mr. Hargrave then presented New Projects and Repairs scheduled for 2009. New projects include; new fuel farm (approved funding), three tanks-Jet/100LL/Mogas (Auto fuel), ten thousand gallon jet and 100LL, Five thousand gallon Mogas, credit card terminal for 24/7 operation, runway and taxi way cracked sealing, and runway and taxi way marker and striping painting (funding has been approved for both projects). Proposals presented; extending runway 9-27 to the east 400 ft., current length is 4700 ft. and a proposed extension of 400 ft. would provide 5100 ft. for jet operations. Mr. Hargrave also stated Flight Training and Plane Rental are available; they have a Cessna C-150 two seat plane. There are currently two student pilots. Gladwin/Zettel Airport also offers airplane rides year round. Summer rides available in a 1940 WWII Navy Trainer open cockpit Bi-Plane. Rental Fee for 1969 Cessna 150 is \$75.00 per/hr, fuel included and instruction fees are \$40.00 per/hr. Mr. Hargrave noted the City of Beaverton donated a car for the airport to use as a courtesy car. He thanked the City of Beaverton, the car is greatly appreciated. Some upcoming events are; the Pancake Breakfast/Summer and an Air Show. Mr. Hargrave commented they are keeping up with snow removal. The City has removed snow on two occasions. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington thanked the airport staff for doing a good job.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Walters reported:

On attending a Public Safety meeting on the 15th.

On attending the Sage Township meeting on January 15th, concerned about money.

On attending the Fair Board meeting the 17th also concerned about money.

On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 20th they discussed State Land being sprayed/talked with Gina. Also discussed one tax statement to save money/talked with Denise.

On attending County Affairs meeting on the 21st.

Fred Cline appointed as Korean War representative.

Letter to Mr. Ford.

Joe White who sits on the Veterans Board is in the VA Hospital, doing OK.

Certificate of Appreciation to Bill Babcock, for setting up a collection program for Veteran donations. Commissioner Reid commented that Mr. Babcock lost his garage in a fire.

Commissioner Smith reported:

Issued an apology for not attending the County Affairs meeting, she wasn't aware she had been placed on the committee. Appreciated Commissioner Posey calling her. Won't miss again.

On attending the kickoff for the PACE Program on the 22nd, lots of people there, this is a good program.

On attending the Investiture for Josh Farrell on the 26th, very impressive.

Commissioner Carl reported:

On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 13th.

On attending the Clement Township meeting on the 14th.

On attending Michigan Works meeting in West Branch on the 15th.

On attending a personnel meeting on the 16th.

On attending the Gladwin Township meeting on the 21st.

Also attended the Investiture for Josh Farrell on the 26th, good event.

Commissioner Carl stated he did not receive the last minutes, January 13th by e-mail. Therefore, he did have a correction to the minutes, this will be corrected.

Commissioner Posey reported:

On attending a County Affairs meeting on the 21st, issue of time clocks discussed no decision at this time. Sent back to committee. Commissioner Reid commented he would like to see accountability by the Department Heads.

On attending with Commissioner Reid, the Mid Michigan Community Action Agency meeting on the 22nd.

On attending the Investiture for Josh Farrell on the 26th, Kurt Hansen kept everyone laughing.

On attending the Master Gardner's meeting on the 26th.

Commissioner Reid reported:

On Public Safety-concerns regarding ORV Ordinance, need to work something out, if we don't adopt our own ordinance, we will have to go with the State Ordinance. There will be a meeting on February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. between the Commissioners and the Township Officials. On March 10, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., there will be a public meeting held in the Commissioners Chambers.

RETAF-had some trouble contacting them, was hoping to have some estimates ready. Noted that someone from RETAF would be contacting Rick regarding this building. We've had some problems with the furnace at the recreation hall and the

boiler here. The day the boiler went out the State came to do their inspection. I would like to see RETAF come in here, make their assessments and possibly be eligible for funds to make some improvements. Commissioner Smith inquired if we have a date for them to come in? No date at this time. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to sign the Legal Release Form and Assessment Checklist. Ayes carried, motion passed.

On attending the Finance meeting on the 26th.

On possible use by the County of the building located on Weber Road and Industrial Drive (Gladwin Manufacturing) for storage. Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, commented the \$170,000 needed to pay off the taxes due on the building, are available in the Tax Reversion Fund. Christy VanTiem, stated there are MSHDA grants available to help with remodification of existing buildings. Bob Duby, Emergency Management, agreed there are grants and he would check into them and get back with the Board. Commissioner Whittington commented this may be the answer to some of the problems we have been dealing with for years. Commissioner Posey questioned if the money would be transferred from the Tax Reversion Fund to the General Fund? Christy will take this matter to the Land Bank Committee.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

On attending EDC meeting on the 14th.

On attending the Uniform Addressing meeting on the 15th.

On filling in for the Chairman, at the Public Safety meeting on the 15th.

On attending the Personnel meeting on the 16th.

On attending the City Council meeting on the 19th, discussion on blacktopping the parking lot at the corner of Grout and Arcade.

Commissioner Rhode stated the Gladwin County Fair will be held June 22-27 and Carriage Days will be August 7, 8 & 9th.

On attending the Human Services meeting on the 20th, donations are coming in and are actually more than normal.

On attending the Central Michigan District Health meeting on the 22nd.

On the Finance meeting on the 23rd.

On attending the MAC meeting on the 26th.

Discussed Sheriff's request for 4th Sergeant Position.

Discussed letter received from Kimberly Donn requesting permission to accept a part-time position (less than 10 hrs per/wk) as the Sage Township Zoning Administrator. Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow Kimberly Donn to accept the position. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Finance Matters/Commissioner Rhode:

#1- Ron Taylor, Animal Control requested payment for 35 hours of unused vacation time, total cost \$698.25. Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow Mr. Taylor payment of unused vacation time. Ayes carried, motion passed.

#2 – Proposal for part-time wages for the Electrical Inspector and Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector for the Construction Codes Department. Discussion. Justin Schneider, Construction Codes, stated that Jerry Wells will not be retired until March 31, 2009; Electrical Inspector is on hold for now. Commissioner Smith asked if the proposal now, was for the Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector only? Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve wages for part-time Mechanical/Plumbing Inspector. Ayes carried, motion passed.

#3 – Sheriff Shea requested a line item transfer to accommodate a 4th Sergeant Position. Discussion. Transfer amount would be \$73,000.00 to accommodate the 4th Sergeant position. Commissioner Smith moved to let Sheriff Shea run his department without additional personnel. Motion died for lack of support. Discussion continued. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to send matter back to committee. Commissioner Whittington stated this would be the Public Safety Committee. Ayes carried, motion passed, with Commissioner Smith voting no.

#4 – Contract with Cellular One needs to be converted to AT&T. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to convert from Cellular One to AT&T. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Board Comments:

Addressing the Retro payment issue/Sheriff Dept.. Commissioner Rhode stated it has to be worked out. Commissioner Reid moved to pay retro. Motion failed due to lack of support.

Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Smith, to re-appoint Cynthia Kushner to the Community Mental Health of Central Michigan Board, starting April 1, 2009, for a three-year term. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, came before the Board with a continued request to allow them to begin phase 8 for Sage Township. There are 2,309 parcels and the cost will be just under \$5,000.00. Township portion would be \$1.00 per/parcel. Sage Township has not voted on this at this time, vote will be in February. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow Gypsy Moth to begin phase 8 Sage Township. Ayes carried, motion passed.

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

Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m., until February 10, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.

Cheryl Edgar
Chief Deputy Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman