

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

February 2, 2006

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
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown 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
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Mogan	Kent County
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
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
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Members Absent:

Brian Chodowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Chris Dawson	Crowe Chizek
Jim Fetzer	ITP
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: Charles Porter of Courtland Township.

Chairman Jim Buck welcomed Mr. Porter as a new member.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of January, 2006 Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the January, 2006, GVMC Board Minutes. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Morgan. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Financial Report

Chairman Buck introduced Chris Dawson of Crowe Chizek who reported on the audit.

Chris Dawson reviewed the audit and reported it had a “clean opinion.”

In the Report under Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and Compliance it states, “We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.” It also states “The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.”

The report states, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as of September 30, 2005 and 2004 and the changes in its financial position for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted."

Mr. Dawson reviewed the changes in the balance sheet from the previous year to this year. There is a decrease in the GVMC fund balance of \$109,000 while the REGIS general fund increased by \$434,000 mainly due to planned cost savings, delayed projects, and open positions. Net assets rose overall due to the increase in the REGIS fund balance.

Bill VerHulst asked if the REGIS general fund and GVMC general fund were restricted and separate of one another. Could GVMC use the REGIS fund balance?

Don Stypula replied that REGIS has its own Board, but GVMC has to approve all of its actions and expenditures. The Metro Council has the ultimate say.

Mr. VerHulst stated that technically, the REGIS fund was unrestricted.

Don Stypula stated that was correct.

MOTION – To Accept the FY2004-2005 GVMC Audit Report. MOVE – Moore. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Buck asked the Council to consider payment of the audit bill to Crowe Chizek.

MOTION – To Authorize Payment of \$10,000 for Work Done on the FY2004-2005 GVMC Audit to Crowe Chizek. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Luben.

6. Transportation Department
a. TIP Amendment

Don Stypula explained the proposed amendments to the GVMC FY 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for MDOT and the Interurban Transportation Partnership (ITP-The Rapid) which include:

- Adding US-131 at 44th Street (Interchange improvements to a Single Point Urban Interchange) and M-11 at 28th Street (resurface from I-196 to US-131) to the FY 2006 TIP.
- Add Michigan Street over US-131BR (Division Ave.) a new bridge, I-196 at Chicago Drive (New Interchange) and US-131BR (add left and right turn lanes (pending approval of a TEDF category A application)) to the FY 2007 TIP.

MOTION – To Approve the amendments to the FY 2006-2008 TIP for MDOT and ITP-The Rapid. Move – Kimball. SUPPORT - Holland – MOTION CARRIED.

b. WESTRAIN Agreement with MDOT and amendment to WESTRAIN marketing contract with Sharp Marketing.

Jim Snell reviewed the proposed agreements.

MOTION – To Approve the WESTRAIN Agreement with MDOT and Amend the WESTRAIN Marketing Contract with Sharp Marketing. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Proposed Amendments to the GVMC Policies and Procedures Manual as recommended by the Personnel and Executive Committees.

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed changes to the GVMC Policies and Procedures Manual. The first would entail the elimination of the requirement that an employee must attend the funeral to receive their entire bereavement benefits. The second would permit the elimination of the VSP vision benefit program to mitigate the increases GVMC has been realizing in health insurance premiums.

MOTION – To Change the GVMC Policies and Procedures Manual to Reflect the above Mentioned Changes in the Bereavement Policy and VSP Benefit Program. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Legislative Update

Don Stypula gave the legislative update.

He reported that Paula Cunningham was the newly appointed Director of the DLEG.

GVMC is continuing to watch AT&T and Verison as they target franchise fees at the state and federal levels. They have agreed to a compromise to let the State collect fees and distribute them. Franchise fees are also being attacked by an federal administrative rules change. He asked how many members had received a draft resolution from the cable companies. Some members reported they had.

Kurt Kimball asked what Mr. Stypula's advice was on the resolutions.

Don Stypula stated members could customize them for their own communities, or he would work with MML and MTA to come up with a draft resolution in seven days. He also encouraged members to talk with their legislators.

George Heartwell stated that the cable resolutions are using the fairness spin, and that tactic might work against members.

Don Stypula stated members should hold off and he would have a draft resolution within 7 days which he would get to all members.

Bill Holland reported he talked to Senator Kuipers and Rep. VanReggenmorter and they are very aware of what could be lost and its effect on public TV.

Don Stypula stated he would also bring a generic resolution to the entire Council for their approval.

Carol Sheets stated that many of the members are customers, and maybe they should write letters to AT&T and Verison as customers.

Don Stypula stated it could help, and it should also be brought up at local meetings.

Peter Varga urged everyone to contact their legislators and let them know how important transportation funding is to them.

George Heartwell stated high level conversations are ongoing behind closed doors on the subject.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked Don Stypula to e-mail members with talking points on the subject.

Peter Varga stated he would forward talking points to Don so that he could forward them on to members.

Rick Root reported the Legislative Committee is updating its legislative priorities on Feb. 8th. He encouraged everyone to attend and be prepared to discuss their priorities.

Mr. Root also stated the meeting time of the Legislative Committee had been changed to 8:30 a.m.

9. Adjournment – 9:30 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.