



Executive Committee

Thursday September 15, 2011 • 12 Noon
GVMC Offices – Riverview Center -- 678 Front Ave. NW

Agenda

- 1. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2011**
- 2. Strategic Initiatives**
 - a. New Board Meeting Schedule – start date and procedures**
 - b. Emerging Issues Committee - logistics**
- 3. Legislative Advocacy – Report from the Legislative Committee**
 - a. Personal Property Tax**
 - b. New International Trade Crossing**
 - c. Transportation Funding**
 - d. Issues Update**
- 4. Other Items**
- 5. Executive Session to discuss executive search**



Memorandum

To: GVMC Executive Committee

From: Donald J. Stypula, Executive Director

Date: September 12, 2011

Re: Agenda items for our September 15, 2011 Executive Committee meeting

Attached are the agenda and relevant documents for our next GVMC Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for **12 noon Thursday September 15, 2011 here at the GVMC offices**. Very compact agenda this month to give you time to meet in executive session to discuss the executive search. I need your input on when to start the newly-approved Board meeting schedule and I would like your thoughts on the logistics for the newly-authorized Emerging Issues Committee. We will have a report from the Legislative Committee, which meets the day before our meeting to discuss the Personal Property Tax and GVMC support for the New International Trade Crossing spanning the Detroit River.

We'll start by reviewing and approving the attached minutes from our August 18, 2011 meeting.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

With Board approval earlier this month of the resolution (attached) authorizing a one-year change in the GVMC Board meeting schedule to alternating "work sessions" during even-numbered months and "business sessions" during odd-numbered months. I need your input as to when you would like this schedule to begin. To give us time to decide on the topic and approach for our first work session, schedule presenters and prepare for the meeting, I suggest that the first work session be scheduled for December. Please prepare to discuss the starting month and your preferred procedures for this new meeting schedule at our meeting on Thursday.

EMERGING ISSUES COMMITTEE – LOGISTICS

Also approved by the Board this month was the resolution (attached) formally establishing the GVMC standing committees, including the new Emerging Issues Committee. While the resolution notes the overall charge and focus of the Committee, I need your thoughts on the meeting schedule, overall committee operations and other logistics issues regarding this panel. Please bring your ideas and preferences to our meeting on Thursday.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY – REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Legislative Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday September 14 to review current legislative issues with Bill Anderson from MTA, discuss legislative efforts to replace the Personal Property Tax and discuss the proposed New International Trade Crossing connecting Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. I bring a committee report to our meeting on Thursday.

- a. **Personal Property Tax:** The Grand Rapids Area Chamber’s Tax and Regulatory Committee met on Tuesday morning to discuss the PPT and a concept paper, written by Chamber staffer Chris Glass, that looks at the PPT replacement issue through the foggy lens of the Headlee amendment and Proposal A. As I told the Chamber Committee this morning, I appreciate the thought that went into the concept paper, but it does not address the funding hits that will be experienced by counties. I also noted the need to pay close attention to the Senate Fiscal Agency memorandum regarding PPT impacts on debt service for all taxing authorities that I sent you Tuesday morning. I have attached the Chamber’s concept paper for your review. As I noted, we will discuss this at the Legislative Committee on Wednesday morning.
- b. **New International Trade Crossing:** I have asked the Legislative Committee to weigh-in, briefly, on the GVMC support for the Governor’s plan to build the New International Trade Crossing – a new bridge that would span the Detroit River, about one-mile south of the existing Ambassador Bridge. While a “who’s who” of West Michigan business and trade organizations has endorsed the concept, I think it wise to get a read from members of the Legislative Committee regarding GVMC’s position on this issue.
- c. **Transportation Funding:** We are getting word from Washington that the House and Senate are prepared to pass a “clean,” short-term extension of the existing federal transportation funding law (SAFETEA-LU) through January 30, 2012. That gives the Obama Administration and House and Senate negotiators more time to work out the details of a more-permanent reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU. It also gives Congress time to weigh-in on the President’s plan to spend \$50 billion over two years to fund transportation improvement projects as part of the so-called American Jobs Act.

Meanwhile in Lansing, Governor Snyder is still working on his proposed Infrastructure Financing Initiative which he will unveil in a special message to the Legislature on October 24. At this juncture, we have no details on that proposal.

- d. **Other Issues – The Municipal Partnership Act and amendments to the Urban Cooperation Acts:** The proposed Municipal Partnership Act (SB 8) has passed the Senate but it appears to be stuck in neutral in the House. Why? Because language allowing two or more public corporations to share a service and ask their respective voters for authority to levy up to five mils to administer the combined service has caught the attention of Americans

for Tax Reform, the Washington, DC-based anti-tax group headed by anti-tax activist Grover Norquist. The tax reform group is robo-calling voters in the districts of ALL House Republicans urging them to vote NO on SB 8. Meanwhile, in the Senate, leadership has applied the brakes on House-passed bills amending the urban cooperation acts to remove language that deters interlocal service sharing. Senators are waiting for the House to act on SB 8 before learning the UCA bills for final passage.

These bills are top priorities for GVMC and our Lansing-based partners and there is no predicting how this two chamber dance is going to play out.

As always, we're looking forward to seeing you and having a fruitful discussion on Thursday. 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.

**Grand Valley Metro Council
Executive Committee Meeting**

August 18, 2011

12:00 noon

Grand Valley Metro Council
678 Front Ave. NW, Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI

MEETING NOTES

Present

Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Cy Moore	Council Treasurer
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Alan Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Absent

Other

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 Vice Chair Don Hilton.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Approval of GVMC Executive Committee Minutes of July 2011. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Financial Report

Don Stypula reported the budget is ready to go and is based upon the best information available at this time. We have analyzed some scenario based on possible federal funding cuts which are outlined on the spreadsheet handed out today. If cuts happened, Don would call a meeting with the Finance committee to look at how to address.

Cy Moore stated we need to pass the budget based on the information we have now and amend in the future if changes are made.

Michael Young asked about the contract with Fishbeck on NPDES. When was the last time this was bid out?

Don Stypula replied bids were last sought in 2005 and we had two or three responses at that time.

Don Stypula reported 2011 is the last year of payments on the pavement management vehicle and this budget reflects that.

Don Hilton asked about a report on Land Use Planning activities.

Don Stypula replied that Andy Bowman will be out of the office for 1 ½ weeks and will produce a report at that time. Most of the Land Use Planning activities are grant related.

Don Stypula reported the draft REGIS budget is also included in this budget.

Michael Young asked about funds budgeted for LGROW and Andy Bowman's LGROW related activities

Don Stypula stated that most of the work Andy is doing for LGROW is grant related. Other LGROW activities are being handled by Janice Tompkins, formerly of MDEQ, who is a volunteer.

Michael Young asked if Planning and Strategic Initiative activities were fully funded for the year as last year they were only funded for 2/3 of a year.

Cy Moore reported this year's amended budget funded that department for a full year after grants were received from MDOT. This year they are being funded for the entire year.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed GVMC 2011-2012 Budget and Move it to the GVMC Board for Approval. MOVE – Fox. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

Jim Buck took over as Chair of the committee.

4. Strategic Initiatives: Report and Recommendations of the GVMC Task Force on Structure, Governance, and Operations

RESOLUTION

A Resolution Authorizing a Temporary Change in the GVMC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

WHEREAS, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, as authorized under 1989 P.A. 292 (MCL 124.651) – the Metropolitan Councils Act, and Article VIII, of the GVMC Articles of Incorporation, desires to modify – on a temporary, trial basis – the meeting schedule and meeting procedures of the GVMC Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, under this new meeting schedule and operational procedure, meetings of the GVMC Board of Directors conducted during even-numbered months shall be designated as “work” sessions (Committee of the Whole), where Council members can hear presentations on public policy topics, discuss and analyze policy issues and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for formal action; and

WHEREAS, meetings of the GVMC Board of Directors conducted during odd-numbered months shall be designated as formal “business” sessions where Council members formally vote on issues and business items that are properly before the Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council may, from time to time at his or her discretion, bring agenda items requiring Board approval for formal consideration and adoption at designated “work” sessions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby affirms its desire to modify the meeting schedule and procedures of the GVMC Board of directors to provide for “work” sessions on even-numbered months and “formal “business” sessions on odd-numbered months. This meeting schedule shall remain in effect for a one-year period unless amended by the GVMC Board of Directors.

MOTION – To Approve Moving Resolution on GVMC Board Meetings to GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

A Resolution Establishing Guidance on Officer’s Terms

WHEREAS, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, as authorized under Article XVII, of the GVMC Articles of Incorporation, desires to amend Section III the GVMC Bylaws to provide guidance on the terms of GVMC officers;

WHEREAS, the GVMC Board of Directors amends Section III of the GVMC Bylaws by adding a new Section 3.6 to read as follows:

3.6 Officer's Terms. It is preferred that officers serve no more than four consecutive one-year terms in the same position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby approves the amendment to Section III of the Bylaws.

Jim Buck questioned if the committee accomplished what it set out to do. The soft way to accomplish this would be by making the Nominating committee cognizant of the policy.

MOTION – To Approve Moving Resolution on Establishing Guidance on Officers Terms to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – Fox. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

A Resolution Establishing Protocols for Approval of GVMC Transportation-MPO Agenda Items

Don Hilton stated it could get confusing trying to determine which items are concluded at the transportation committee level and which ones move on to the full Board. When an item is on the transportation agenda it should be stipulated on the agenda whether it is approved at this level or if it goes on.

Abed Itani reported there are procedures in place and we receive guidance from the feds. These can be put into a document and distributed to all members.

George Heartwell stated the proposed resolution wouldn't preclude GVMC members who are not MPO members from voting. In fact it codifies it in reverse.

Michael Young suggested the wording at the end of the resolution be changed to reflect only MPO members.

It was also suggested that nametags reflect MPO membership, the agenda identifies MPO only votes, the Chair reminds members when MPO only votes are taken at the Board level and a list of MPO members be sent out at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

WHEREAS, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, as the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Management Area (TMA) for the Grand Rapids metropolitan region, desires to establish protocols governing formal approval of transportation planning-related agenda items recommended by the GVMC MPO committees; and

WHEREAS, the GVMC Board of Directors hereby declares that GVMC MPO-related items including the annual Unified Planning Work Program and Budget (UPWP); amendments to the UPWP; adoption of the GVMC Long-Range Transportation Plan; and each new, four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) be considered and approved by the MPO

Committees and presented for final review and approval by the GVMC Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the GVMC Board of Directors also declares that GVMC Policy Committee is authorized to review and give final approval to routine GVMC MPO-related agenda items, including amendments and administrative adjustments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby approves the new protocols governing final approval of GVMC MPO-related agenda items.

MOTION – To Move the Resolution on Approval of Transportation Items to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Young. SUPPORT – VerHeulen. MOTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION

A Resolution Establishing Standing Committees of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

WHEREAS, the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, as authorized under Articles XIII and XV of the GVMC Articles of Incorporation and Sections IV and V of the GVMC Bylaws, desires to establish standing committees, with corresponding duties and responsibilities, to assist in the administration of the GVMC and the analysis of issues that come before the GVMC Board of Directors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby establishes the following Standing Committees with corresponding duties and responsibilities:

Executive Committee

Committee Duties and Responsibilities

1. Provide guidance and direction to management to improve the GVMC's operations and scope of services provided to members.
2. Review, approve and recommend to the Board of Directors the annual budgets for GVMC, the REGIS Agency and other GVMC agencies, budget amendments and quarterly financial statements, the contract with an outside financial auditing firm, and other financial matters that have been recommended by management and approved by the GVMC Finance Committee.
3. Review, approve and recommend to the Board of Directors the policies of the GVMC, consistent with the GVMC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
4. Receive and review the executive director's annual performance evaluation completed by the Human Resources committee and recommend further action to the GVMC Board, including salary adjustments, termination or other actions.

5. Develop, discuss and recommend to the Board of Directors strategic objectives for GVMC designed to help GVMC-member counties and communities manage challenges and take advantage of opportunities.
6. Ensure that the Executive Director and staff are developing strategies, tactics, and accountability mechanisms for achieving GVMC's strategic objectives; track performance and report to the GVMC Board on a bi-monthly basis.
7. Make formal recommendations to the GVMC Board regarding updates to the GVMC Strategic Plan.
8. Develop and recommend to the GVMC Board topics for the Board to discuss, analyze and develop strategies for addressing during the Board Work Sessions scheduled for odd numbered months of the year.
9. Work with the Executive Director and staff to develop periodic training and educational opportunities for GVMC Board members that bring added value for GVMC membership.
10. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as may be required by law or by the direction of the GVMC Board of Directors.

**Finance Committee
Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Periodically review the financial status of the GVMC, the REGIS Agency and other GVMC agencies and make recommendations to the Executive Committee and the Board to improve the financial performance of the Council.
2. Review, approve and recommend to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors the annual budgets for GVMC, the REGIS Agency and other GVMC agencies, budget amendments, quarterly financial statements, and other financial matters that have been recommended by management.
3. Recommend to the Executive Committee, annually, the hiring of a financial auditing firm and periodically review the performance of that firm.
4. Review, approve and forward to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors the GVMC, the REGIS Agency, and other GVMC Agencies annual financial audits.
5. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as directed by the GVMC Executive Committee and Board.

**Legislative Committee
Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Develop, discuss and recommend to the Executive Committee and the GVMC Board legislative policy priorities for the Council to pursue during each two-year legislative session.

2. Oversee GVMC's legislative advocacy activities and provide direction to management and staff on GVMC's advocacy positions and approaches.
3. Review legislation, bill amendments, position papers and state and federal administrative rules and regulations, make recommendations to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board, and report – via a scorecard matrix on a quarterly basis – the status of GVMC Board Legislative Priorities.
4. Meet with legislators and their staffs and participate, as needed, in the legislative activities of GVMC, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association and other groups.
5. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as directed by the GVMC Executive Committee and Board.

**Human Resources Committee
Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

1. On an annual schedule, review the performance of the GVMC Executive Director, offer advice and coaching to improve the performance of the Executive Director and recommend further action to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board, including salary adjustments, termination or other actions changes in the Executive Director's compensation.
2. At times when the Executive Director's position is vacated, work jointly with the Executive Committee to identify and interview qualified candidates for the Executive Director position and make a formal recommendation to the Board a candidate to serve as Executive Director of the GVMC.
3. Periodically review and recommend amendments to the GVMC Personnel Policies and Procedures together with position descriptions and the wage and benefit structure for GVMC employees.
4. On an annual schedule, recommend to the GVMC Board a slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Committee and as officers of the GVMC Board for the fiscal year.
5. Work with current and new Board members to familiarize them with GVMC operations, member services and the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the GVMC Committees.
6. Based on emerging issues and the strategic needs of the Metro Council, identify, interview and recommend to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board candidates to serve as At-Large members of the Grand Valley Metro Council.
7. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as directed by the GVMC Executive Committee and Board.

**Emerging Issues Committee
Draft Committee Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Meet as needed to review and discuss as a “Committee of the Whole” an issue or topic of regional significance.
2. Discuss region-wide approaches to policy issues and work with GVMC staff to analyze data and trends and develop position papers on issues and challenges.
3. Make formal recommendations to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board regarding policy positions for GVMC.
4. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as directed by the GVMC Executive Committee and Board.

MOTION – To MOVE the Resolution on GVMC Standing Committees to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Heartwell. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Legislative Advocacy

Don Stypula reviewed the legislative priorities.

State Tax Policy and Local Fiscal Stability

Revenue Sharing – The Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP): The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the fair and equitable implementation of the Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program in a manner that ensures program eligibility for all cities, townships, villages and other taxing authorities that have demonstrated compliance with EVIP performance metrics. The GVMC also supports that revenue sharing for counties, as agents of the state, be preserved at full levels.

Tax Restructuring and Inducements for Economic Development: The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the restructuring of Michigan’s tax code to provide a more predictable and stable tax environment for businesses and ensure that county and local governments have at their disposal tax incentives and other inducements to retain and grow existing businesses and attract new business investment.

Personal Property Tax: The GVMC supports the phase-out of Michigan’s existing Personal Property Tax provided that the Michigan Legislature first establishes a “hold harmless” revenue replacement mechanism, placed in the Michigan Constitution by state voters, to ensure that taxing authorities maintain adequate revenues, at existing levels, to support critical county and local government services.

Funding for Transportation and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements

The Grand Valley Metro Council, in its capacity as the metropolitan planning organization for the Grand Rapids region, supports increases in both state and federal transportation funding to improve the state's entire multi-modal transportation network together with funding mechanisms to ensure that public water and sewer systems and other public assets are maintained and improved through strategic public investments. To that end, the GVMC desires to engage Governor Snyder, Lieutenant Governor Calley and the members of the 96th Michigan Legislature to help develop efficient and effective approaches for financing improvements to critical public infrastructure.

Improving Governmental Efficiencies

One Annual Property Tax Bill: To enhance governmental efficiency and lower operational costs, the Grand Valley Metro Council supports legislation enabling taxing authorities to develop and transmit to property owners a single, annual property tax bill.

Electronic Publication of Legal Notices: The Grand Valley Metro Council supports legislation to eliminate current legal requirements to publish official public notices in a "newspaper of record" and authorize counties, cities, townships, villages and other public entities and corporations to publish official legal notices and other pertinent public information via web sites, social media sites, web-based information portals, and other more accessible and timely electronic methods.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Elimination of Obstacles for Multi-Jurisdictional Service Sharing: The Grand Valley Metro Council supports amendments to 1989 P.A. 292 – the Metropolitan Councils Act – to remove language that limits the ability of Metro Council-member counties, cities, townships and villages to share the provision of services on a regional basis through a Metropolitan Council.

Unfunded State Mandates

The Grand Valley Metro Council steadfastly opposes the imposition of unfunded state mandates on counties and local units and strongly encourages the Legislature to adopt the recommendations cited in the 2010 report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates.

Medical Marihuana

The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the efforts of Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to seek court clarification of the issues surrounding medical marihuana dispensaries and strongly urges Governor Rick Snyder and members of the 96th Michigan Legislature to support legislation amending the voter-initiated Medical Marihuana Act to give local governments greater control over the activities associated with the growth, distribution and dispensing of medical marihuana.

MOTION – To move the Legislative Priorities to the GVMC Board Meeting Agenda. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

6. Transportation Department: TIP Amendments

a. TIP Amendment for ITP – The Rapid

Due to an amendment being requested by ITP The Rapid to the FY2011-2014 TIP, staff is requesting approval of the following changes:

ITP The Rapid is requesting an Amendment to the FY2011-2014 TIP, specifically for FY2012.

MOTION – To Approve the TIP Amendment for ITP/The Rapid and Move it to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

b. TIP Amendment for Kent County Road Commission Regarding Trail Project

KCRC is requesting an Amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP. KCRC is requesting to phase a current FY2011 Trail project and move two phases to FY2012.

MOTION – To Approve the Amendment to the FY 2011-2014 TIP for KCRC and Move it to the GVMC Board Agenda. MOVE – Vanderberg. SUPPORT – Heartwell. MOTION CARRIED.

7. Other

8. Executive Session

Staff was excused for an executive session.

9. Adjournment – 2:00 p.m.



RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, under this new meeting schedule and operational procedure, meetings of the GVMC Board of Directors conducted during even-numbered months shall be designated as “work” sessions (Committee of the Whole), where Council members can hear presentations on public policy topics, discuss and analyze policy issues and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for formal action; and

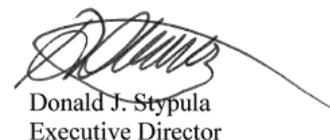
WHEREAS, meetings of the GVMC Board of Directors conducted during odd-numbered months shall be designated as formal “business” sessions where Council members formally vote on issues and business items that are properly before the Council Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board of the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council may, from time to time at his or her discretion, bring agenda items requiring Board approval for formal consideration and adoption at designated “work” sessions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council hereby affirms its desire to modify the meeting schedule and procedures of the GVMC Board of directors to provide for “work” sessions on even-numbered months and “formal “business” sessions on odd-numbered months. This meeting schedule shall remain in effect for a one-year period unless amended by the GVMC Board of Directors.

This Resolution declared adopted by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council on September 1, 2011.


James R. Buck
Chair


Donald J. Stypula
Executive Director



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4. Receive and review the executive director's annual performance evaluation completed by the Human Resources committee and recommend further action to the GVMC Board, including salary adjustments, termination or other actions.
5. Develop, discuss and recommend to the Board of Directors strategic objectives for GVMC designed to help GVMC-member counties and communities manage challenges and take advantage of opportunities.

6. Ensure that the Executive Director and staff are developing strategies, tactics, and accountability mechanisms for achieving GVMC's strategic objectives; track performance and report to the GVMC Board on a bi-monthly basis.
7. Make formal recommendations to the GVMC Board regarding updates to the GVMC Strategic Plan.
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4. Meet with legislators and their staffs and participate, as needed, in the legislative activities of GVMC, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Municipal Finance Officers Association and other groups.
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3. Periodically review and recommend amendments to the GVMC Personnel Policies and Procedures together with position descriptions and the wage and benefit structure for GVMC employees.
4. On an annual schedule, recommend to the GVMC Board a slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Committee and as officers of the GVMC Board for the fiscal year.

5. Work with current and new Board members to familiarize them with GVMC operations, member services and the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the GVMC Committees.
6. Based on emerging issues and the strategic needs of the Metro Council, identify, interview and recommend to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board candidates to serve as At-Large members of the Grand Valley Metro Council.
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Emerging Issues Committee

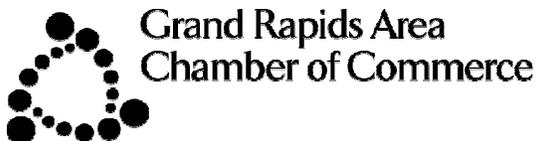
Draft Committee Duties and Responsibilities

1. Meet as needed to review and discuss as a “Committee of the Whole” an issue or topic of regional significance.
2. Discuss region-wide approaches to policy issues and work with GVMC staff to analyze data and trends and develop position papers on issues and challenges.
3. Make formal recommendations to the GVMC Executive Committee and Board regarding policy positions for GVMC.
4. Perform all other duties and assume all other responsibilities as directed by the GVMC Executive Committee and Board.

This Resolution declared adopted by the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council on September 1, 2011.


James R. Buck
Chair


Donald J. Stypula
Executive Director



To: Interested Parties

From: Chris Glass, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce

Subject: PPT Hold Harmless Proposal

Date: August 25, 2011

Please note this document is not the official position of the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce until it is approved by the Board of Directors.

PPT Hold Harmless Proposal

The Chamber understands the importance of providing adequate revenue to Cities, Townships and Villages (CVTs). Local units of government provide essential services that are a part of the foundation for a great community. It is important to ensure that the state's commitment to adequately fund local communities is protected by the Michigan Constitution.

One possibility to ensure CVTs are adequately funded is to reexamine Article IX Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution known as the "Headlee Amendment."

The proportion of total state spending paid to all units of Local Government, taken as a group, shall not be reduced below that proportion in effect in fiscal year 1978-79.

It is mandatory that at least 48.97% of the state budget be paid back to local communities in what is called "local share." The passage of "Proposal A" in 1994 dramatically changed the percentage paid to local communities because School Aid Fund (SAF) payments were included in payments made back to local communities.

As a result of "Proposal A," the percent of the state budget that is returned to local communities increased to 60%, and has remained between 55-60% since its passage. The impact this has on local units of government is dramatic. This is evident through the erosion of statutory revenue sharing over the past decade.

One proposal to ensure CVTs receive adequate funding is to reexamine the "local share" percentage. The new formula would not take into account payments to local school districts through the SAF. Our school funding models have shifted from community-based to student-based with the passage of "Proposal A." This change would better

reflect the intent of the voters in 1979 when they passed the “Headlee Amendment.” School districts already have protections in place to ensure adequate funding in Article IX Section 11.

Beginning in the 1995-96 state fiscal year and each state fiscal year after 1995-96, the state shall guarantee that the total state and local per pupil revenue for school operating purposes for each local school district shall not be less than the 1994-95 total state and local per pupil revenue for school operating purposes for that local school district, as adjusted for consolidations, annexations, or other boundary changes.

A new “local share” percentage could be calculated with the FY 2012 budget (or any other budget year) and include all commercial and industrial PPT revenue. This percentage would determine the minimum amount CVTs would receive as a percentage of the state budget and more accurately reflect the intent of the “Headlee Amendment.”

Rationale

The PPT repeal for commercial and industrial property is imminent given recent remarks from the Snyder administration and legislature. Once this occurs, a major funding source for CVTs will disappear. However, as the economy continues to improve, state government will realize increases in tax collections. Income, sales and use taxes and many other revenues will go directly into state coffers. As these collections increase for the state, there is no guarantee that the local units of government will receive any of the lost PPT revenue.

Changing the local share formula could increase the amount of statutory revenue sharing the state would distribute because they must maintain the minimum local share percentage. Prior to “Proposal A,” Article IX Section 30 restrained the state from reducing aid to local governments and also had a major influence on state budgeting.

Further, Lansing could consider changing funding formulas for statutory revenue sharing to better reflect the impact the PPT will have on certain communities. With input from CVTs across the state, a new formula could better encourage the transformation we are seeing in local communities today.

Some contend that an additional revenue source is needed to replace the PPT. Throughout the history of our current constitution voters have continuously voted to support a uniform statewide tax code that encourages collaboration among communities instead of competition. As state and local governments continue to reform and find efficiencies, they will realize savings. A more sustainable government and a robust economy will produce more tax revenue. Responsible and transparent local governments should be given a fair “local share” of the increase in tax collections.

Legislative Recommendations

Statutory changes could be made to current “total state spending” and “local share” definitions that are currently outlined in MCL 18.1305. Changing these definitions to reflect the new local share without SAF payments could be possible. These definitions have been amended previously.

A constitutional change in Article IX Section 30 could be put in front of the voters. This amendment would solidify what voters feel is adequate “local share” percentage for CVTs. The Chamber would encourage the reexamination of the current funding formulas for statutory revenue sharing to better reflect the uniqueness of the lost PPT revenue to certain CVTs.