

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX**

**April 23, 2012**

**3:00 p.m.**

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

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Legislative Committee Chairman Rick Root called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Scott Buhner	City of Grand Rapids
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Eric DeLong	City of Grand Rapids
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Jeff Dood	City of East Grand Rapids
Steven Duarte	Kent County
Chris Glass	Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Bryan Harrison	Caledonia Township
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
David Hildenbrand	Senator, State of Michigan
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Curtiss Holt	City of Wyoming
Rich Houtteman	City of Kentwood
Mark Jansen	Senator, State of Michigan

Kevin Lignell	GVSU / GVMC
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Nate Reens	Grand Rapids Press / M-Live
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Darrell Schmalzel	City of Walker
Greg Sundstrom	City of Grand Rapids
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council
Matt Woolford	Kent County

### **3. Personal Property Tax**

Rick Root opened the meeting and thanked Senators Jansen and Hildenbrand for attending.

John Weiss explained the purpose of this meeting is to serve as a resource for legislators as they craft and fine tune the PPT bills. We are here to have a friendly conversation, get information and give information.

Several GVMC members brought reports on the proposed legislation's expected effects on their communities. See attachments.

As the figures and issues were explained, concerns were voiced not only on the total dollar amount lost to locals but also on distribution/ interpretation of formula; "gaming" regarding \$40,000 cliff and reclassification of industrial, commercial, and utilities; 2% rule; multiple millages and funds; and responsibility to collect but not receive.

Eric DeLong discussed the proposal the UMM group has developed which would include rebate of the PPT through state income tax filing.

Senator Hildenbrand said he would share this with the Treasury. However, a lot of work has already been done on this and "the train has already left the station". The proposals will spur economic development which will help all local governments' budget.

Senator Jansen commented that while offering a solution to cut taxes, the UMM proposal does not accomplish the goal of removing the PPT.

GVMC members stated that cutting revenue to local government would drain funding for fire protection, police, parks, etc. which help create the quality of life businesses look for in an area.

John Weiss reiterated we are willing to participate if legislators are willing to let us help them see a broader picture.

Senator Jansen suggested GVMC meet with the Lt. Governor to discuss concerns as he is driving the legislation. He said he would help facilitate a meeting.

**4. Adjourn – 4:00 p.m.**

DRAFT