

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

October 1, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
John Helmholdt	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
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
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
TaiWo Jaiyeoba	ITP
David Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the September, 2009, GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Transportation**

Abed Itani explained the request for FY2008-2011 TIP amendments for an advance construct of two programmed FY2013 projects in 2011: Forest Hills Ave. from Burton St. to I-96 and Forest Hills Ave. from I-96 to north city limits. Staff also requests to amend the FY2010 project list to add a potential Service Development New Technology grant from MDOT.

**MOTION – To Approve the Requested Amendments. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – FOX. MOTION CARRIED.**

Abed Itani updated the Council on the progress of the Long Range Transportation Plan which is required to be completed every four years (2011).

**4. GVMC Strategic Plan**

Don Stypula reported he is focusing on how he can help members succeed. We will have to move quickly to a new model of delivering services due to the new economic realities. Don has been working with Abed Itani and Andy Bowman to create a model to provide services in a way that fits GVMC’s mission: Regional planning with the potential for sharing planning services to help members do their planning on a multi-jurisdictional level. Later this month Don will schedule a meeting of the Regional Cooperation Committee to figure out where to go with providing regional planning services. Within

the next two days he will send out a save the date notice. We will figure out a business model to allow us to bring in the resources to do it.

Don has also talked with a number of communications companies and will talk with others regarding creating a marketing plan. He will also create tri-fold literature himself on his computer. He will bring a more detailed plan to the next Council meeting on November 5, which will be held at the Wyoming city offices.

## **5. Recommendations of the Nominating Committee**

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee for GVMC Officers and Executive Committee were reviewed. It included Officers: Jim Buck – Chair; Don Hilton – Vice Chair; Cy Moore – Treasurer; and Daryl Delabbio – Secretary. Remaining members of the Executive Committee recommended included: Rick Root, Rob VerHeulen, Cindy Fox, George Heartwell, Jim Miedema, and Al Vanderberg.

**MOTION – To Approve the Recommended GVMC Officers and Executive Committee. MOVE – Hoemke. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

Jim Buck recognized Mayor Carol Sheets for her many years of service to her community and the Metro Council.

## **6. Legislative**

Don Stypula reported he is waiting for Lansing to move on legislation which would enable more collaboration and cooperation between local entities. This would be essential due to continued loss of revenue sharing and the potential Dillon Health Care Plan.

Last night the legislature had another shut down. They passed a continuation budget at about 2:00 a.m. today. Revenue sharing will continue to be in jeopardy. Don believes all statutory revenue sharing will be gone within one year. He recommends members don't budget for revenue sharing. At this point there have been no appropriations for schools. Don is confident they will move something. The continuation budget will be in effect for 30 days and reduces revenue sharing by 13%.

Carol Sheets stated members should work together to repeal Proposal A so local entities can establish their own revenue rather than wait for the legislature to do things. We can't keep cutting our way out of it without a revenue boost. If the state isn't going to honor its obligations we need another way to increase funding. The revenue the state collects from the sales tax is not dropping substantially; neither should revenue sharing as the two were tied. We need to work together to get rid of Proposal A and protect revenue sharing.

Mike DeVries reported the original intent of Proposal A was to equalize school district funding. It is easy for us to criticize the legislature, but they now have a much larger constituency they have to serve.

Al Vanderberg added there are many causes to the current crisis. However, term limits has brought a crisis of leadership. The balance of power has shifted to lobbyists.

**7. Oath of Office**

Sonja Dean administered the Oath of Office to Toby VanEss of Tallmadge Township.

**8. Other**

The Quarterly Luncheon will be October 12.

**9. Adjourn – 9:30 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.**