

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

November 4, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Wyoming City Council Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township

Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

Others Present:

Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Peter Varga	The Rapid/ ITP

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the October 2011 GVMC Board Meeting as Corrected. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Records Retention Policy

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed records retention policy. He asked the auditors to provide guidelines on retention obligation time frames. They directed him to the Dept. of Treasury official documentation, which the proposed policy is based on. It will keep GVMC within full legal requirements.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed Records Retention Policy. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

5. **Legislative Update**

Personal Property Tax (PPT) – Nothing has changed on this issue. It is still the Governor’s desire to move something forward. They are waiting on procedures and preferences from the Governor’s office. We are in sync with MAC, MTA & MML. MML is still pushing for full reimbursement.

George Meek asked what the timetable was projected to be.

Don Stypula stated they would like to do it this calendar year, but are running out of time. It will probably materialize in early 2012.

Municipal Partnership Act – We are making progress with the Municipal Partnership Act and are working on amendatory language. Hopefully we will hear good news towards the end of the day. Yesterday three amendments to the Urban Cooperation Act were passed.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be November 9th with Jon Rice of the Kent County Road Commission to discuss transportation funding.

Rick Root added clearly the change in PPT will mean a lot of revenue will be cut. Be prepared to talk with your legislators or lose funding. We need a very active dialogue. Let them know your concerns. We will have no relief in the cost of assessing; there will be no cost savings.

The International Trade Crossing is currently on the back burner, but the Governor probably won’t let it die.

New legislation also brings up the question of will there still be a county road commission. We should start doing our homework to see what that means. If the Commission becomes part of the county, clearly we are on the way to being One Kent.

6. **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Michael Young reported the following have been nominated for GVMC officers and Executive Committee members:

Officers & Executive Committee Members

Jim Buck, City of Grandville – Chairman

Don Hilton Sr., Gaines Charter Township – Vice Chair

Daryl Delabbio, Kent County – Secretary

Cy Moore – Treasurer

Executive Committee Members

Cindy Fox, Cascade Township
George Heartwell, City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root, City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen, City of Walker
Michael Young, City of Rockford

MOTION – To Accept the Recommendations of the Human Resources Committee for the 2011/2012 GVMC Executive Committee and Officers. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Governor’s Infrastructure Plan

Don Stypula gave a presentation on the Governor’s infrastructure funding plan.

- Increase state vehicle registration fees by \$10 / month
- Allow counties to ask voters for a countywide, \$40-per-year vehicle registration fee
- Eliminate 19-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and 15-cent-per-gallon diesel fuels tax and replace with state percentage tax assessed at the wholesale level
- Dedicate the portion of the 6 percent sales tax on the purchase of motor fuels to the Michigan Transportation Fund
- Eliminate 19-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and 15-cent-per-gallon diesel fuels tax and ask voters to raise the state sales tax by 1% with the yield deposited in the Michigan Transportation Fund.
- Allow county commissions to eliminate County Road Commissions and create County Public Works Departments
- Amend state funding distribution formulas under Act 51 of 1951 to favor high-traffic and commercial corridors
- Amend Act 51 to eliminate funding to individual cities and villages receiving less than \$50,000 in state transportation funds
- Require local road agencies to comply with 2011 P.A. 152 (“hard-cap” / 80/20 employee insurance provisions)
- Allow local transportation agencies covered by P.A. 51 to open construction and maintenance contracts to competitive bidding from the public and private sectors.

Peter Varga reported transit funding issues are just as fluid. There is concern about the proposed sales tax vs. PPT as it would be much more volatile.

Milt Rohwer asked what the analysis of the gas current gas tax to the wholesale tax showed.

Don Stypula stated the Senate Fiscal Agency is doing the analysis now.

Mark Howe asked for an analysis of how Act51 funding could result in locals shifting in and out of formula.

8. Adjournment – 9:40 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED.