

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL
Board Meeting

June 2, 2005
8:30 a.m.
Kent County Building

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present

Cindy Bartman	City of East Grand Rapids
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
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Dennis Hoemke	Algoma Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
James McIntyre	Courtland Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
David Morren	Kent County
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Bob Rinck	Ottawa County
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Ted Vonk	Kent County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

Members Absent

George Bosanic	City of Greenville
Bryan Chodkowski	Village of Sparta
Bev Drake	ACSET Council
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids

Bill Holland
Ron Howell
Mick McGraw
Robert May
George Meek
Sandy Frost Parrish
Steven Patrick
Al Vanderberg
Tom Wiczorek
Bill Wiersma
Michael Young

Georgetown Township
Village of Middleville
At-Large Member
City of Hastings
Plainfield Township
Cascade Township
City of Coopersville
Ottawa County
City of Ionia
Tallmadge Township
City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman
Leon Branderhorst
Abed Itani
Dennis Kent
Gayle McCrath
Roger Safford
Don Stypula
Peter Varga

Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
Grand Valley Metro Council
MDOT
Grand Valley Metro Council
MDOT
Grand Valley Metro Council
ITP

2. Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the May, 2005, GVMC Board Meeting.
MOVE – Vonk. SUPPORT – Kimball. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Swearing in of Councilmember Patricia Capek as Cedar Springs Representative to the GVMC Board.

Kent County Clerk Mary Hollinrack swore in Patricia Capek as Cedar Springs' Representative to the GVMC Board.

Ms. Capek stated she was very pleased to be a part of the Metro Council and that it was a necessity for Cedar Springs to take part.

4. Financial Report

Don Stypula asked Cy Moore to give the financial report.

Cy Moore stated the contract for water and sewer was higher as it was just invoiced but has not yet been billed. The item is a pass-through. Transportation contract services is lower because billings did not come through on a monthly basis as budgeted. Land Use contract services is up as it was under-budgeted by approximately \$100,000. Next month it is expected there will be a budget amendment to the Council which will include the adjustment for this, as well as for the \$50,000 refund to the UCB for the natural resources position.

Don Stypula reported on the refund of the \$50,000 to the UCB. A Lower Grand Watershed Council is being implemented, for which the UCB has reallocated the \$50,000. An amended report will be filed to the UCB on activities over the past two years. The watershed program has sparked interest by other funders such as the Frey Foundation.

MOTION – To Accept the Financial Report into Record. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Shupe. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Transportation Department

a. FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program & Transportation Dues Adjustment

Don Stypula asked Abed Itani to discuss the FY 2006 Unified Planning Work Program.

Abed Itani stated that the Unified Work Program is required by Federal Highways and MDOT for next fiscal year. Mr. Itani created a summary and spreadsheet detailing the program. The program has been reviewed by the Tech and Policy committees and received their unanimous support.

Mr. Itani reported that integrated in his proposal was a five cent increase in transportation dues, with transportation and administration dues being indexed to inflation thereafter.

Mr. Itani stated that GVMC is an MPO and has certain activities required of it: Development of a long range transportation plan; Development of a transportation improvement plan; and development of a Unified Work Program.

Don Stypula reported part of the transportation budget also includes administrative expenses such as 55% of the Executive Director's compensation, as well as a portion of the Human Resources and Finance positions. The proposed program is contingent on the 5 cent increase in transportation dues and the indexing of administrative and transportation dues thereafter. He stated that Mr. Itani did some scenarios which showed some years transportation dues would increase a penny, and other years administration dues would increase a penny. Mr. Stypula stated that they tried to be as accurate as possible, even going out several decimal points.

Don Stypula reported he has talked to each and every GVMC representative and each one said it was imperative to maintain transportation funding.

He reported he is still trying to sublease the GVMC space in the Trust Building and is continuing to look for cheaper offices.

Mr. Stypula stated what he came up with based on individual meetings as well as the Tech and Policy meetings, is that there needs to be something to plan on so that GVMC won't be in this position again.

Abed Itani added that non MPO members were also having their dues go up by approximately 40%.

Don Stypula reported that Andy Bowman and Jay Hoekstra have been engaged in a series of discussions on fund raising and they are pursuing many options. They are developing a two year program which they can bring to funders.

Jim Buck stated that in order to approve the Unified Work Program, the transportation dues increase actually needed to be approved first, even though it appears second on the agenda.

Mike DeVries stated he had a problem with building in a CPI adjustment because it may not be a legitimate reflection of what expenses are. The dues adjustment could be done year to year.

Don Stypula stated that could be done, and we will not be asking for huge increases, only very modest ones.

Dave Morren said he was confused, as the Council is being asked to approve revenue, but they are not approving the budget. He felt uncomfortable with that.

Don Stypula stated that based on federal mandates, the transportation budget must be approved now, and then it will be build into the GVMC budget.

Abed Itani stated they were actually approving the budget for the MPO, not GVMC.

Rob VerHeulen stated he was very concerned. We are in effect agreeing to an increase on the transportation side. The Council doesn't want to see this in increments. Really we are seeing what the full budget will be. We have to see this as a five cent increase, but not an increase on the administration side.

Dave Morren said GVMC is actually approving the transportation budget.

Cy Moore reported that to clarify, the transportation budget is being approved today with the five cent increase and the overall GVMC budget will be presented later, which if not balanced, will result in either dues increase for administration or cutting of expenses.

Bonnie Shupe stated she brought this to her Board and it didn't sit very well with them. She felt she could not vote on it today without their approval.

Pauline Luben asked whether there was a need for six staff members in transportation, or are there positions that can be cut?

Abed Itani responded that they have always had six staff members since 1995, and mandates have increased since then. If staff is cut, then programs need to be cut.

Pauline Luben reported that she had heard that a transportation staff member was leaving and she wanted to know if it was possible to fill that with a part time person.

Abed Itani stated he didn't know if that was possible, but the budget needed to be approved now. The staff member in question had been added to the transportation department in November of 2001, and it is anticipated she will be replaced by a similar position which may include ITS duties.

Kurt Kimball stated he wanted to speak favorably regarding the increase. If the transportation dues are not increased, we will be leaving a lot of federal money on the table. We should maximize the money we receive back. It is not necessary to approve indexing now. If we agree on the concept, we can address it on a yearly basis.

MOTION – To Approve the Five Cent Transportation Dues Increase and Address an Inflationary Adjustment Yearly. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Beelen. MOTION CARRIED.

Bonnie Shupe abstained from voting. She indicated she agreed with the concept, but preferred not to vote for an increase unless directed so by her Board.

MOTION – To Approve the Unified Work Program. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Luben. MOTION CARRIED.

6. REGIS

Don Stypula reported the REGIS re-think was moving along well and there was a transition team meeting planned for this afternoon.

7. Legislative Update

Don Stypula reported Congress passed an extension of TEA-21 and the MPO should see additional funding shortly.

There is no news on revenue sharing. The House is not predisposed to cutting.

The GVMC Legislative Committee is meeting next week and the business tax debate will be on the agenda.

8. Presentation by Roger Safford of MDOT

Roger Safford of MDOT gave a presentation on safety.

9. Public Comment

NONE

10. Adjournment – 9:50 a.m.

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.