

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

October 10, 2007

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Building
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

ROLL CALL

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Jim Day	Kent County
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Dennis Kent	MDOT
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

2. Call to Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

3. Approval of Minutes from September, 2007

MOTION – To Approve the September 2007 GVMC Legislative Committee Minutes. MOVE – Holland. SUPPORT – Bloom. MOTION CARRIED.

4. GVMC Policy Resolution on Transportation Funding

Don Stypula reviewed the resolution on transportation funding. He said a subcommittee was not convened as it was not needed. Everything was done over the phone.

Haris Alibasic suggested language be added which references the poor economy of Michigan and that funding is needed to attract investment, stimulate growth and

create jobs.

Don Stypula asked if language should be included regarding a local option tax.

Consensus was that it should not.

Rick Root questioned if language should be added in regards to the ability to acquire matching funds.

Don Stypula asked the committee what they could accept if he needs to make concessions on the issue some day. Give consideration to what would work, which elements to suggest. Forward these to Don and he will keep everyone advised as each element comes up.

He will make the suggested changes and get the revised resolution out to committee members today.

MOTION – To Approve the Proposed Resolution on Transportation Funding. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Alibasic. MOTION CARRIED.

5. Proposed Amendments to the 1992 Legislative Term Limits Law

Don Stypula asked the committee their feelings on taking a position on term limits.

Denny Hoemke stated he doesn't think this group should take a position as they represent a lot of people, all with different opinions and no consensus. GVMC is a governmental body. The current mess was not just caused by term limits, but also by changes to the tax structure made during the last administration. As a body of government we shouldn't take a position.

Chuck Bloom stated he is convinced the legislators don't have enough experience and he feels GVMC needs to take a stand.

Rick Root stated he feels the productivity of an individual greatly improves with longevity. Knowing they are term limited, most are focused on their next position, not current issues. The relationships needed are not created in this short of a time either.

Don Hilton stated he has never been in support of term limits. However, most citizens believe some form of term limits is a good thing. We need to see if we can get behind an improvement in the legislation.

Dennis Kent added that it takes a number of years to complete a major transportation project (15-20 yrs), and we need people around who will be able to support them throughout the project.

Rick Root stated it is good to discuss the issue, but he sees no reason to take a position at this time. He would rather watch and see how it evolves before weighing in.

Bill Holland stated they should also consider cutting the number of legislators. There are way too many. It is hard to work with so many.

6. State Budget

Rick Root reported they have a budget deal, but no budget.

Haris Alibasic asked if revenue sharing has been taken off the table for possible cuts.

Don Stypula stated yes, it will be frozen at the current dollar figure. Statutory and constitutional may fluctuate, but will even out at the current level.

Rick Root stated he understood just the formula would be frozen. Counties would remain out of formula, but the dollar amounts would move according to formula.

Don Stypula stated he checked with the MML and MTA, and under the 2008 budget, they will arrive at a zero sum increase. If there are increases in the constitutional you will see corresponding decreases in statutory in order to stay at 2007 levels.

Haris Alibasic asked if this was the Papageorge bill.

Don Stypula stated yes it was.

Bill Holland stated if the tax formula is frozen, but the dollar figure not, we could be getting a lot more.

Harris Alibasic stated he would talk with Don on the formula issues from his experts' opinions.

Rick Root asked if issues related to 312 will move.

Don Stypula stated he didn't think so.

Harris Alibasic added the MML is working on it, but it is hard to say at this point.

7. Other

8. Adjourn – 10:05.