

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

December 1, 2005  
8:30 a.m.  
Kent County Building

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

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

#### Members Present:

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
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
David Morren	Kent County
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Ted Vonk	Kent County

**Members Absent:**

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Brian Chodowski	Village of Sparta
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Ron Howell	Village of Middleville
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Lt. Bill Smith	Ottawa County
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	ITP

**2. Addition to Agenda**

Jim Buck noted there was an addition to the agenda. A grant proposal resolution will be added to the agenda.

**3. Public Comment**

David Bulkowski of Disability Advocates of Kent County distributed and discussed the results of the transit survey. Mr. Bulkowski stated the results indicted a high connection between transit and land use issues. It also showed people liked what GVMC is doing; felt it enhanced service; and promoted regional cooperation. Although funding is always an issue, the survey indicated the public likes what GVMC is doing and wants to see more of it.

**4. Presentation by Lt. Bill Smith**

Lt. Bill Smith from Ottawa County gave an Emergency Preparedness update. He stated Ottawa County is following an emergency management all hazard approach which includes: mitigation; preparedness; response; and recovery. Possible hazards include, but are not limited to: nuclear power plants; national security; natural disasters; technical disasters (including hazardous materials).

**5. Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes with correction, of the November 2005, GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Transportation Department**

The Council considered and discussed three amendments to the GVMC's FY2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The first amendment adds eight Surface Transportation Program Safety Projects to the TIP. The second TIP amendment – funded through allocations from the Federal Transit Administration – adds equipment for the Interurban Transportation Partnership (The Rapid). The final amendment is an addition of project design costs for three major projects that will be spearheaded by MDOT and constructed in future years.

**MOTION – To Approve the Proposed FY 2006-2008 TIP Amendments. MOVE – Beelen. SUPPORT – Patrick. MOTION CARRIED.**

**7. REGIS Update**

Don Stypula informed the Council that one of the candidates for the position of REGIS Director has withdrawn. We will continue the search process and anticipate having a new Director in place by January.

**8. Resolution on Grant Proposal**

Don Stypula reported on a grant available through State funding for Centers for Regional Excellence (CFRE). GVMC, MAAC, and WMSA propose a joint grant request for \$25,000 to pursue Kent, Ottawa, Allegan and Muskegon Counties to work collaboratively to develop new service sharing and cost sharing programs through the West Michigan region.

Bonnie Shupe questioned whether GVMC gets the \$25,000 and then decides how it is spent, but all three entities collaborate in planning?

Don Stypula stated he spoke to the decision maker yesterday, and she stated implicitly YES.

**MOTION – To Approve the Resolution of Support on the Grant Request for the CFRE Program. MOVE – Bergman. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 9. Legislative Update

### **Telecommunications Law Rewrite: State Legislature**

State lawmakers have completed action on legislation to rewrite the Michigan Telecommunications Act and Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed HB 5237 into law. The new Public Act 235 of 2005 makes no changes to cable television franchising or the state's Metro Act but puts roadblocks ahead of municipalities wanting to get into the competitive telecommunications business after November 1.

### **Telecommunications Law Rewrite: U.S. Congress**

On November 3 a proposed draft U.S House Bill on telecommunications was released by Congressional staff in Washington, D.C. Municipal attorneys with expertise in telecommunications issues have concluded that this latest draft bill is remarkably harmful to municipal interests in cable franchising, telecommunications, and control of rights of way, and they have concluded that it threatens to preempt Michigan's Metro Act.

Also, the FCC has recently pushed through an administrative rule eliminating franchise fees. It is not yet published on the Federal Register. Don Stypula stated he would get a copy of it today and make sure it is distributed to all.

Al Vanderberg expressed concern with possible cuts in juvenile funding and encouraged all to talk to their legislators in support of maintaining funding.

Rick Root discussed HB5294, 5295, 5296 regarding administration of code and the amount of time required for notification of infractions before enforcement can take place. It would establish a grace period of 10 days after a registered letter has been delivered. This could seriously impede a municipality's ability to enforce code.

Jim Buck stated Don Stypula should contact legislators on this item as soon as possible and report back to the Council.

## 10. Other

None.

## 11. Adjournment

**MOTION – To Adjourn the Grand Valley Metro Council Board Meeting at 9:40 a.m. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Vonk. MOTION CARRIED.**