

## Commissioner Minutes of October 27, 2009

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session October 27, 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, except Commissioner Smith who had been excused.*

**Agenda** – *there were no corrections or additions.*

The **Regular minutes of October 13, 2009** were then considered. The Clerk noted that there had been additions to the minutes and one correction. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, 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 - \$731,989.47 231 Fund - \$11,601.08. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the Treasurer to transfer funds to the 231 fund at the end of the month if needed. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$105,460.60** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

### **Public Comments –**

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, commented on the tax sale held on Saturday, noting that there were 38 properties up for sale and all of them were sold.

Bev Przystas gave an MSU update, noting that she would continue to pass on information as it became available.

### **Resolutions for Consideration:**

The Board then reviewed the **Resolution to Set Millage Rates**. Commissioner Walters commented on the ad that was put in the paper and the concern from his townships that it sounded like an increase to the tax. Denise Hall, Equalization Director, stated that the ad was only a required public notice, that there were no millage rate increases and that the levy was the same as 2009 rates. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Walters, to adopt the Resolution of Gladwin County to Set Millage Rates. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, resolution 2009-030 declared adopted.*

The two **Resolutions supporting MSU** were then reviewed by the Board. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to consider the Resolution for County Commissioners Urging the Legislature to override the line-item veto of MSUE and MAES funding. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, resolution 2009-031 declared adopted. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to consider the Resolution for County Commissioners*

*Opposing a veto of MSUE and MAES funding from the State.* Roll call vote as follows: Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 excused, **resolution 2009-032 declared adopted.**

Commissioner Reid then presented the **Multiple-County Buying Agreement for Lights through MCOG.** *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to adopt the agreement resolution as presented.* Roll call vote as follows: Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **resolution 2009-033 declared adopted.**

Chairman Whittington asked that the Board review the information on the **Grant for the Stop Sticks for the Sheriff's Department.** Commissioner Walters questioned the purchase of stop sticks from Crime Stoppers. Undersheriff Hartwell commented that the total cost is \$4,219.00 with 50% paid by MMRMA and the balance to be paid for by the County. Undersheriff Hartwell stated that any contribution by Crime Stoppers can be put toward the County's portion. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign the grant application upon presentment.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to go into Public Hearing for the purpose of Truth in Taxation.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Denise Hall, Equalization Director, informed the Board that this hearing is only a formality for the purpose of Truth in Taxation and to inform the public of what is to be levied for the upcoming tax year. Chairman Whittington asked if there were any comments. John Turney asked if the increase of taxes were to be used for Elected Officials and Commissioner raises. Commissioner Rhode stated that there is not a tax increase, and that a percentage of the revenue (taxes) is used each year to fund the General Fund expenses. Jean Taylor commented on the raise in taxes, noting that there were no increases given to the retirees this year. Ms. Hall again commented that there was not an increase and that the taxes are being levied at the same rate as 2009. Bonnie House, Register of Deeds, commented that she is offended that anyone would think that the Elected Officials are not deserving of a raise, noting that all employees got a 2% raise this year and extra days off while the Elected Officials had not received a raise in three years. Ms. House commented that no one should have received a raise, but the Elected Officials should not have been singled out. Stanley Kueber commented on the schools budget and the need to lower taxes so that residents can "survive", noting that the County can't continue at this rate. Chairman Whittington asked if there were any further questions. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to return to regular session.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

## **Regular Session**

Denise Hall, Equalization Director, reviewed with the Board the 2009 Apportionment Report. Commissioner Posey commented that the value of your home can decrease, but the tax value can increase, noting that she has had her home on the market for a year and even with lowering the sale price it still has not been sold. Ms. Hall commented on the

effects of the Consumer Price Index. Discussion. The Board thanked Ms. Hall for her time.

Leo Gary, Emergency Management, came before the Board with an update on the office and what he has been involved with since taking over for Mr. Duby. The Board thanked Mr. Gary for the update.

Chairman Whittington then recognized Ann Manning and asked if she would like to address the Board. Ms. Manning stated that she is enjoying her job as the new Chief Deputy Register of Deeds and is happy to be working for the County.

### **Committee Reports-**

#### **Commissioner Posey reported:**

- On attending the Insurance Meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On the Zoning meeting with the Townships also on the 21<sup>st</sup>, noting that it was very interesting.
- On attending the Council of Local Government Harvest Supper on the 26<sup>th</sup>, commenting that she fielded questions regarding Zoning, Uniform Addressing, and Parks and Recreation. There was also a presentation from Gladwin City on Hazardous Waste.

#### **Commissioner Walters reported:**

- On attending the Veterans meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>, noting that they are finding that more Veterans need assistance this year with heating and electric costs.
- On the Sage Township meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and questions over a letter received from Equalization and an additional \$900.00 on their 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter billing. Denise Hall explained that the Board of Commissioners increased the fees that her office could bill to the Townships last year, noting that it was a clerical error by her office that failed to increase the 2009 fee for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters. Ms. Hall also stated that she has spoken to almost every Township since that letter was sent out and they are now all in understanding.
- On the Parks and Recreation meeting/potluck held on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion of the Trail Association taking over the maintenance of the grounds and would like a contract drafted. An agreement would need to be drafted so that the County would still be able to rent the lodge, but also so that the Association could potentially write grants for ground improvements. Commissioner Carl asked if Commissioner Walters was seeking action today on this matter. Commissioner Walters stated that he would like to continue review of this matter so that the Board could accept it at a later meeting. Commissioner Walters noted that Sharron Smith was appointed Chairperson, Kelly Gower appointed Vice-Chair, and Joanne Varner was appointed Secretary. Bev Przystas stated that she would like the Parks and Recreation committee to be the voice of the Trail Association and report back to the Board for permission to follow through on projects.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, commenting that they also had comments on the Equalization billing and Tax notice.

- On the Fair Board meeting also on the 20<sup>th</sup>, noting that they have appointed Ron Morley as President, Kevin Cameron as Vice President, Joanne Varner as Secretary, and Kristie Simerau as Treasurer.
- On attending the Finance meeting regarding Zoning with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- That he will attending the Mental Health meeting in Mt. Pleasant this evening.

**Commissioner Carl reported:**

- On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Clement Township meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Building and Grounds meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Personnel Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Finance meeting regarding Zoning with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On the Gladwin Township meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Department meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with Commissioner Rhode.
- That Townships had issues with the Equalization billings.

**Commissioner Reid reported:**

- On the EDC meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Public Safety and Building and Grounds meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Finance meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Finance meeting regarding Zoning with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On the Finance meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- On working with the State of Michigan on the Block Grant, noting that the County Co-op is working on a lighting update including fixtures and labor.
- On the proposal from the last meeting **with “Off Road Adventure” to share GIS information.** Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow Gina Conrad to share the ORV Map file with the State of Michigan that contains an update to all of the County Roads.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

**Commissioner Rhode reported:**

- On attending the Central Michigan Health Finance meeting in Mt. Pleasant on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- On the EDC meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> where the **EDC by-laws** were accepted by the Board. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the EDC by-laws as have been approved by the EDC Board.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- On attending the Michigan Works meeting in West Branch on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Uniform Addressing Committee meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>, noting that they are asking for input from the Townships and waiting for a response of interest.
- On the meeting with Union representatives on the 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the change in deductible for the 2010 insurance plans.
- On attending the Housing Commission meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

- On the MAC meeting in Gaylord on the 19<sup>th</sup>, noting that they received a tour of the training center.
- On attending the Health and Human Services meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, stating that each Commissioner received a red ribbon to wear to support a drug free community.
- On the Personnel meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>
- On the Insurance meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On attending the Zoning meeting with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>, noting a good turnout of Township representatives. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the Zoning agreement and present to the Townships for their consideration by December 1, 2009.* Commissioner Carl stated that he believes that this matter is still in the air and that he believes that the County should continue to fund Zoning for 2010 for the ten Townships that are currently part of County Zoning. Commissioner Whittington commented that Zoning could be funded by the County for 2010, but another area of the budget would have to be cut. Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Posey –no, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes, Walters – no, Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes. 3 yes, 3 no, 1 excused. **Tie vote, motion fails.**
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### ***Finance Matters –***

1. The **City of Gladwin has agreed to purchase the parcel next to Glen’s for the price of \$10,000.00.** There needs to be a motion by the Board to allow for the sale of the property and allow the Treasurer to deposit the funds into line item 101-000-673.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to sell the property at the offered amount.* Commissioner Carl questioned how many bids we received on the parcel, and if it was “ok” that the parcel was not published for sale. Commissioner Reid noted that the Maintenance Supervisor handled the transaction with the City and reported back to the Building and Grounds committee. Commissioner Carl then asked if it is the policy of the County not to list parcels for sale. Discussion. Roll call vote as follows: Smith – excused, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes, Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – no. 4 yes, 2 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
2. The **2010 proposed Animal Shelter fee schedule was reviewed.** *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl to accept these fees effective 1-1-2010, with the exception of the dog license fees to begin 11-1-09.* Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, stated that she has already begun selling licenses for next year, and that she handles the majority of the sales. Mrs. VanTiem commented that she was upset that she was not included in the discussion to raise the dog license fees, as she believes the residents of the County need to be given a break. Commissioner Reid noted that the Budget committee spoke with Mr. Taylor on his proposal and it did not occur to speak with her at the time. Discussion. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Posey voting no.
3. Susan Walker, Sheriff’s Secretary, has asked that the below transfer be done to reimburse the General Fund for Jail/Corrections overtime. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the transfer as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

From	264-000-804.000	\$703.69
To	101-351-704.000	\$653.68
	101-351-720.000	\$ 50.01

5. Bob Frei, IT Director, had ordered **two new computers for the Clerk’s Office.** The Clerk will pay for them from her equipment line 101-215-933.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode,*

*supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the purchase as requested. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

6. The **2010 Salary Schedule** needs to be adopted. Discussion of the wage listed for the Chief Deputy Register and the Commissioner Per Diems. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the Salary Schedule as presented with the Commissioner Per Diems to read \$25.00 per meeting. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Posey voting no.*

7. The plates for the Sheriff, Undersheriff, and Detective's cars have been renewed. Informational purposes only.

***Public Comments:***

Bob Frei, IT Director, commented on the internet update that had been done over the weekend and the purchase of the two new computers for the Clerk's Office.

Commissioner Reid made a comment that working on the Budget and Finance committee is never easy work, and that the committee has had their work cut out for them. The committee has shave 2 million off the budget in the past three years and has dealt with lower revenues. Commissioner Reid further commented that he understands that each Commissioner has certain items that are important to their district, but he would like input on what each Commissioner would like to see done with this budget. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Posey, to continue to fund the County Zoning department for the 10 participating Townships for the 2010 budget year. Roll call vote as follows: Whittington – no, Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – no, Reid – no, Posey – yes, Smith – excused. 3 yes, 3 no, 1 excused. **Tie vote, motion fails.***

Commissioner Whittington stated that Commissioner Reid will stay on the Finance committee through year end to finish the Budget process.

Kelly Gower commented on the need for County Zoning.

Walt Hart, Sherman Township, asked that the Board make a decision so that the Townships can be afforded the time to put Zoning in place. Mr. Hart discussed his concern over loss of Township revenue.

Commissioner Carl noted that his motion to fund Zoning failed due a tie vote, but would have been resolved one way or the other if Commissioner Smith would have been present. Commissioner Carl suggested that the Board schedule a workshop for the purpose of Zoning so that the matter can be put behind them. Commissioner Reid stated that the committee met with the Townships to understand what they want, and an agreement has been drafted accordingly. Discussion.

The Board then took a 15 minute recess so that they can go into a workshop on the Zoning budget for 2010.

Chairman Whittington called the meeting back to order at 10:45 a.m.

Commissioner Posey discussed the proposal to combine the Zoning and Construction Codes offices, noting that is shows effort on the County to save money and savings to the

Townships. Commissioner Reid then reviewed the cost saving sheet that was provided to the Board with the Zoning Agreement. Commissioner Carl asked if the committee has reviewed the costs for the following years. Copies were provided to members of the audience. Sandra Walling, Zoning Administrator, asked the Board that in future meetings where her office is being discussed, that she would like to be included. Mrs. Walling further stated that she knew nothing about the combination of the offices until the meeting with the Townships on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Reid commented that the combination of the offices came as a “brainstorm” on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and that it is an affordable plan for the County and the Townships. Commissioner Walters stated that Mrs. Walling should have been kept more in the loop. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Carl, to accept the Zoning Agreement with the proposal to combine the two offices as reflected in the proposal found on the second page of the agreement, and further that the Townships be sent the Agreement with a detailed cover letter explaining the process due back to the County by December 1, 2009.* Sandra Walling stated that the County needs to give the option to the Townships to provide independent Zoning service without the combination of the offices. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – yes. 6 yes, 0 no, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

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

Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, came before the Board and gave them an update on the progress of Chappel Dam, noting that issues have “popped up”, but at no additional costs to the taxpayers.

Bev Przystas, MSU, invited the Board members to attend the 4-H awards reception at the Knights of Columbus on November 1, 2009 at 1:30.

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

Laura Brandon-Maveal  
Clerk

Terry Whittington  
Chairperson