

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 11, 2006

8:30 a.m.

40 Pearl St. NW Ste. 410
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

ROLL CALL

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Jay Cravens	Cascade Township
Jim Day	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Carol Sheets	City of Wyoming
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Janesa Straub	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Joe VanderMeulen	City of Rockford
Ted Vonk	Kent County

2. Call to Order

Chairman Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 2006 GVMC Legislative Committee were received for information.

4. Update on Legislative Luncheon

Don Stypula reported that because of scheduling conflicts, the new legislator orientation and luncheon has been changed from December 4 to December 11.

Request was made to have orientation and packets for incoming GVMC Board members also, with specifics to be left up to Don Stypula and Jim Buck.

5. Repeal of Non-Wage Withholding requirements under Section 511 of Federal Law 109-222

Don Stypula explained the legislation and indicated a repealer bill had been introduced, although it will die on December 31st of this year. It is anticipated it will be reintroduced in the next session.

MOTION – To Support S. 2821 and Pass the Recommendation of Support to the GVMC Executive Committee. MOVE – Sheets. SUPPORT – Day. MOTION CARRIED.

Don Stypula explained the process for moving an issue through the GVMC system. After consideration and support or adoption of a formal position by the Legislative Committee, that recommendation is forwarded to the Executive Committee and Board for their approval. Upon that approval, written position papers are to be forwarded to all GVMC area legislators and any others who may be involved in the issue. Meetings with legislators, staff, and others may also take place to support the formally adopted position.

6. Update on K-16 Proposal

Don Stypula explained that ads have started to run on radio in opposition, although they are poorly funded. Don Stypula will send everyone the text of the ads. MTA, MML & MAC are all involved in the campaign against the proposal. Don Stypula will get copy ready art for yard signs and door hangers; and contact printers today on the best deal (hopefully free).

Chuck Bloom reported Cannon Township passed a resolution against the proposal. Chuck also indicated he had written a letter to the editor which everyone can sign if they would like.

Ted Vonk reported Kent County passed a resolution also.

Carol Sheets asked if people make individual contributions to the campaign can they

make sure it comes back to their home community.

Don Stypula stated yes they could.

Carol Sheets questioned how they would do that, and Don Stypula stated he didn't know, but he would contact Arnold Weinfeld on the question.

Rick Root indicated schools do not have unanimous support on the issue, and he encouraged everyone to voice their opinion.

Chuck Bloom questioned the appropriateness of writing a letter to the editor and signing it as a Trustee of Cannon Township.

Don Stypula indicated there is no problem doing that.

Mike DeVries stated that personally he wouldn't sign it with the title, just the name.

Haris Alibasic stated it may be helpful to use the figures from the nonpartisan analysis report and the report from the Citizens Research Council.

7. Telecommunications Franchising

Don Stypula distributed an analysis by MTA & MML. He also reported John Schwartz from AT&T has been meeting with locals trying to convince them that other local entities no longer oppose the legislation, and trying to distance them from the MTA & MML position.

Mike DeVries indicated it is important for everyone who meets with them to stick to the MTA & MML position so we cannot be divided. Stay on message.

MOTION – To Reiterate the GVMC Position on Telecom Franchising as being that of the MTA & MML. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Vonk. MOTION CARRIED.

8. Replacement of Single Business Tax

Don Stypula reported the issue of the replacement of the single business tax cannot be resolved this year. MTA, MML & MAC continue to engage on this.

Chuck Bloom asked if all proposed options were predicated on a new reduction in tax revenues.

Don Stypula stated yes, by \$400 - \$500 million and that DeVos wants the PPT included also.

Rick Root indicated if the PPT is removed, that would also remove funding for 198s, and therefore the ability to offer incentives to new business.

Chuck Bloom stated he keeps hearing that Michigan is not a high tax state, although the SBT is complicated. Is the reduction really an incentive to bring in business? You need tax dollars to pay for services and draw in new people.

Carol Sheets stated that maybe Lou Glasier should be brought in to a Metro Council Meeting.

Mike DeVries stated we need to focus on marketing the good quality of life it draw companies.

9. 2007-2008 Legislative Priorities

Don Stypula reviewed a preliminary list of legislative priorities. He was instructed to develop two lists; currently hot issues and philosophical issues.

10. Other Issues

11. Adjourn – 10:20 a.m.