



**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

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**GVMC  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**8:30 a.m. January 10, 2013**

**Kent County Commission Chambers**

- 1) Approval of December 2012 Minutes - Attached**
- 2) Public Comments**
- 3) At Large Member Nomination, Mark Lemoine, Spectrum Health, Resume Attached**
- 4) Oath of Office – Thad Taylor, City Manager of Cedar Springs and Mark Lemoine – At-Large Appointee**
- 5) Motion to Pay MDOT Billing – Invoice Attached**
- 6) Jim Miller of GCSI Legislative Update**
- 7) Adjourn**

# GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

## Board Meeting

December 6, 2012

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers  
Grand Rapids

## 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
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Richard Clanton	City of Kentwood
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Steve Grimm	Cannon Township
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Cindy Janes	Cascade Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Jay Stevens	Plainfield Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming

#### Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
John Helmholdt	At-Large Member
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Mark Howe	City of Lowell

Rebecca Fleury	Village of Middleville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
Audrey Nevins-Weiss	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Saalfeld	Kent County
Michael Selden	City of Wayland
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Patrick Waterman	City of Hudsonville
Roger Wills	City of Belding
Michael Young	City of Rockford

**Others Present:**

Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Brenda McNabb-Stange	City of Hastings
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

**2. Minutes**

**MOTION: To Approve the Minutes of the November GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE - Janes. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. Public Comment**

None

**4. Oath of Office**

Deputy Kent County Clerk Sonja Dean administered the Oath of Office to Jay Spencer, Supervisor of Plainfield Twp. Mr. Spencer stated he was excited to be at the GVMC table and take part. A lot of things are happening regionally and on the state level which this body has an important part in.

**5. Appointment of Brian Donovan to Executive Committee**

Al Vanderberg reported the Human Resources Committee has considered replacements for Rob VerHeulen on the Executive Committee, as he will be leaving his position as Mayor of Walker to join the Michigan Legislature. Brian Donovan, City Manager of East Grand Rapids, has been

with the Council many years and has done a huge amount of work in various areas, most notably with LGROW.

John Weiss stated he has spent a lot of time working with Brian and appreciates the leadership and forward thinking he brings to the Council.

**MOTION – To Appoint Brian Donovan to the GVMC Executive Committee as of 1/1/2013. MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.**

**6. Transportation Funding**

John Weiss reported the Michigan Transportation Team has met ongoingly. Through GVMC a smaller local task force has come together often and drafted several proposals. The Metro Council also sponsored a meeting with 25 GVMC members, representatives from the Governor's office and MDOT officials attending in which long term transportation funding was discussed.

Mike DeVries stated the concern legislation quickly being ran through during the lame duck session. Fortunately, transportation funding is not expected to be taken up before the New Year. This will allow a thoughtful process and is expected to be addressed in the Governor's State of the State address.

**7. Presentation on Restore the Rapids**

Wendy Ogilvie of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber gave a presentation on the proposal to restore the rapids to the Grand River. See Attached

**8. Change of Date of January GVMC Board Meeting**

**MOTION – To Move the Date of the January GVMC Board Meeting to January 10. MOVE – Poll. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.**

**9. PPT**

John Weiss reported a subgroup of the Legislative Committee has been involved in the process, doing analysis and working with the Lt. Governor to put together proposals. The issue is moving very quickly. Today there will be a vote. We encourage everyone to take the advice of MML, MAC and MTA and contact their legislators to request a delay. More time is needed to analyze the issue and outcomes. There are major holes in the currently proposed legislation. Hundreds of hours of work have been put into the proposal we support. It has been a monumental effort by cities, counties & townships. There is a lot more work to be done.

**10. Other**

**11. Farewell to Rob VerHeulen, Mayor of Walker**

GVMC Chair Jim Buck wished Rob VerHeulen well in his new position as Representative in the Michigan Legislature. Rob has been long-serving and second to none in his commitment to his community, the Council and the Region.

John Weiss thanked Rob for his service to the City of Walker and GVMC.

Each Board member was given the opportunity to speak and wish Rob well in his new endeavor.

**12. Adjournment – 10:00 a.m.**

**MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Janes. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Spectrum Health System**  
System Government Affairs  
100 Michigan Street NE | MC 065  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
616.391.2726 616.391.2092  
spectrum-health.org

**Mark A. Lemoine**  
Director, Government Affairs

November 5, 2012

Mr. John Weiss  
Grand Valley Metro Council  
678 Front Ave NW, Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504

Dear John:

In follow up to our discussion and your conversation with Steve Heacock, Senior Vice President of Community Affairs at Spectrum Health, I would be honored to be considered for a board appointment to the Grand Valley Metro Council (GVMC).

As you are aware, my career has spanned nearly twenty years in the public policy arena. From working in the state Senate, to lobbying for Meijer Corporation, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and now Spectrum Health for the past eight years, I believe I could bring a unique set of experiences and a broad perspective.

Over the years, I have always enjoyed working with you on various issues. I have also enjoyed working with many of the local government officials from the communities you represent. Building upon these existing relationships would be exciting not only to contribute to the efforts of GVMC, but to more directly engage on local and regional issues that are critical to West Michigan.

Enclosed please find a biography which you and the selection committee may find helpful. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Mark A. Lemoine  
Director, System Government Affairs

Enclosure

**Mark A. Lemoine, Director**  
System Government Affairs  
616.391.2726  
616.391.2092 (fax)  
mark.lemoine@spectrum-health.org



Mark Lemoine has been the Director of System Government Affairs for Spectrum Health since 2004. In this role, he is a registered lobbyist and serves as a liaison between the local, state and federal levels of government for all Spectrum Health entities.

Prior to Spectrum Health, Lemoine served as Vice President of Public Policy & Government Affairs for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and as Government Affairs Manager for Meijer. He gained public sector experience serving in leadership staff roles in the Michigan State Senate including, chief of staff to the chairman of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee for the Family Independence Agency; legislative director for the chairman of the Senate Health Policy Committee; communications specialist for the Senate Majority Leader; and Field Director during former Governor John Engler's successful 1998 re-election campaign.

Lemoine was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Calvin College. He is an active member of several charitable and community organizations serving in many ways including as Secretary of the Friends of Spectrum Health Political Action Committee, Past Board Chair of the Pregnancy Resource Center, Advisory Board member of the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University, Co-Chair of an alumni/faculty workgroup of the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship and an active member of Blytheville Hills Church.

He lives in Rockford, Michigan and enjoys spending recreational time in Michigan's natural resources with his wife and four children.

*Updated 9/6/2011*

MDOT  
841(1/92)

# INVOICE

Refer to this Number in Correspondence ----

Invoice No.

**OP 348701**

Date

11/30/12

**GVMC  
678 FRONT AVE. NW. SUITE 200  
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504**

**Department of Transportation  
Attention: Finance Cashier  
P. O. Box 30648  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: (517) 373-1516**

**Payment Due Within 30 Days Unless Agreement States Otherwise -- Make Check Payable to: State of Michigan - MDOT**

In Re: OVERPAYMENT

CONTRACT NO: VARIOUS. SEE ATTACHED DETAIL  
JOB NUMBERS: VARIOUS. SEE ATTACHED DETAIL  
AUDIT REPORT NO: 2010-159

**Invoice Amount: \$364,922.00**

**Balance Due: \$364,922.00**

MDOT Fed. Id.: 386000134

**DETACH HERE, SEND REMITTANCE AND THIS STUB TO:**

Michigan Department of Transportation, ATTN: Finance Cashier, P. O. Box 30648, Lansing, Michigan 48909

Invoice No.	Code	Name	Agreement
<b>OP 348701</b>	42145	GVMC	-

  

Tran	AY	Index	PCA	Appr	Fund	AO	AC-3	GL	Amount	Proj No	Proj Phase	Fed. Item No.
187	13	88512	88888	88851	2116	5259		0503	364,922.00			



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 14, 2012

**CONTACT:**

Chris Glass

Director of Public Policy

616.308.9971

[glassc@grandrapids.org](mailto:glassc@grandrapids.org)

## **CHAMBER APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

**Grand Rapids** –The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce applauds lawmakers for passing important legislation providing Personal Property Tax (PPT) relief for manufacturers and small businesses. The phasing out of this outdated and burdensome tax on business equipment has been a top priority for the Chamber.

“This removes a significant barrier to business investment and expansion, creating additional high-quality jobs for our community,” said Rick Baker, President & CEO of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. “Michigan was the only remaining state in the Midwest with a dependence on this tax, making us uncompetitive.”

“Our membership has always understood that local communities and schools rely upon PPT revenue to provide essential services,” commented Chris Glass, Director of Public Policy for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce. “This package of bills responsibly replaces that revenue while creating an environment for more jobs.”

The Chamber would like to specifically thank Lt. Governor Calley and a group of West Michigan local governments that included the Cities of Grand Rapids and Wyoming, Kent and Ottawa Counties, and the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council for providing thoughtful input that enabled the legislature to support this reform.

A recent Anderson Economic Group report estimates that eliminating Michigan’s industrial personal property tax, in combination with other tax reforms, will create between 20,000 and 45,000 jobs.

###

### **About the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**

With more than 120 years of experience creating opportunities for business success, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is the premier business membership organization in West Michigan. Though the area’s largest employers are among its 2,700 member businesses, more than 80% of members are small companies with 50 or fewer employees. By helping members connect, grow and succeed, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce is a community partner that provides value for members, enhances the business climate in the area, and advocates for public policy that supports economic growth and vitality.



# Michigan personal property tax phaseout satisfies Grand Rapids



By [Matt Vande Bunte | mvandebu@mlive.com](mailto:mvandebu@mlive.com)

on December 15, 2012 at 8:04 AM, updated December 15, 2012 at 8:05 AM

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Michigan lawmakers scrapped the state's personal property tax as it concluded its 2011-2012 session Friday, Dec. 14. [MLive.com File](#)

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – Hailed by business leaders as a win, legislation that phases out Michigan's personal property tax on manufacturing equipment is being accepted by the Grand Rapids-area's biggest local governments as not too bad of a loss.

As they concluded their 2011-2012 session, Michigan lawmakers on Friday, Dec. 14, approved a package of bills that would gradually eliminate the equipment tax and replace most of that revenue for many local governments. Cities and counties had feared that lawmakers might scrap the tax without providing an alternative source of revenue.

"(What got passed) is better than the alternative," said John Weiss, director of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, which lobbied lawmakers for replacement funds. "The PPT (elimination)

was inevitable. It was going to happen. Our participation made it more sustainable and made the possibilities for reimbursement stronger.

“(The PPT) has been in place for a long, long time. It’s a key source of revenue. You can’t just hack it.”

**RELATED:** [Michigan House, Senate OK phasing out tax on business equipment](#)

Phasing out the personal property tax that manufacturers pay on equipment has been a high priority for Republicans, who think it will spur commercial investment. But it worried local governments that for years have depended on the tax to generate revenue for public services.

The proposal could replace some of the reduced taxes in part by devoting a portion of the state's 6-percent "use" tax to a special authority that would send revenues along to communities. Republicans said 100 percent of the lost revenue for police, fire and jails could be recouped through a special local assessment on industrial properties. Another 80 percent of the lost revenue for other services would be guaranteed if voters in August 2014 approve the change in the “use” tax.”

The personal property tax currently generates about \$10 million and \$2.7 million in general-fund revenue for Kent and Ottawa counties, respectively.

“Relatively, this is a win,” said Al Vanderberg, Ottawa County administrator. “I think it’s the best local government was going to get out of this deal.

“There’s a lot of moving parts in this legislation. Our best estimate today would be that, once the ball stops bouncing, we think we could be as well off as 85 percent of what we get today.”

Daryl Delabbio, Kent County administrator, said his staff is analyzing effects of the legislation.

Michigan House Democrats [issued a statement](#) characterizing the legislation as “more corporate tax giveaways on the backs of local services and schools.” Meanwhile, the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce lauded the legislation as making Michigan more competitive by removing a barrier to business investment and job creation in the state.

“Our membership has always understood that local communities and schools rely upon PPT revenue to provide essential services,” said Chris Glass, the chamber’s director of public policy. “This package of bills responsibly replaces that revenue while creating an environment for more jobs.”

The Michigan Municipal League [came out neutral](#) on the legislation.

In Zeeland, where personal property tax accounts for 22 percent of general-fund revenue, any gap in replacement revenue could be significant.

“I wouldn’t say this is a win by any means,” City Manager Tim Klunder said. “There are going to have to be decisions to say ‘Alright, how are we going to adjust?’ We’ll figure out a way to deal with it.”

Grand Rapids gets about \$1.3 million in personal property tax now and stands to lose perhaps \$150,000 in revenue under the new legislation, said Eric DeLong, deputy city manager. But "because we were able to work to develop a significant reimbursement package, it will have very little effect on city services," he said.

“We are supportive of the approach taken to address both business tax relief and municipal reimbursement," he said. "There’s a good balance.”

Email [Matt Vande Bunte](mailto:Matt Vande Bunte), follow him on [Twitter](#) or be his friend on [Facebook](#).

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