

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

October 13, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Prince Conference Center

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

#### Members Present:

Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Bonnie Blackledge	Cannon Township
Marta Brechting	Alpine Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

#### Members Absent:

Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
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Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Bulkowski	Disability Advocates
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	The Rapid

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Swearing of New GVMC At-Large Member – John Helmholdt**

Karen Brower, clerk of the City of East Grand Rapids, administered the Oath of Office to John Helmholdt, new At-Large member.

John thanked the group and said he was looking forward to participating in the Council.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the September 2008 GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. Report from the Nominating Committee**

Kurt Kimball presented the slate of nominees of the GVMC Officers and Executive committee members.

Chair: James Buck, Mayor, City of Grandville

Vice Chair: Don Hilton, Sr., Supervisor, Gaines Charter Township  
Treasurer: Cyril Moore  
Secretary: Kurt Kimball, City Manager, City of Grand Rapids  
James Miedema, Supervisor, Jamestown Township  
Daryl Delabbio, Controller/Administrator, Kent County  
Audrey Nevins, Supervisor, Byron Township  
Rick Root, Mayor, City of Kentwood  
Al Vanderberg, Administrator, Ottawa County  
Carol Sheets, Mayor, City of Wyoming

**MOTION – To Approve the Nominated Candidates for GVMC Officers and Executive Committee Members. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **6. Transportation Amendments**

Abed Itani explained the request for TIP amendments for FY 2008-2011 which include an enhancement project for the Village of Sparta for FY 2009 and an MDOT request to add a project on the I-196 corridor to replace freeway lighting from M-45 to Monroe Avenue.

**MOTION – To Approve the Requested TIP Amendments for FY 2008-2011. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

Abed Itani explained the request for a FY 2008-2011 TIP amendment to add the anticipated MDOT Service Development New Technology (SDNT) grant for \$150,000.

**MOTION – To Approve the TIP Amendment for the SDNT Grant. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – May. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **7. Legislative**

Mike DeVries discussed HJR III which tweaks Proposal A and protects homeowners on the downside of housing values. Homeowners are already protected when values move up. It would create a huge mess for local government and the school fund; however it will be very popular with citizens.

Don Stypula reported the resolution has been passed in the House, but not yet discharged to the Senate.

Kurt Kimball stated that if passed, this resolution will have dire consequences for every institution supported by taxes. It is projected the City of Grand Rapids could feel the hit of \$1 million in lost revenue in 2009. If ever there was an occasion to band together and march on Lansing, this is it.

If it is passed in its current form, it would go on the ballot in 2010.

Carol Sheets stated we have an obligation to recall any legislator who voted for it in a united front. Seventy-five percent of Wyoming's expenses are in public safety. That is what will be cut. We can't wait to let the severity of this be known by the voters.

John Helmholtz reported it would result in a \$500 million hit to the School Aid Fund.

Members were encouraged to call their Senators and encourage their public safety staff also to lobby against it.

Daryl Delabbio added that if we go to Lansing, we should include all entities which will be affected by this including schools, transit, and public safety.

Don Stypula stated that transportation funding will be dealt with during the lame duck session. They will be considering a list of very unique funding mechanisms.

Carol Sheets asked Don to send everyone concise talking points regarding HJR III.

Don Stypula reported he would interface with MTA, MML and MAC with their talking points to make sure we are all on the same page.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked what logical arguments we can expect to have to refute.

Don Stypula stated again, he would interface with MTA, MML, and MAC as well as the Citizen's Research Center and get that out to everyone.

The Legislative Breakfast will be December 15<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to attend so that GVMC has a good show of force.

## **8. Other**

The Regional Cooperation committee came together last week at Grand Rapids Township and had an excellent discussion. The group discussed preferred practices in business and what we all can do to entice business. Don will send a survey to everyone and from that we will make a regional outline. We will get together again in early November.

## **9. Adjournment – 11:45 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – May. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.**