

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

8:30 a.m.  
Kent County Building

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 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
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Brian Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township

Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township

**Others Present:**

Patti Brink	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andrew E. Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Chris Dingman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jim Fetzer	The Rapid
John Goris	Jones, Gavin and Helmholtz LLC
John Helmholtz	Jones, Gavin and Helmholtz LLC
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Peter Sechia	U.S. Ambassador (Retired)
Marsha Small	MDOT
Jim Smalligan	Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Public Comment**

Mayor Jim Buck welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He introduced U.S. Ambassador Peter Sechia (retired) and noted that during the Public Comment segment of today's meeting he will be speaking on Casino expansion.

Ambassador Sechia discussed the negative effects that Casino expansion will have in this area. Referring to a Power Point presentation, he explained his concerns that with no oversight or regulation, Casino expansion will draw economic vitality from this area's communities. He outlined several reasons as to his strong opposition of this issue. A hand-out titled "23 is Enough!" was distributed to the attendees for review. A hard copy of the Power Point presentation was made available as well.

Mayor Buck thanked Ambassador Sechia for his presentation.

There were no other public comments made.

**3. Approval of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Minutes.**

**MOTION – To approve September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006 GVMC Board Meeting Minutes.  
MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Monthly Financial Report**

**a. Monthly Financial Summary**

Don Stypula reported positively on the status of the finances. He also noted that Crowe Chizek will no longer serve as GVMC's auditor, and that RFP's (Requests for Proposals) have been distributed to other firms to enlist a new auditing service. He will keep the Board apprised as this moves forward.

**5. Report of the Nominating Committee**

Kurt Kimball updated the members on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Some of the issues addressed were term limits and current committee capacity. Discussion and comments followed.

Michael Young and Don Stypula discussed the formation of two smaller committees, which will address Financial Issues and Facilities. Those interested in serving on either committee should contact staff. Also, those wishing to be added or deleted to an existing committee should let staff know as well.

**MOTION – To Approve the slate of GVMC officers and Executive Committee members for FY 2007 as recommended by the Nominating Committee.**

**MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Young. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Extension of GVMC Regional Collaborative Storm Water Phase II Compliance Initiative**

As the contract with Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc. is set to expire, Don Stypula is requesting committee support to extend the contract for three years. He commented on the collaborative efforts made to keep this region in compliance with regulation. Jim Smalligan of FTCH noted that every effort has been made to maintain funding. Other members commented positively on this initiative as well. Discussion followed.

**MOTION – Approve the proposed contract extension with FTCH, Inc. to continue the regional Storm Water Phase II Regulatory Compliance Initiative.**

**MOVE – Donovan. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

**7. Update and Progress Report on GVMC 2006-2007 Strategic Plan**

Don Stypula gave the members an update on the progress toward achieving the outlined objectives on the GVMC 2006-2007 Strategic Plan, and proposed a process and time line to get ideas, develop solid goals and move forward. Michael Young stressed that the focus at this time is definable and attainable goals. He also offered to compile and track any comments, additions or deletions that committee members have on the Plan at the conclusion of the meeting. As each activity's goal and strategies were addressed, discussion and comments followed. Measurement of progress and meeting designated time lines were addressed as well. As part of the process, Carol Sheets suggested the creation of a file to track media articles on GVMC's activities and progress.

**MOTION – to accept the progress report on the 2006-2007 Strategic Plan.**

**MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Vanderberg.**

**8. Transportation Department**

**a. TIP Amendment**

Don Stypula briefed the committee on two amendments to the FY2006-2007 Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION – To approve the proposed amendments to the FY2006-2008 Transportation Program; The City of Lowell’s STP Small Urban grant to reconstruct a portion of Gee Drive in FY2008, and to add four projects to the FY2008 STP-Urban project list.  
MOVE – Holland. SUPPORT – Vonk. MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. Update of Regional Air Quality Conformity Analysis**

Don Stypula discussed the proposed update to the regional air quality conformity analysis.

**MOTION – To approve the proposed update to the regional Air Quality Conformity Analysis.**

**MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. Legislative Issues**

**a. December 4 Briefing and Luncheon for Legislators**

Rick Root and Don Stypula noted the schedule of events and luncheon planned on December 4<sup>th</sup> to familiarize the newly elected legislators with GVMC.

**b. Opposition to HB 6391 – Limits on County-Wide Millage Elections**

Don Stypula discussed GVMC’s firm opposition to HB 6391. Darrel Delabbio also gave input as to why this bill should be opposed. Discussion followed.

**MOTION – To Endorse the recommendation of the GVMC Legislative Committee to Oppose HB 6391.**

**MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.**

**c. Update on other issues: K-16, Business tax replacement, etc.**

**K-16** -Don Stypula noted that more units of government are voting in opposition and that as a service to our members he will be providing literature on this issue as it becomes available.

**SBT - Single Business Tax replacement** - Don does not anticipate action this calendar year. As this moves forward, he is looking for a proposal to replace revenue lost from the Personal Property Tax. He anticipates that a mechanism will be in place to hold local units of government harmless. Discussion and comments followed.

**Telecommunications franchising** - Don noted that there is nothing new to report. He updated the members on HB6456 (H-1), noting that the bill is ready to move and it will be reviewed and passed by the House on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**10. Adjournment – 9:53 a.m.**

**MOTION – to adjourn.**

**MOVE – Vonk. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.