

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 20, 2005
12:00 PM

Grand Valley Metro Council
40 Pearl NW, Suite 410
Grand Rapids, MI

MINUTES

Present

Jim Beelen	City of Allendale
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Other

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Leon Branderhorst	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

**MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the September, Executive Committee Meeting.
MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Financial Report

The fund balance has changed by - \$79,000. It is currently projected to be down by \$110,000 by fiscal year end. The auditors will be coming in the first of November to start their work.

Interest revenue has been better than expected. Transportation expenses have been less due to a position that was open for part of the year. Land Use expenses are down due to the fact that its Director has been splitting his time between REGIS and Land Use. Contractual services are coming in lower than expected.

4. Transportation Department

Abed Itani explained the TIP amendment requested by MDOT. They affect several bridge projects within the I-96 and I-196 corridors. The amendment has been approved by both the Policy and Tech committees.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed TIP Amendment. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

5. REGIS Update

Don Stypula reported on the search for a new REGIS Director. Applications have been received for more candidates, and interviews scheduled for four more people who have administered regional GIS systems. The interview team will consist of five members of the REGIS Board, as well as the Executive Director and the Human Resources Director.

Andy Bowman reported things have been running smoothly in the REGIS technical advisory team and it is interacting well with staff.

Andy Bowman reported that additional contract help has been taken on to fill in the gaps where staffing is needed.

6. Legislative Issues

Don Stypula gave the legislative update. He reported the telecom rewrite is moving forward. They are trying to eliminate section 252. Amendments are being offered to try to make it more municipal friendly.

The eminent domain issue is also beginning to move. There is concern as it would prevent local units from using eminent domain as a tool for economic development projects even in redeveloping blighted areas of a community.

Local Government Finance Study – A series of meetings has been scheduled and the committee is coming up with recommendations. Surveys are going out to the MML, MTA, etc. The target date for recommendations is the end of February.

Business Tax Debate – Sikkema announced he will be forwarding a proposal to cut business taxes and make up with long term state budget cuts.

7. Presentation on County/Local Unit Fiscal Challenges

Don Stypula reviewed his presentation on local fiscal challenges.

8. Other

9. Adjourn 1:30 p.m.

MOTION to Adjourn. MOVE – Delabbio. SUPPORT – Root. MOTION CARRIED.