

Commissioner Minutes of September 28, 2010

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session September 28, 2010. 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.

Agenda – Leo Gary, Emergency Management Director, was added to the agenda at 10:15 a.m. to renew his contract.

Rick Ghent, Maintenance Supervisor, came before the Board with a request to **repair the UPS backup for the 911 tower** that was hit by lightening on September 22, 2010. Mr. Ghent stated that the repairs are \$1,250.00 and that he has \$1,371.00 left in his budget. Discussion on loss of 911 communications. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow Mr. Ghent to make the repairs at the cost of \$1,250.00 as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **Regular and Executive Session minutes of September 14, 2010** were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$322,140.86 231 Fund – \$38,753.74.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$116,560.55** 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 – none at this time.

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, came before the Board with a brief update on EDC activities. Mr. Starkweather read a letter addressed to the Board for their consideration in **adding Boyce Hydro LLC to the CEDS list for Gladwin County**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the addition of Boyce Hydro LLC to the Gladwin County CEDS list. Commissioner Whittington asked if Boyce had all of their permits up to date. Mr. Starkweather claimed that they were. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Resolutions for Consideration – none.

Harmony Nowlin, Consumers Energy EDC representative, addressed the Board on the **MERIT system** and introduced those present that have been a part of the process. Ms. Nowlin began a power point presentation outlining the EDC's role in running the fiber optics through Gladwin County and turned the meeting over to Jason Russell of MERIT for explanation. Commissioner Carl inquired to the changes of the "route" through Sugar Springs and that contact should be made with Don Joyce, Butman Township Clerk. Ms. Nowlin explained that the poles used for the electric lines are also

to be used for the fiber optic lines and that some of the poles were not up to grade to run fiber optic lines. Bob Frei, IT Director, spoke about the “internet benefits” that MERIT is providing to the County. Ken Schnivar addressed the Board on the project advancements in Clare County. Ms. Nowlin then urged each Board member and their constituents to register on the MERIT website at: merit.edu so that each area can be rated as an area of interest. Ms. Nowlin stated that the EDC board will be working on publications to educate the community in the weeks to come. Scott Govitz, EDC Chairman, thanked all that have been involved in the project since it started, noting it is a great thing for Gladwin County. Discussion of costs. Commissioner Smith asked if the presentation given today could be provided to the Board to take to their districts for their review. Ms. Nowlin commented that Mr. Frei does have the presentation and can make that available to them on disc. Chairman Whittington thanked the EDC committee for their work on this project.

The Board then recessed at 9:46 a.m. for a short break.

Chairman Whittington called the meeting back to order at 9:54 a.m.

Bev Przystas, MSU, introduced her *new staff member Deb Mason*. Ms. Mason talked to the Board about her position and background, noting she is excited to be working here. Ms. Przystas then notified the Board that Amy Brubaker from her staff has resigned and that they will not be re-hiring for her position at this time.

Kelly Gower, Parks and Recreation Chairperson, asked the Board to send the “**Seebeck insurance matter**” back to Attorney Jacobson for his review. Commissioner Reid voiced his concern on correcting the issue, and the desire to send the issue back to committee for consideration. *The matter will be referred to County Affairs for action.*

Leo Gary, Emergency Management Director, addressed the Board on the need to renew his **employment contract that expired August 8, 2010** so that he can submit his 4th quarter billing to the State. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl to renew the contract with the same provisions and wages.* Roll call vote as follows: Walters - yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Killian – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Correspondence from the Chairman –

- The Davis vs. Gladwin County lawsuit has been dismissed with no appeal being filed effective July 22, 2010.
- On a memo received from Rick Ghent on vehicle use and an emergency issue on September 22, 2010. Mike Brubaker commented on this issue, noting that 911 communications were down for 45-60 minutes. Mr. Brubaker stated that he is in support of Mr. Ghent having his vehicle given back to him so that in the event of issues such as these, the resolution can occur quickly. Commissioner Reid asked how could Mr. Ghent having his truck allow him to respond quicker? Mr. Brubaker stated that his would have been able to go directly to the tower rather than driving into town getting his truck, loading tools, then out to the tower.

Commissioner Carl stated that the outage was an “act of god” and that the instance was no preventable. Commissioner Reid stated that in the end the matter was handled and the issue resolved. Commissioner Rhode commented that the Board can continue to look at ways to save money, but continues to spend dollars to save nickels and feels the situation allowing Mr. Ghent to drive his vehicle home needs to be re-addressed. Commissioner Smith noted that it was unfortunate that communication was lost for an hour, but in the end the matter was handled.

- That the Board still needs to make an appointment to the DHS Board, but has had no suggestions. The Chairman will leave this position vacant until they are able to find someone to be appointed.

Commissioner Reid then commented that there are more issues at hand than what was discussed with the personal use of County vehicles and there needs to be protocol clearly drafted so that employees are responsible for use. Commissioner Reid asked if this matter should be referred to Public Safety for review. No comment from the Board.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Smith reported:

- That she would like to thank everyone for their cards, good wishes, and especially for filling in for me at various Committee meetings, noting her husband is improving slowly.
- That she sent her report to Beaverton City for their regular meeting on 9-20-2010.
- On attending a special Data meeting on 9-17-2010, noting that no action was taken because not all committee members were present.
- On the special Data meeting held on 9-21-2010. **Printing bids were reviewed carefully.** The recommendation of the Data Committee is signing the contract with **MOS**. Reasons were listed in the minutes of the Data Committee that were in your Board folders. This was also reviewed by the Finance Committee at their regular meeting. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to accept the bid from MOS for printigration services.* Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Killian – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Smith wanted to express her thanks to past Commissioner Jan Posey for starting this project, noting she worked very hard to get this going.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On attending the Wiggins, Pratt and Contos Lake Improvement meeting on September 15th.
- On the Sherman Township meeting held on the 21st, commenting there were concerns about the game refuge being closed.
- On the Fair Board meeting also on September 21st.
- On attending the “Downtown Gladwin” photo on the 25th, noting there was a good turnout.
- On the Fire Safety Day held at Flynn Lumber on September 25th.

Veteran Matters

- On the passing of the following Veterans: Clifford Dale Martin, Bentley Township – WWII, Harley Bourlier, Butman Township – WWII, William Grant, Tobacco Township – Post Korean.

- That Senior Airman James Hansen, 25, of Athens, Michigan died September 15, 2010 in Iraq.
- On the death of Specialist Deangelo Snow, 22, of Saginaw, Michigan on September 17, 2010 in Afghanistan, noting flags are to be flown at ½ staff today.

Commissioner Killian reported:

- On attending the Data meeting on September 17th.
- On the special Data meeting held on the 21st.
- That the Gladwin County Endowment meeting had been cancelled for the month.
- On speaking with Greg Abbas from A-Way Hunting on his thoughts with his interaction with EDC.
- That he participated in the “youth hunt” with his daughter last weekend.
- On receiving a call about driving County vehicles.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Bourret Township meeting on the 14th.
- On the Clement Township meeting on the 15th.
- On attending the Butman Township meeting on the 16th.
- On the Gladwin Township meeting on the 22nd.
- On attending the Data meeting on September 21st.
- On the CMDHD meeting on September 22nd with Commissioner Rhode.

Commissioner Carl commented that the Centrex contract renewal was discussed at the Data meeting. The committee will be reviewing the contract and bringing further information to the Board in months to come.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Secord Township meeting on the 15th
- On the Finance meeting on the 23rd.
- On attending the Special Airport meeting on the 27th, noting they received one bid on the fuel farm, but the company didn't bid based on the “specs” and that they would need to amend their bid.

*Commissioner Reid then spoke about the **Equalization Director's contract** and the revision that was made to state Mr. Coucke only has to work one day per week. Commissioner Reid stated that during interviews, it was stated to each applicant, that the Board wanted a director to be here 30-35 hours/week. Discussion. Commissioner Carl stated that the Director could work one day per week, but be available for office supervision and questions the balance of the week. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Carl to amend the contract under “services provided” to have the Director designate one day per week to be in the office; with the balance of the working week to be available by telephone and to supervise the office. Bob Evans, Drain Commissioner, spoke about potential problems with Township communication. MarLynn Muma, Treasurer's Office, stated their office needs to be able to contact Equalization with questions, noting someone is not always there. This matter was tabled until Mr. Coucke could come before the Board.*

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the Northern MAC meeting, noting discussion of healthcare guidelines for 2010-2018 will come with new regulations. In addition, employee healthcare costs would be listed and taxed on their W'2 forms.

*Mr. Coucke then appeared before the Board to discuss his contract. Commissioner Reid briefly outlined the interview and what was discussed for working hours. Commissioner Reid asked what Mr. Coucke plans were for working hours. Mr. Coucke replied that his plans were from 16-24 hours/week with one day in the office and 1-2 days in the field. Commissioner Carl asked if he would be available by telephone to the Townships on the days he is not in the office and provide supervision to the office employees 35 hours per week. Mr. Coucke stated that he would be available on days he was not in the office to both the Townships and his staff. Commissioner Smith asked if the program would be remotely available to him at his home. Mr. Coucke replied that he has not had enough time on the system yet to see if that is possible. Discussion. **Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to amend Mr. Coucke’s contract to read, “it is the responsibility of the Director to supervise the staff 35 hours per week and to make sure someone is in the office to answer to the public and that the Director will report to the office one assigned day per week; working up to two days per week doing field work. Ayes carried, motion passed.***

Commissioner Rhode continued to report:

- That the Health Department did not take as large of a cut from the State as originally thought, noting the County’s 2011 appropriations will be the same as the 2010 appropriations.
- That the First Presbyterian Church of Beaverton will be showing a “battered women” film on October 8th at 6:00 p.m.
- The Knights of Columbus will be holding their “Bring Agencies Together” dinner on November 3rd, noting their will be a dinner, flu shots, haircuts, and a canned food drive.
- On the appropriations given through EDC statewide of 33 million, commenting that Gladwin County received 3 million of that total.

Finance Matters –

1. The original allocation for the purchases for the Energy grant needs to be amended to state spending up to \$25,506.00. Previous Board action allowed for up to \$20,000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to amend the spending allocation to \$25,506.00. Ayes carried, motion passed.
2. Bob Frei, IT Director, came before the committee with printigration rates from the 4 bids that were opened at the last meeting. The Board has taken action to grant the bid to MOS. Mr. Frei has requested that he be allowed to price the old printers for sale to the employees, and then offer them to the not-for-profit agencies, then to the general public. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow for the sale of the old equipment as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.
3. Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, would like the below transfer done to repay the DHS funds that were received by the State, but shorted by the State for payment collection on Lein fees for the Prosecutor’s Office.

From	101-229-983.000	\$500.00
	101-229-860.000	\$300.00

To 290.000-578.000 \$800.00

- Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the transfer for repayment as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.
4. The Finance Committee discussed changing their meetings from Fridays at 9:00 a.m. to Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to amend the policy beginning October 21st, 2010. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Chairman Whittington then stated, effective at the close of this meeting, he will be resigning as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Public Comments-

Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, stated that the web mapping is almost complete and that she received a 25% discount on the aerial imagery. Ms. Conrad also discussed adding a layer to the parcel data map for ORV roads that are opened.

Commissioner Reid then asked if the Building and Grounds vehicle issue should be sent to Public Safety for a policy and procedure to be drafted. No comment from Board members.

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

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. until October 12, 2010 unless otherwise directed.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

Terry Whittington, Chairman