

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

April 6, 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
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Lon Myer	Village of Middleville
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Sandy Frost Parrish	Cascade Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent:

Brian Chodowski	Village of Sparta
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Cy Moore	Treasurer

Roger Mogan	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dharmesh Jain	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Erick Kind	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Swearing in of New Board Member – Lon Myers, Village of Middleville

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrake administered the Oath of Office to Lon Myers, of the Village of Middleville.

Mr. Myers stated that Middleville has been a member of the Metro Council almost from its inception. GVMC is an important regional organization to be associated with and he looks forward to serving on the Board.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of March, 2006 Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the March, 2006 GVMC Board Meeting Minutes with Corrections. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Nevins. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Financial Report

a. Monthly Financial Summary

Don Stypula reported there was nothing unusual in the financial report. The fund balance is at \$458,000. Administrative and Transportation professional development are high due to front loaded expenses. Electricity and telephone in both Administration and Transportation are high due to one time expenses which will even out over the remainder of the year.

b. Payment of Bill: Final Billing for FY 2005 Annual Audit

MOTION – To Pay the Final Billing of the FY 2005 Annual Audit. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – ROOT. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation Department

a. Three Amendments to the GVMC FY 2006-2008 TIP

Don Stypula explained the three requested amendments: Adding the M-6 Non-Motorized Trail Project to the TIP; Adding funds to upgrade GEE Drive in Lowell; and enabling ITP-The Rapid to purchase busses, vans, and computer equipment.

MOTION – To Approve the Three FY 2006-2008 TIP Amendments as Described Above. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

b. Amendments to the GVMC 2006-2006 TIP for CMAQ Projects

Don Stypula explained that the next requested amendment would allow for a list of nine CMAQ projects to be added to the TIP.

MOTION – To Approve the Addition of the CMAQ Projects to the FY 2006-2008 TIP. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Growing Communities Conference

Andy Bowman reported that plans for the Growing Communities Conference were under way. The Key Note Speakers will be Phil Power speaking on Michigan's New Center of Balance; and John Parr on Fostering Successful Regional Collaborations. Breakout sessions will be:

- Greenways and Greenbacks: Partnerships for Preserving Jobs and Nature in West Michigan.
- MI HELP: Michigan's Universities Partnering Around Land Use Policy
- Regional Transportation Services
- The Power of One
- Reaching Consensus in Land Use Disputes
- A Collaboration Tour: United Growth of Kent County will offer a glimpse at several collaborative efforts throughout the area.
- The Louisville Consolidation: Joan Riehm, Deputy City Manager
- The Kalamazoo Promise

8. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reviewed the resolution on telecommunications legislation.

Mike DeVries stated it was important to state in the resolution that municipalities are in support of competition, contrary to what you hear on T.V., even more so than SBC/AT&T. However, franchises are an important revenue stream that pays to maintain the right-of-way areas. Additionally, some regulation is good and necessary to protect the public (building out, cherry

picking, etc.) Maybe we can find a mutually acceptable middle ground someplace between where we are at now and what the bill calls for.

Mick McGraw asked if there was some way of protecting the revenue while hastening the process.

Rick Root stated that any legislation that would create bureaucracy at the state level, or collecting of fees at the state level, would be unacceptable as it would ultimately mean a loss of revenue.

Bill Holland reported he talked with Senator Kuipers and suggested developing boiler plate franchise agreements, and Sen. Kuipers stated that would not happen.

MOTION – To Approve the Telecommunications Resolution. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula stated he would have Jim Buck sign the resolution today, and start distributing it today.

HB 5124 – Bill to limit cost recovery for Register of Deeds documents

MOTION – To Oppose HB5124 – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Holland. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula stated he would carry this opposition individually to all legislators.

Mike DeVries added that a letter should be sent to Ottawa and Kent Counties saying GVMC passed a motion in opposition so they can use it in their lobbying efforts.

Don Stypula stated he had received a request from Jon Rice of the Kent County Road Commission to hold off on moving to support the legislation which would increase the size of the county Road Commissions until he has had a chance to address the Legislative Committee to give them the Road Commissions' opinion.

MOTION – To Refer Legislation Regarding Size of County Road Commission Back to the Legislative Committee. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

Revenue Sharing

Don Stypula reported revenue sharing was back in the news. Rep. Kevin Green is working on legislation which would add 2% as long as certain measures were taken to ensure cooperation and collaboration. Mr. Stypula indicated that being part of an organization such as GVMC would qualify for that cooperation. The bill would require performance measures which would enact a 2% across the board increase as an incentive. This is in the early stages of discussion and the Counties are not a part of it.

Rick Root stated he was not sure what they considered 2%. 2% of what?

Bill VerHulst asked if it was 2% of the total.

Rick Root stated there currently is a lot of legislation that makes it difficult to collectively work with other municipalities to cut costs. The higher wage scale always prevails, which negates the savings.

Mike DeVries stated it is important to keep our eyes on the revenue sharing rewrite which is set to come up next year. It is imperative to work together and get the counties added back in. We need a long term solution.

Daryl Delabbio stated we need to keep the pressure on the legislature, and the counties will support township and city lobbying efforts.

Don Hilton reported many units of government have fallen off of the revenue sharing scale. What does 2% mean? Will it pick up those who have fallen off of the scale and add back the counties? We have to be on top of the rewrite.

Bill VerHulst stated we should be made aware of all proposals regarding the SBT.

Don Stypula stated Rep. Fulton Sheen might be at our next meeting to discuss them.

9. Other

Chuck Porter asked if GVMC should start its meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer.

Jim Buck indicated it would be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

10. Adjournment – 9:40 a.m.

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