

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

Thursday, March 18, 2004
12:00 PM

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

MINUTES

Present

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Kurt Kimball	City of Grand Rapids
Mark Knudsen	Ottawa County
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Frank Sessions	Tallmadge Township
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker

Absent

Rick Root	City of Kentwood
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Staff

Brian Berdanier	Grand Valley Metro Council
Andy Bowman	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 by Chair Jim Buck.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February Executive Committee meeting were reviewed.

MOTION – to Approve the February 2004 minutes of the GVMC Executive Committee Meeting. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Review of Financial Statements

Treasurer Cy Moore reported on the financial statement. He stated he hadn't had a chance to look over the format before the meeting. This report differs from the previous format used as it shows the figures to-date. The report shows that uncollected revenues are 75% of budget to-date.

There was discussion regarding why the budget for the year shows a shortfall. It was suggested that the shortfall was due to the initial proposing of a breakeven budget, and then addition of 2% increase in salaries.

4. Swearing-in of Jerry Homminga, City Manager, Cedar Springs, as the city's representative to GVMC

The City of Cedar Springs has appointed Jerry Homminga, City Manager of Cedar Springs, as its representative to the Metro Council. This item will be moved to the agenda of the April Board Meeting.

5. Adjustments to FY 2004 REGIS Budget

Brian Berdanier explained the request for a FY 2004 REGIS budget amendment. The request included a recommended adjustment to fund balance to cover expenditures that have been preplanned over previous budget years or recommended for expenditure by the REGIS Board.

MOTION – To Approve the Adjustments to the FY 2004 REGIS Budget. MOVE – Moore. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation

a. Draft Approval of the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan

Abed Itani presented the Long Range Transportation Program and answered questions regarding it.

Mr. Itani explained it was a multi-modal plan which also includes transit, freight, rail, aviation and non-motorized.

Mr. Itani explained they tried to get a plan approved which was connected to the Blueprint. However, the Federal Highway Administration mandated the existing master land use plans had to be used. When a concrete plan is developed through the Metropolitan Framework / Blueprint, then the Federal Highway Administration might approve a long range transportation plan which is tied to it.

The plan also includes a 1% annual increase.

The community feels there are certain projects that are important, yet were not

approved by the feds. These projects are listed in a separate appendage which includes non-funded projects.

The program is equitable and fair to everyone. It is based on needs, not a perception of needs.

SEMAC projects are not included in this due to the changing of the area designations. Safety projects are not in this as they are done on a yearly basis. Enhancement projects are done in the same manner.

Mark Knudsen asked what percentage of unrestricted funds are used for transit. Abed Itani replied that 30% of the unrestricted funds that are received from SEMAC go to transit.

MOTION - To place the Long Range Transportation Plan on the April GVMC Board Meeting agenda. MOVE – VerHeulen. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

b. FY 2004 TIP Amendments

Abed Itani discussed the TIP amendment request. It would reduce the cost of a project and to add FY 2003 carry-over funds to another project. It would include a grant request for 5310 funds for FY2005 from Senior Neighbors, and splitting of a project between the City of Grand Rapids and Wyoming (changing the scope of the project currently listed in the FYI 2004 TIP. It also includes several changes requested by MDOT to maintain financial constraint while developing the next 5 year road and bridge program and the call for projects for FY2009.

The amendment has been approved by the Policy and Tech Committees.

MOTION – To place the FY 2004 TIP Amendment on the April GVMC Board meeting agenda. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Heinbeck. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Resolution of Support for Continued Public Transit Funding

Don Stypula reported that Representative Shirley Johnson opposes public transit funding. Mr. Stypula recommended approving a resolution being circulated by ITP to support continued transit funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the phrasing of the resolution.

Mark Knudsen stated that he would want to make sure more money going to public transit didn't result in less money going to the regular roads. He also questioned the effectiveness of transit and if it had been demonstrated it worked.

Abed Itani reported that the last time Rep. Johnson wanted to cut transit funding she was shut down quickly as transit is tied to federal highway funding. You can't have one without the other. Mr. Itani stated it was highly unlikely Rep. Johnson would succeed in cutting transit funding.

Don Hilton reported that he doesn't believe it is likely the funding would be cut either, but it should be done through a common resolution to support our partners.

MOTION – To approve the ITP resolution as written with the understanding that wordsmithing may take place in the future. MOVE – Kimball. SUPPORT – Delabbio. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Legislative Update

Don Stypula discussed the legislative update. He reported there is a movement in Lansing to pit cities against townships in the budget revenue sharing discussions by moving the structure to a more per capita formula. Mr. Stypula said it was his political read that townships would support it while cities would be against it and it would accomplish what Rep. Taub wants which is a war. She is alone in her opinion of that. There is no major buzz on revenue sharing right now.

Daryl Delabbio asked why the townships would support and the cities oppose this.

Cindy Heinbeck stated that the over 700 townships not getting any support would now get some.

Mr. Stypula stated that he believed a majority of cities would get less.

Mr. Stypula reported no TEA21 reauthorization. A 6-year bill for \$275 billion has been approved by the House, with the Senate being silent on it. The Senate has a \$318 billion bill which the President has said he will veto. The bills will go into conference committee and will bring Michigan up from 90.5% to 91%.

Abed Itani reported that they voted out the firewall, so now they can use transit funding for other things.

Mr. Stypula reported that the MTA proposal on personal property tax exemption is being looked at. It would set a limit at \$3,000.

Daryl Delabbio stated that the current bill is cumulative so that the exempted amount continually increases until it is completely eliminated.

9. Other Items

Jim Buck stated the issue of the market study which was tabled from the last GVMC Board meeting would be back on the agenda for the April Board Meeting, and there needn't be a motion and vote on the issue as it wasn't formally sent back to the Executive Committee, only tabled for a month from the Board.

10. Adjourn – 1:30