



## **Board Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday December 1, 2011 • 8:30 a.m.**

**Kent County Commission Chambers – Grand Rapids**

- 1. Call to Order by Chair**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of Minutes dated November 3, 2011 (attachment)**
- 4. Emerging Issues: Emergency Medical Response in Kent County**
  - a. Special Presentation on Kent County-wide Emergency Medical Response System by Mic Gunderson, Executive Director, Kent County Emergency Medical Services, Inc.**
- 5. Legislative Advocacy**
  - a. Personal Property Tax**
  - b. State Transportation Funding**
  - c. Federal Transportation Funding**
  - d. Next meeting of the GVMC Legislative Committee – 8:30 a.m., Friday December 16, 2011**
- 6. Other items of business and comments from GVMC members**
- 7. Adjournment**



## Memorandum

**To:** Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
**From:** Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director  
**Date:** October 30, 2011  
**Re:** Agenda Items for our November 3, 2011 Board meeting

---

Attached are the agenda and support documents for our next GVMC Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for **8:30 am Thursday December 1, 2011 at the Kent County Commission Chambers – Third Floor of the Kent County Administration Building in downtown Grand Rapids.**

This month we are focusing most of our attention on a topic of great interest to everyone who lives and works in Kent County – the county-wide emergency medical response system. We'll have a special presentation on a recent study of emergency medical response services in Kent County that I think you will find very enlightening. I will also bring you an update on key legislative issues that we are engaging in both Lansing and Washington.

We'll start by reviewing and accepting the attached minutes from our November 3, 2011 GVMC Board meeting.

### **EMERGING ISSUES: EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE IN KENT COUNTY**

A major portion of our meeting on Thursday morning is devoted to a thorough discussion of a very compelling issue affecting all of us who live and work in Kent County – county-wide emergency medical services.

GVMC has invited Mic Gunderson, the new Executive Director of Kent County Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (KCEMS), to provide a detailed look at how the various elements of the county-wide emergency medical response system function and how the system can be improved. Over the past several months, under Mic's direction, KCEMS has been conducting a comprehensive study of the entire emergency medical response system that serves Kent County.

The KCEMS study provides a comprehensive evaluation of the design, performance and cost of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system in Kent County. The study extends from the 9-1-1 communications and ambulance dispatch centers through medical first response, ambulance

transport, and into the hospital emergency department and acute specialty care centers for heart attacks, strokes and trauma. It examines the overall systems of care that transcend individual EMS providers and hospitals. The KCEMS analysis highlights specific issues and offers recommendations for changes in system governance, standards, accountability and enforcement. It calls for a re-examination of ambulance service designation issues as well as the types of calls that Medical First Responder (MFR) units are, and are not, sent on.

Because of the sweeping nature of the KCEMS analysis, and the fact everyone who lives, works and plays in Kent County is impacted by the speedy and efficient delivery emergency medical services, I have invited officials from all Kent County communities – including non-Metro Council members – to attend this briefing and learn more about how the EMS system currently functions and how it can be improved in the future.

### **LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

While the Legislature returns from a two-week recess and is set to tackle a modest number of issues before adjourning for the year around December 15, most of the major issues, including the funding elements of Governor Snyder's transportation infrastructure plan, are postponed until January.

Before breaking for Thanksgiving, lawmakers gave final approval to several GVMC-backed measures designed to remove barriers to intergovernmental collaboration and the development of service-sharing agreements. SB 8, which creates the Municipal Partnership Act, and HBs 4309, 4311 and 4312, which amend the Urban Cooperation Acts, passed both chambers the first week of November and are being prepped for printing and presentation to the Governor. I will alert the membership and send copies of the new public acts when the Governor signs the bills.

**Personal Property Tax:** While the issue has been put off until January, there is still no solid word from Lansing as to when the Governor will release his proposal regarding the phase-out of the personal property tax. Multiple sources still confirm that the Governor's plan will partially, but not fully, pay for phasing out the industrial portion of the tax with the expiration of tax credits claimed by businesses under the Michigan Business Tax. At this juncture, I have no concrete specifics on other elements in the plan, but I am monitoring this issue closely and will report to the membership as the plan is galvanized.

**Transportation Funding - Lansing:** The Legislative Committee spent considerable time digesting and discussing Governor Snyder's multi-phase plan to finance transportation infrastructure improvements. Joining us at the meeting were MDOT Region Engineer Roger Safford and senior region planner Dennis Kent, together with Kent County Road Commission Managing Director Jon Rice. Committee members and guests agreed that the Governor's plan to hike state vehicle registration fees, allow county-option vehicle registration fees and switch from the current per-gallon taxes on motor fuels to a state percentage tax at the wholesale level would be difficult tasks for the Legislature going into the 2012 election year. A statewide poll,

conducted by the Gongwer News Service in Lansing, found that voters overwhelmingly oppose a proposal to raise vehicle registration fees by an average of \$120 per vehicle a year to raise revenue to maintain the state's roads. The poll, conducted by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA, showed 63 percent of likely voters surveyed oppose such a plan while just 29 percent support it. With that in-mind, lawmakers will now likely focus on “efficiencies and reforms” for the transportation funding process and examine a proposal to shift the state sales tax yield from gasoline and diesel sales into the Michigan Transportation Fund.

GVMC Legislative Committee members expressed major concerns over Snyder’s plan to allow counties to “absorb” the functions of road commissions and his proposal to amend the Public Act 51 state transportation funding formula to favor high-volume, high-traffic, commercial corridors over other components of the local road network. Northern Michigan Republicans appear strongly opposed to HBs 5125 and 5126, which would allow county commissions to, by a simple majority vote, eliminate the county road commission. They are looking at alternatives to give voters a greater voice in determining whether road commissions should exist in individual counties,

**Transportation Funding – Washington:** Meanwhile, in Washington, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has reported to the U.S. Senate floor, **S. 1813, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** federal transportation funding reauthorization bill. Known as MAP-21, the two-year reauthorization of the federal Surface Transportation Act would essentially freeze federal transportation allocations to the states at current levels for two years. GVMC would be designated a Tier-II Metropolitan Planning Organization under the bill with essentially the same transportation planning duties and responsibilities we have currently. Smaller MPOs – like the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (MACC) in Holland – would, under the current language, be forced to dissolve and transfer their planning activities to the state or neighboring MPOs. Both Senators Levin and Stabenow are aware of MACC’s concerns and are working with bill sponsors to address the language.

In the U.S. House, efforts are underway to mirror the Senate approach on funding. Leaders have given the go-ahead to find the \$12 billion to \$16 billion needed to maintain transportation funding at current levels.

**The next GVMC Legislative Committee is now scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday December 16 here at the GVMC offices.** The date as moved from the 14<sup>th</sup> to accommodate those members wishing to attend the Right Place, Inc. 2012 economic forecast briefing at DeVos Place.

As always, we’re looking forward to seeing you and having a fruitful discussion. If you have any thoughts, comments, questions or suggestions you can reach me anytime on my cell phone at 616-450-5217, in the office at 776-7604, at home at 257-3372 or via email at [stypulad@gvmc.org](mailto:stypulad@gvmc.org).

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

November 4, 2011

8:30 a.m.

Wyoming City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

#### 1. Call to Order

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

#### Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Robert May	City of Hastings
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Michael Young	City of Rockford

#### Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township

Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Martin Super	Village of Sparta
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland

**Others Present:**

Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings
Peter Varga	The Rapid/ ITP

**2. Public Comment**

None

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the October 2011 GVMC Board Meeting as Corrected. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Holtrop. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Records Retention Policy**

Don Stypula reviewed the proposed records retention policy. He asked the auditors to provide guidelines on retention obligation time frames. They directed him to the Dept. of Treasury official documentation, which the proposed policy is based on. It will keep GVMC within full legal requirements.

**MOTION – To Approve the Proposed Records Retention Policy. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Meek. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 5. **Legislative Update**

Personal Property Tax (PPT) – Nothing has changed on this issue. It is still the Governor’s desire to move something forward. They are waiting on procedures and preferences from the Governor’s office. We are in sync with MAC, MTA & MML. MML is still pushing for full reimbursement.

George Meek asked what the timetable was projected to be.

Don Stypula stated they would like to do it this calendar year, but are running out of time. It will probably materialize in early 2012.

Municipal Partnership Act – We are making progress with the Municipal Partnership Act and are working on amendatory language. Hopefully we will hear good news towards the end of the day. Yesterday three amendments to the Urban Cooperation Act were passed.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be November 9<sup>th</sup> with Jon Rice of the Kent County Road Commission to discuss transportation funding.

Rick Root added clearly the change in PPT will mean a lot of revenue will be cut. Be prepared to talk with your legislators or lose funding. We need a very active dialogue. Let them know your concerns. We will have no relief in the cost of assessing; there will be no cost savings.

The International Trade Crossing is currently on the back burner, but the Governor probably won’t let it die.

New legislation also brings up the question of will there still be a county road commission. We should start doing our homework to see what that means. If the Commission becomes part of the county, clearly we are on the way to being One Kent.

## 6. **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Michael Young reported the following have been nominated for GVMC officers and Executive Committee members:

### **Officers & Executive Committee Members**

Jim Buck, City of Grandville – Chairman

Don Hilton Sr., Gaines Charter Township – Vice Chair

Daryl Delabbio, Kent County – Secretary

Cy Moore – Treasurer

### **Executive Committee Members**

Cindy Fox, Cascade Township  
George Heartwell, City of Grand Rapids  
Rick Root, City of Kentwood  
Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County  
Rob VerHeulen, City of Walker  
Michael Young, City of Rockford

## **7. Governor's Infrastructure Plan**

Don Stypula gave a presentation on the Governor's infrastructure funding plan.

- Increase state vehicle registration fees by \$10 / month
- Allow counties to ask voters for a countywide, \$40-per-year vehicle registration fee
- Eliminate 19-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and 15-cent-per-gallon diesel fuels tax and replace with state percentage tax assessed at the wholesale level
- Dedicate the portion of the 6 percent sales tax on the purchase of motor fuels to the Michigan Transportation Fund
- Eliminate 19-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax and 15-cent-per-gallon diesel fuels tax and ask voters to raise the state sales tax by 1% with the yield deposited in the Michigan Transportation Fund.
- Allow county commissions to eliminate County Road Commissions and create County Public Works Departments
- Amend state funding distribution formulas under Act 51 of 1951 to favor high-traffic and commercial corridors
- Amend Act 51 to eliminate funding to individual cities and villages receiving less than \$50,000 in state transportation funds
- Require local road agencies to comply with 2011 P.A. 152 ("hard-cap" / 80/20 employee insurance provisions)
- Allow local transportation agencies covered by P.A. 51 to open construction and maintenance contracts to competitive bidding from the public and private sectors.

Peter Varga reported transit funding issues are just as fluid. There is concern about the proposed sales tax vs. PPT as it would be much more volatile.

Milt Rohwer asked what the analysis of the gas current gas tax to the wholesale tax showed.

Don Stypula stated the Senate Fiscal Agency is doing the analysis now.

Mark Howe asked for an analysis of how Act51 funding could result in locals shifting in and out of formula.

## **8. Adjournment – 9:40 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED.**