

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

December 5, 2013

8:30 a.m.

East Grand Rapids Community Center  
750 Lakeshore Dr.  
East Grand Rapids, Mi

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

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

#### Members Present:

Rick Baker	At-Large Member
Ken Bergwerff	Jamestown Township
Jim Buck	Secretary
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
George Haga	Ada 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
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Mark Huizenga	City of Walker
Cindy Janes	Cascade Township
Steve Kopley	City of Kentwood
Mark Lemoine	At-Large Member
Steve Maas	City of Grandville
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
Megan Mullendore	City of Belding
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jay Spencer	Plainfield Township
Roger Towsley	Village of Sand Lake
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Members Absent:**

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Brent Boncher	Courtland Township
Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville

**Others Present:**

Chris Brown	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council / REGIS
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Wendy Ogilvie	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter Varga	The Rapid
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Minutes**

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the November GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE - Poll. SUPPORT - Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Swearing in of New Members**

The Oath of Office was administered to Steve Kepley, City of Kentwood; George Haga, Ada Township; Steve Maas, City of Grandville; Mark Huizenga, City of Walker; and Roger Towsley of the Village of Sand Lake.

Each new inductee was given the opportunity to speak to the group. All said they looked forward to taking part in the Council and serving on the Board.

**4. Handing over of Gavel to Incoming GVMC Chair, Al Vanderberg**

Jim Buck reviewed the last meeting at which the new officers were elected. As Al Vanderberg, the newly elected Chair, was unable to attend the previous meeting, Jim Buck took the opportunity today to officially turn the gavel over to Al. Jim stated GVMC is as strong today as it has ever been. He thanked all the Board members, the Executive committee and Executive Director, John Weiss.

Al Vanderberg thanked Jim Buck for his outstanding service as Chair of the Council, and also thanked Don Hilton for his exemplary service as Vice Chair.

Al reported GVMC came into being largely through a thrust of optimism on land use issues and erasing boundaries. Some advances have been made, but the State must make changes to allow this to happen. Since then, the Council has embarked on a new direction. John Weiss has brought us good times by making tough decisions and giving us a greater profile. An overwhelming amount of organizations are contacting us to participate in their activities. Al will soon bring to the Board a proposal to develop a new strategic plan to stay current and relevant. Al also recognized Mike DeVries as the new GVMC Vice Chair and thanked Don Hilton for his years of service as Vice Chair.

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Lowell Township Request to Join GVMC**

Al Vanderberg reported GVMC was very pleased to announce Lowell Township has voted to become a member.

**MOTION – To Approve the Request for Lowell Township to Become a Member of the Metro Council. MOVE – Howe. SUPPORT – DeVries. MOTION CARRIED.**

The process will now begin to officially bring Lowell Township into the Metro Council.

**7. Amendment for Unified Work Program**

Abed Itani explained the request for amendment to the Unified Work Program. The first is for technical assistance SPR funds increasing from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The second is \$80,000 for ITP for a study to go green. Both items went through the policy committee.

**MOTION – To Approve the Request for Amendment for the Unified Work Program. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT - Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**8. Signing Authority**

**a. Resolution for Check Signing Authority, Add Chair Al Vanderberg**

**MOTION – To Approve the Resolution to Give Chair Al Vanderberg Check Signing Authority. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**b. Resolution for Execution Authority for Agreements with MDOT**

**MOTION – To Approve Resolution to Give Chair Al Vanderberg Execution Authority for MDOT Contracts. MOVE – Janes. SUPPORT – Mullendore. MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. Emerging Regional Issue – Ambulance Consortium**

Rich Houtteman gave a PowerPoint presentation on the EMS consortium partnership. The presentation can be viewed on the GVMC website under the Latest Development section.

Since Mic Gunderson joined KEMS, the system has been evaluated. The previous system was good but not great. We want to make it great. It has been difficult to track holistically.

Brian Donovan reported there are many intergovernmental agreements in this system that play a vital role, but there are no official agreements or contracts. KEMS is a great organization to share knowledge and expertise. He stated all communities in Kent County are encouraged to join if they would like.

Michael Young stated it is very enlightening for Rockford to be part of this group. Public service is the largest part of their budget, yet there is no formal contract for ambulance service. We need to determine how to get better and strengthen the system.

Rich Houtteman reported the next steps are to continue the partnership and look forward to a final ambulance contract in the future. The goal is to improve service under the current financial commitments.

**10. January 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

**MOTION – To Cancel the January 2, 2014 GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**11. Adjournment – 9:45 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Hayes. MOTION CARRIED.**