

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 8, 2008**

**8:30 a.m.**

GVMC Offices  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chuck Bloom	Cannon Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bob May	City of Hastings
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council

**3. Approval of Minutes from August, 2008**

The minutes of the GVMC August, 2008, Legislative Committee meeting were accepted into record.

**4. HJR III**

Don Stypula initiated a conference call with Bill Anderson of the MTA regarding HJR III.

Bill reported this caught everyone by surprise. If passed, it will go to voters in 2010 and ask if they should modify Proposal A. Currently if SEV is down, taxable value can still go up. The Proposal would freeze taxable value if the SEV goes down. If SEV goes up, the taxable value goes up by a similar amount.

The Senate leader wants it to go into effect sooner.

The House has not forwarded a copy of the proposal to the Senate. The Attorney General may force it to be given to the Senate.

Currently, natural reduction occurs when SEV falls to taxable value and further, the taxable value will fall and everyone should think about this.

If the House continues to hold this, the Senate has a similar resolution and they may pull it out. If it gets on the ballot, almost nothing would be able to stop it. Taking it to the public would work against us. We need to handle it legislatively.

It is a significant and real threat. The first year there is expected to be a \$33 million loss to the school aid fund and \$149 million to local government. The second year that would grow to \$90 million to the school aid fund and \$253 million to local government. Bill believes these projections are low.

Don Stypula stated local officials have met with Hardiman and Jansen and they have expressed an understanding of our concern. They want to hold hearings so we have a chance to express our concerns, but wouldn't commit their vote.

Bill Anderson added we have to make the legislators know they will feel the blame/pain for the effects this will have. We have to make sure they know they will have to bear the burden for cutting the school aid fund. We need to convince the leadership of the legislature. We need 13 in the Senate to vote for this; those who are not facing reelection.

Denny Hoemke stated this needs to be framed in a co-spending framework. They will have to state what will be cut.

Don Stypula asked if we can use this to help us on the 312 issue.

Bill Anderson stated they don't need our support to get this passed. We can beg for tools to deal with it, but if we oppose it, we look bad to the public.

## **5. Legislative Breakfast**

The Legislative Breakfast will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The format will include three members each outlining one of our legislative priorities.

1. Welcome and thanks to legislators – Jim Buck
2. Transportation funding – Regional – Peter Varga / Abed
  - Multi modal
  - TF2 Report
3. Revenue Sharing – Part of a broader plan – Township Representative
  - Stay out of our revenue stream
  - History of Revenue Sharing
  - Lansing actions have major impact on communities and essential services.
  - Quality of life issues
4. Intergovernmental Cooperation – Curtis Holt
  - Ask legislators how we can help them achieve these goals.
5. Closing – Kurt Kimball

Don will put this all together and get it out to everyone.

## **6. Adjourn – 9:35**