

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL
Board Meeting

May 6, 2004
8:30 a.m.
Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present

Jim Beelen	Allendale Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Dave Groenleer	Plainfield Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
James McIntyre	Courtland Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
David Morren	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

Members Absent

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
George Bosanic	City of Greenville
Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Bryan Gruesbeck	Village of Middleville
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Township
Jim Holtvluwer	Georgetown Township

Jerry Homminga
Ron Howell
Mark Knudsen
Pauline Luben
Mick McGraw
Cy Moore
Sandy Frost Parrish
Larry Silvernail
Tom Wiczorek
Michael Young

Cedar Springs
Village of Middleville
Ottawa County
City of Hudsonville
At-Large Member
Treasurer
Cascade Township
Byron Township
City of Ionia
City of Rockford

Others Present:

Brian Berdanier
Andy Bowman
Leon Branderhorst
Anna Christensen
Jim Fetzer
Abed Itani
Gayle McCrath
Mary Maupin
Don Stypula
Peter Varga

Grand Valley Metro Council
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ITP
Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
MDEQ
Grand Valley Metro Council
ITP

2. Approval of Minutes dated April, 2004

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the April, 2004 GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Patrick . MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Swearing in of New Member

Chairman Buck reported that Sonja Dean, Deputy Kent County Clerk, was in attendance, however, the member scheduled to be sworn in, Bryan Chodkowski, was not. Ms. Dean stated she would stay throughout the meeting in case Mr. Chodkowski arrived.

4. Financial Report

Finance Director Leon Branderhorst, gave the financial report. Mr. Branderhorst reported there was a healthy change in the fund balance of \$90,000. To date, revenues are at 66% and expenditures are at 70%.

The financial report was accepted into record.

Brian Berdanier, Director of the REGIS Agency, gave its financial report. He stated that recent changes to the budget approved by the Board were not yet reflected in this report. He said that to date, expenditures were at 35% which were mainly comprised of ortho photography, Arch 8 migration and contour funding. It is anticipated the fund balance will be approximately \$125,000 at year end.

5. Payment of Crowe-Chizek Bill

Chairman Buck reported a bill from Crowe-Chizek for the audit in the amount of \$4,520.00 needed to be considered.

Discussion – None.

MOTION – To Approve Payment of \$4,520 to Crowe-Chizek. MOVE – Heinbeck. SUPPORT – Hayes. MOTION CARRIED

6. Contract for West Michigan Ozone Action! Radio Campaign

Transportation Planner, Anna Christensen, explained the RFP process undertaken and the decision to go with Clear Channel Communications for the Ozone Action radio campaign. Ms. Christensen also stated that this year the Ozone Action season was officially kicked off by a proclamation by Governor Granholm.

Discussion.

Tom Fehsenfeld asked if any measurement takes place to see if the campaigns are actually working.

Ms. Christensen reported that a survey is done every two years and it has shown that not only awareness, but also participation in Ozone friendly activities is near 85% of those surveyed and consistently increases with each survey.

MOTION – To approve the contract with Clear Channel Communications for the Ozone Action radio campaign. MOVE – Fehsenfeld. SUPPORT – Morren. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Legislative Update

Don Stypula gave the legislative update which included the following:

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST REVIEW

The April 26, legislative breakfast was punctuated by blank stares and the sound of silence when Chairman Vonk posed our questions on municipal finance issues and other topics to legislators.

Plante and Moran study is very enlightening, although complicated and difficult to understand.

Kurt Kimball requested a presentation on this be made to GVMC members as a whole.

Don Stypula stated he would schedule a presentation by Plante and Moran, the MTA, and the MML.

LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY ON MUNICIPAL FINANCE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Lobbyists from the local government associations have been briefing lawmakers on the Plante and Moran which calculated the actual fiscal impact of the interaction of the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution, Proposal A and significant changes to the General Property Tax Act. Rep. Ed Gaffney (R-Grosse Pointe) is working with MML and MTA to craft a substitute to HB 4784 to amend the General Property Tax Act to allow local units to capture the revenue resulting from the sale of properties.

STATE BUDGET – REVENUE SHARING

The Michigan Association of Counties is continuing to talk with Granholm Administration officials and legislative leaders about a compromise plan to address revenue sharing. The talks have taken on a new urgency now that the Governor's plan to zero-out the line item for county statutory revenue sharing and move up the collection of county property tax levies from December to July of this year is dead.

The negotiations with MAC are taking place just as the Citizens Research Council of Michigan has released an update the growing gap between taxable value and state equalized value. In March 2001, the Citizens Research Council published a report examining the growing gap between taxable value (TV) and state equalized value (SEV).

That data has been updated for the 2003 tax year to reveal that statewide TV is now 78 percent of SEV and the gap is widening for most of the local units in the state.

Mr. Stypula stated he would locate this study and send it to all members.

STATE BUDGET – TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Senate Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee is now two weeks behind in its consideration of **HB 5528**, the FY 2005 budget for the Michigan Department of Transportation and local transportation programs.

A bitter dispute between MDOT leadership and Subcommittee and full Senate Appropriations Chair Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) has put funding for transit programs (including ITP) and AMTRAK service (including the Pere Marquette) in jeopardy.

Peter Varga stated that he is testifying on the issue on Tuesday in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. He will be bringing resolutions of support passed by various municipalities and organizations, including GVMC, to the committee meeting.

CONGRESSIONAL REAUTHORIZATION OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Talks between the White House and congressional tax writing staff on legislation to reauthorize federal highway and transit programs apparently have broken down due to the White House's insistence that a six-year bill cannot exceed \$275 billion. That breakdown could put in jeopardy the passage of a TEA-21 reauthorization bill this year, according to Senate Republican aides.

The new White House offer is more than the Bush administration's previous plan of \$256 billion over six years. But talks this past weekend when White House officials refused to go higher and continued to lambaste language in a Senate-passed bill that would redirect tax dollars from the general revenue to the highway trust fund.

8. Presentation the new U.S. EPA's recent redesignation of Kent and Ottawa Counties under the federal Clean Air Act.

Mary Maupin of MDEQ gave a presentation on the redesignation of Kent and Ottawa Counties under the federal Clean Air Act. See Attached

9. Other Items

Don Stypula distributed briefing memos on two items which will be addressed at future GVMC Board meetings, a contract with Farr Associates to assist GVMC planning staff in developing standards that will help local governments develop form-based zoning codes and street design guidelines, and a proposed contract GIS with Criterion Planners and Engineers to assist GVMC Planning and REGIS staffs in developing software applications that help local planners create and measure the performance of land use plans and evaluate proposed developments.

10. Public Comment

None.

11. Adjourn – 9:40

MOTION to Adjourn. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Bergman. MOTION CARRIED.