

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 9, 2010

8:30 a.m.

GVMC Offices
678 Front Ave., Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the August 2010 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – VanBeek. SUPPORT – Burns. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Update with Bill Anderson of the MTA

Bill Anderson of the Michigan Township Association joined the group via conference call to discuss what is going on in Lansing.

The legislature will be back for only a few sessions before quitting for the end of the year.

The new Governor has named Dick Posthumus his new legislative leader and put Andy Dillon over the state Treasury.

Gov. Granholm vetoed a bill on Sunday morning liquor sales.

It is believed a bill will come out right after the inauguration which will address the tax structure. A significant sector of the economy doesn't pay taxes.

Keith VanBeek asked if Bill foresaw legislation being introduced regarding property values.

Bill Anderson responded that legislators have a completely different attitude when they are in the minority vs. majority. The republicans will not be able to throw out junk legislation for political reasons. They will now be expected to govern.

Jim LaPeer asked what the prospects were for the state to overcome the projected \$1.6 billion deficit next year without raising taxes.

Bill Anderson stated it will be a challenge to pull it out of general funds. The new Governor is talking about putting strings on revenue sharing. Hopefully he will do evaluations on which programs work; keep those; and drop those that don't rather than cutting across the board.

Mike DeVries asked about the future of transportation funding and intergovernmental cooperation.

Bill Anderson responded that if Michigan doubled its capital outlay, it would still not be up to the national average. This legislature is not going to talk about a tax increase. We could see the legislature starting to look at a prevailing wage.

Regarding intergovernmental cooperation and Public Act 312, the action the legislature took earlier this year would actually expand binding arbitration. The new Governor is expected to be supportive of more cooperative services. More often than not, it provides enhanced service at a higher price.

Mike DeVries asked about right to work legislation.

Bill Anderson responded it is possible right to work could be taken up, but the

question is whether or not the new Governor would come through.

5. Engaging our New Legislators

Don Stypula reviewed what has been done in the past to engage legislators such as having breakfasts, dinners and quarterly luncheons. The best days for breakfasts are Mondays or Fridays. Dinners are more difficult to schedule. If we do something, it would probably be mid to late January or early February.

Rick Root reported GVMC has a thin budget, and don't have the funds for a meal. Maybe we could have a function from 10 – 12. The recess after the start of the session might be the right time.

Mike DeVries asked what the purpose would be and what would be the expected outcome?

Rick Root stated the purpose would be to educate the legislators on our legislative priorities.

Mike DeVries suggested they be sent before hand and asked the legislators to talk to those issues. Also get information on their staffers. Down the road, we should invite the Governor and his leadership to talk with the Metro Council and our partners to see how we can help him attain his goals in order to get a seat at the table.

Keith VanBeek remarked that for the initial meeting, we should ask them to bring some of their staff or Chief of Staff so we know who to get a hold of.

Don Stypula stated he would work with our partners to get to the Governor and also work with the legislators of this region.

Mike DeVries suggested going through Dick Posthumus to get to the Governor.

6. Adjourn – 9:50