

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

March 5, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building
Commissioners Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Randy DeBruine	City of Belding
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
George Meek	Plainfield Township
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
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:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Pat Capek	City of Cedar Springs
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member

John Helmholdt	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Roger Morgan	Kent County
Lon Myers	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
David Czurak	Grand Rapids Business Journal
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Peter Varga	The Rapid

2. Public Comment

David Bulkowski of Friends of Transit reported there will be a vote on May 5th on raising taxes to support the Silver-line bus service. The proposed increase is .16 mils. The six cities within the transportation system will be those affected by the proposed increase. Mr. Bulkowski passed out information on the Silver-line and asked for endorsements from officials in the six cities.

3. Oath of Office

Kent County Deputy Clerk Sonja Dean administered the Oath of Office to Eric DeLong of the City of Grand Rapids.

Eric DeLong stated he is honored to be a member of the Council and will do his best to stand up to the high standards exhibited by his predecessor.

4. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the February 2009, GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **Transportation Department**

Amendments to the FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the MDOT, ITP-The Rapid, the City of Grand Rapids and GVMC Transportation Planning Staff

- The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), The Rapid, the City of Grand Rapids and GVMC Staff are requesting to amend the FY2008 – 2011 TIP. Specifically, MDOT, The Rapid, the City of Grand Rapids and GVMC staff are requesting **TIP Amendments** for FY2009, 2010 and 2011.
- MDOT is requesting the following amendments to General Program Accounts (GPAs) for trunk line and local projects, either adding GPAs not currently in the TIP and adding funding to GPAs that do currently exist.
- The Rapid requests to amend the FY2010 TIP to make adjustments and additions to their Section 5307 and Section 5309 projects listed within the TIP.
- The City of Grand Rapids is requesting to amend the TIP to add an awarded FY2009 Enhancement project to the TIP. The project consists of reconstructing Cherry Street from Commerce Avenue to Division Avenue to brick pavers and the realignment of the Division/Cherry intersection. The award amount was \$417,328 federal with a total construction cost of \$1,470,000.
- Staff is requesting to amend the FY2009 TIP to add two Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to the FY2009 TIP. MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have determined that the projects are eligible for CMAQ funding.

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

6. **LGROW**

Brian Donovan gave a presentation on LGROW and asked for the Council's endorsement of the proposed dues formula. He described the process used to get LGROW to the point it is today. If the dues structure is approved, LGROW will begin asking organizations, communities, businesses, agriculture and individuals to join its efforts to create clean water. LGROW will coordinate education, testing, permitting, etc. The web site and promotional materials are currently being worked on. The budget is bare bones. As communities decide to join LGROW, Brian Donovan will be available to make presentations to communities' Boards and Commissions.

Rick Root thanked Brian for taking the leadership role in LGROW. It is very commendable and LGROW will be a good value for our communities.

MOTION – to Endorse the Dues Formula of LGROW and Support the Solicitation of Members. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reported on May 5th in room 405 of the Capitol, GVMC will hold a luncheon with our legislators. Attendees should plan on arriving early so they can attend committee meetings and sessions. This will be an opportunity to visit with the Appropriations Committee also. Don is working on arranging a visit from the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House.

Don Stypula reported information on the federal stimulus money has been released by the Governor. The process for receiving funding for public works projects will include using the state revolving loan fund. Other states are using the revolving loan fund also. The process is difficult, expensive and complex. Most of the communities in this area find it easier to bond for the funds.

Andy Bowman is meeting at SEMCOG with other communities to discuss stimulus funds other than sewer and transportation. Don will get information to everyone on the steps to apply for the funding.

Don Stypula reported he continues to have conversations with MDOT on transportation stimulus dollars. He can't share the specifics at this time.

Don Stypula reported the Governor has signaled support for working on a transportation funding solution. Options being considered include a modification on the fuel tax. A number of groups support this option. Realistically, the legislature has until July 4th to complete this action.

8. Other

Carol Sheets emphasized the need to work on gaining the authority to inspect school buildings. She also alerted the group to a proposal to mandate financial disclosure for all elected officials and a telecom bill which would mandate issues be taken to arbitration and whoever loses must pay all the fees.

Jim Buck reported we are looking for two additional members of the Nominating Committee. Anyone who is interested, please contact Jim.

9. Adjourn

10.

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