

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

January 5, 2006

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Ron Howell	Village of Middleville
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Robert May	City of Hastings
James McIntyre	Courtland Township
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Mogan	Kent County
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Members Absent:**

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Brian Chodowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP

**2. Swearing in of New Board Members**

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the oath of office to: Carol Sheets of the City of Wyoming; Jason Eppler of the City of Ionia; Brian Donovan of the City of East Grand Rapids; and Roger Morgan of Kent County.

Chairman Jim Buck welcomed the new members.

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Approval of December, 2005 Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the December 2005 GVMC Board Minutes. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Transportation Department**

**a. TIP Amendment**

Don Stypula reported on the proposed amendment to GVMC's 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program to enable advance construction of improvements to the I-96 at

Walker Avenue bridge, using existing MDOT federal and/or state funds until federal FY2006 CMAQ funds are available.

**MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to GVMC’s 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – ROOT. MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. Authorization to Sign Loan Agreement with Founders Trust**

Don Stypula and Abed Itani explained the request to sign a loan agreement with Founders Trust for the purchase of a pavement management automated van. The total purchase price is approximately \$406,000. Loan proposals were solicited from the vendor as well as three banks: LaSalle, Founders and Mercantile. The Founder’s proposal is for a 5 year fixed 7.4% interest loan. The lifespan of the van is 15 to 20 years, however it will be paid off within 5 years and will be able to complete twice as many miles per year as were done in the past. An agreement is being negotiated with the Kent County Road Commission to house and maintain the vehicle. After the van is paid off, it will be able to produce revenue by being leased out to other entities. We will be the first organization in the state with such a vehicle.

Mick McGraw asked if purchasing this vehicle would save money for the program, and if it would require hiring of additional staff to run it.

Abed Itani stated that it would save money in the long run and would not require hiring of additional staff to run it.

**MOTION – To Approve the Loan Agreement with Founders Trust to Finance the Pavement Management Vehicle. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. REGIS Update**

Don Stypula reported that Dr. Dharmesh Jain has been hired as the new REGIS Director. Dr. Jain possesses the unique talents of advanced technical skills and interpersonal skills needed to bring members together and help everyone utilize the system to its greatest potential.

Dr. Jain is expected to start work on February 20, 2006.

Chairman Buck expressed his thanks to Andy Bowman for serving as Interim REGIS Director for the past year.

## 7. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reported the Governor has vetoed HB 4993 which would enable voters to request a millage for 25 year transit funding. GVMC and The Rapid both supported the bill.

Peter Varga explained that it was a difficult decision for the Governor, like being between a rock and a hard place as it would affect 196 authorities, and we currently are the only one in the state. Federal new starts are very rigorous, and even if the bill was passed, to would be very hard to secure/pass all the validity tests. It would also ultimately depend on whether you could pass a local millage.

Rob VerHeulen asked if it will be going back to the legislature.

Peter Varga stated he is optimistic another bill will be passed and we needed to be persistent.

Don Stypula reported the Revenue Estimating Conference was scheduled for next Thursday morning.

Mr. Stypula predicted the budget would dominate the first half of the calendar year, and predicted continued attempts to pass legislation to improve the business climate.

On the federal level, the bill to eliminate cable franchise fees and the administrative rules move by the FCC to eliminate them, will be issues to continue to watch.

Mr. Stypula stated he would update all with new developments.

Rick Root reminded everyone the next Legislative Meeting was on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Buck thanked Ted Vonk for his service as Chairman of the GVMC Legislative Committee for the past two years.

Bonnie Shupe reported there would be a reception on Tuesday, January 24, at 5:00 p.m. for Don Hilton as outgoing President of the MTA. She said she would pass all the information along to Don Stypula to be forwarded to all members.

Don Stypula stated he would forward on the information regarding Mr. Hilton's reception to all GVMC members.

**MOTION – To Adjourn at 9:20 a.m. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – VerHeulen.  
MOTION CARRIED.**