

Commissioner Minutes of August 28, 2007

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 28, 2007. 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 – there were no additions or deletions.

The minutes of August 14, 2007 were then considered. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The semi-monthly Finance Report totaling \$84,344.70 was then presented for review. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to pay the bills as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Comments – none

Karen Eighmy, Friends of the Library, commented to the Board that she felt the Carriage Festival was a great success, noting that proceeds from the quilt sale were \$1,810.00.

Chairman Whittington reported:

The Gift of Life program information has been sent to the Medical Examiner for review.

On the Notice of Public Hearings for the Gladwin City tax abatements.

On correspondence received from Daniel Laur on a zoning issue.

On information received from the American Red Cross regarding their Homelessness Program.

On a letter received from the Gladwin County Soil & Conservation District regarding funding assistance. Pictures were circulated to the Board members to review projects completed by the Conservation District.

On correspondence received from Attorney Kaltenbach on the current Chappel Dam Project Litigation.

Committee Reports

Commissioner Hoag reported:

On attending Public Safety on 23rd

Commissioner Posey reported:

That she had no report to give at this time as she has had no committee meetings in the past two weeks.

Commissioner Hargrave reported:

On attending the Sherman Township meeting, noting discussions of concerns on ongoing junk and blight issues.

That the airport meeting had been adjourned and rescheduled for tomorrow. Topics that have been continued to be discussed are budget and tractor issues, noting that no fuel has been sold in the past several weeks.

On attending the Council of Local Government meeting, noting that it was a good meeting and well attended.

On attending the Carriage Festival and his thoughts that it went very well, those there seemed to be enjoying themselves and attendance was good.

Bill Knight, Gladwin City – County Transit, came before the Board with two project authorization contracts for review and approval. Discussion of each project and the use for the funding. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to sign the two contracts as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Hargrave – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Resolutions 2007-017 and 2007-018 adopted. Mr. Knight then commented on the Busses that were involved in the Carriage Festival that transported citizens from the Beaverton Manor at no cost so that they could enjoy the festival. Commissioner Hargrave commented on the appreciation he had heard from those that were able to use the service.

Commissioner Carl reported:

On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 14th

On attending the Gladwin Township meeting on the 22nd.

On attending the MAC conference, noting that he attended classes on 911 funding and felt that the Board had made a right decision in drafting and sending a resolution in support. Commissioner Carl commented on other program literature that he brought back for the Board to review.

On attending the addressing committee on the 24th, noting that the committee is doing a great job and are impressed with how far they have come and what they are accomplishing.

On attending the Council of Local Government meeting yesterday with Commissioners Hargrave and Posey. Items discussed included the elimination of state funding for the Gladwin Soil Conservation District. The Board reviewed a resolution that had been proposed to the Finance committee in support of funding to be sent to the State. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to adopt the resolution as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Hoag – yes, Whittington –yes, Hargrave – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Resolution 2007-019 adopted.

Commissioner Whittington commented that the Board gave authorization for Bob Duby and Terry Walters to attend their annual conference. Mr. Duby has notified Commissioner Whittington that Homeland Security is going to pick up the costs for the conference.

Commissioner Hargrave commented on the importance of the Soil Conservation District and the need for their programs, urging the budget committee to look into the possibility of funding in 2008 so the benefits of this program are not lost to the community.

Commissioner Reid reported:

On his thoughts of the Soil Erosion program, stating that the State and County budgets are both a concern, noting that as difficult as it is that we may not be able to contribute to the Soil Erosion program we have to be responsible with our own funding.

On attending the Hay Township meeting on the 23rd, noting that they are trying to adopt a blight ordinance.

On attending the Secord Township meeting, noting areas of concerns from the residents on the personal use of county vehicles.

On attending the Building & Grounds and Public Safety meeting.

Buildings & Grounds:

Employee concerns with smoking by county entrances. Now that the Courthouse is restricted to entering through the back entrance only, there are health concerns that have been expressed by several employees. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, that there will be no smoking within 25 feet of all entrances and exits of all county buildings. Commissioner Carl clarified that if it was in fact 25 ft from all entrances that a designated smoking area needs to be created for each building. Discussion. Ayes carried, motion passed.

On the Prosecuting Attorney's request for office remodeling. Discussion of installing a "dutch door" with a window and speaker. Motion by Commissioner Reid to authorize spending \$805.00 for the door plus the cost of the buzzer. Motion by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Public Safety meeting – The FOC patrol vehicle will be having the windshield replaced.

On attending the Finance Committee meeting on the 24th.

On attending the Carriage Festival on the 25th, noting he was pleased with the outcome and hopes that it continues to grow as it is good for the county.

Chairman Whittington then inquired of Drain Commissioner, Sherry Augustine, if anything new had come about on the Chappel Dam issue. Ms. Augustine noted the last day to file an appeal is tomorrow, stating that she would notify the Board if anything arose.

Commissioner Carl commented that he has also received concerns of use of county vehicles for personnel use.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

On the Carriage Festival, commenting on the art exhibit and the beautiful work by local artists. Commissioner Rhode also commented on the beer tent, the music by the Gladwin Jazz Band, and hours spent dancing.

On the budget review with Mr. Borushko on the 15th.

On attending the Michigan Works meeting on the 16th.

On attending the City Council meeting on the 20th.

On attending the Fair meeting and Sports Complex meeting on the 21st.

On attending the Health Department meeting in Mt Pleasant on the 22nd.

On attending the Finance meeting on the 24th.

Commented that the Board has been able to appropriate funding to Soil Conservation in past years, noting that it may not be possible this year as the budget is looking to be very tight.

Met with Denise Hall and Gina Conrad on the Equalization maintenance contracts for each township. Commissioner Rhode commented that Butman Township has chosen not to participate into the parcel maintenance, noting that there are considerable savings now to opt into the program with costs being considerably higher after the county finishes the initial project.

On attending the house numbering meeting on the afternoon of the 24th. Commissioner Rhode commented that there is good progress and that information is all going together on one map.

Finance matters:

Undersheriff Hartwell has requested that Sgt. Cuddie be allowed to attend a "Firearms Proficiency" workshop at Camp Grayling September 19-21, 2007. Cost of \$100.00 to be paid from 101-301-804.000 if approved. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl to approve the training as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Ginny Grant, Veterans Affairs, has requested permission to attend her fall conference September 26-28, 2007 at Shanty Creek. Registration fee is \$50.00 and lodging costs are \$137.80. Total cost of \$187.80 to be paid from 101-682-860.000 if approved. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Hargrave, to approve the request as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

The Finance committee has discussed the potential savings of parking all county issued vehicles driven for personal use to and from work with the exception of the County Sheriff. It is the recommendation of the committee to implement this effective October 15, 2007. Commissioner Rhode commented on the budget problems for next year, and that the need to start somewhere, noting that this would be a good savings to the county. Commissioner Reid commented on the ongoing budget process and the 4% difference between revenues and expenses, noting that preservation of county jobs and issues of concern from citizens at township meetings is why he is in support. Very important decisions need to be made quickly in order to balance budget. Commissioner Rhode commented on the increase to insurance costs and the need to get employees interested in the HRA program. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to park all county driven vehicles driven for personal use, with the exception of the County Sheriff, effective October 15, 2007. Commissioner Hargrave commented that he agrees that the board needs to look at ways to trim costs from the budget, but has concerns that a "blanket" on all vehicles is not the way to handle things. Discussion on Animal Shelter call in use and the need of the Sheriff to establish who drives vehicles. Commissioner Posey stated that everyone needs to look at the "bigger picture" that these steps are just a few of the small ones that can be taken rather than to cut jobs. Commissioner Rhode commented that the budget committee will be going back to several departments to look at making more cuts in 2008. Commissioner Reid commented that it is easier to make smaller cuts now than to be faced with a \$600,000 cut in two years. Commissioner Posey commented that she feels that this is a responsible measure now. Ayes carried, motion passed. Hargrave voting no.

Commissioner Hargrave then questioned the Board how much Grant funding has been brought in by the Emergency Management coordinator since he started full time, noting that this could be a \$30,000.00 savings to the 2008 budget.

Sheriff Shea then address the Board on the decision that was made regarding parking the county vehicles. Shea noted an example that the detective and his wife, who works in the Prosecutor's office, share a vehicle to work of which sometimes two times per week their personal vehicle is driven. Because the two are able to share this ride, it results in an extra hour of work per day that the county is getting for free because of the small overlap

in hours for the two individuals. Shea noted that his people need to be available to respond and be on call. Commissioner Rhode commented that the biggest area that the budget committee can look at to cut is the Sheriff's budget, and that this measure is just one of several that can be taken to prevent that. Commissioner Posey commented that historically the Board has always looked to cut the road patrol because of the large expense, and is only looking for areas to cut without taking services away from the community. Discussion on State Police restrictions and additional complaints being handled by the county deputies.

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

Commissioner Rhode then moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Posey. Ayes carried, meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. until September 11, 2007 unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon
Chief Deputy Clerk

Terry Whittington
Chairman