

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 11, 2012**

**9:00 a.m.**

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

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

Vice Chairman Mike DeVries called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Chairman Rick Root.

**2. Roll Call**

Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Carol Hennessey	Kent County
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
John Hoppough	City of Greenville
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Peter MacGregor	Representative, State of Michigan
Don Van Doeselaar	City of Hudsonville
John Weiss	Grand Valley Metro Council

**3. Nomination of New Chairman**

**MOTION – Nomination of Mike DeVries as Chair of the GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Bolt. MOTION CARRIED.**

Committee members were asked to send in names of those they would like to nominate for Vice Chair which will be taken up at the next meeting.

Mike DeVries stated he and John will work to create a firm schedule of meetings and to engage legislators more directly than in the past.

John Weiss stated several members had expressed their desire to have meetings only when there are pertinent issues to address and to also engage legislators more.

#### **4. State of Michigan Representative Pete MacGregor**

John Weiss introduced Rep. Pete MacGregor and opened the floor for questions.

Rep. MacGregor asked the group if they were happy with the way the EVIP program came out of the Appropriations Committee.

Daryl Delabbio stated he appreciates legislators' concern with locals' EVIP experiences. Counties are all statutory, so Kent County should be okay for 2013 as long as they comply with the three legs of the stool.

Rep. MacGregor said it was very helpful for Daryl and others to supply information and work with legislators on the issue.

Daryl & John explained that many locals have proactively collaborated, cooperated & made cut backs. They have done a good job at controlling costs. However, new legislation comes up later and they are penalized for the good work already done.

Rep. MacGregor explained that on the east side of the state things are much worse which has been a catalyst for much of the legislation.

Mike DeVries asked Rep. MacGregor to call GVMC members and they can tell him how to do it.

Rep MacGregor asked for a list of what has been done in the area.

John Weiss stated much of that information has already been collected & he will forward it. Legislators should use our work as a model.

## **PPT**

John Weiss reported he and Daryl Delabbio have been working on a committee addressing the PPT issue for a long time.

Rep. MacGregor said he expects the issue to be taken up after the November elections and the House intends on working on a more agreeable option. He realizes how essential the PPT is for local governments. The replacement dollars should be found before the tax is removed. He would like to see 90% replacement, but doesn't think that will happen. He asked members to stay in contact with him to work out a solution.

Daryl Delabbio reported they have been working on a reasonable response. We need a replacement. However, we need services and if they deteriorate, the quality of life goes down. Maybe they should be looking at workers comp. and labor laws which would make Michigan more business friendly.

John Weiss explained that GVMC members did not just go lockstep with the other governmental associations, but supported ideas that would work.

## **Public Notice Legislation**

Rep. MacGregor reported he has a bill on public notices that could be helpful to local governments.

Alex Arends stated locals are upset about being required to publish public notices in a paper that doesn't deliver to some areas and isn't printed every day. Options include electronic publishing both on individual websites and in cooperation with others through the GVMC website.

Rep. MacGregor said he would get that bill to GVMC members so they can analyze it. Maybe there needs to be some kind of threshold.

Mike DeVries reported it is a huge expense for business also as publishing costs many times are billed back to business.

John Weiss added that publishing timelines also are difficult with inconsistent publishing. He asked Rep. MacGregor to pass it on to GVMC so we can work on it.

## **Election / Appointment Legislation**

Daryl Delabbio stated there is a bill stuck in committee that relates to election / appointment of officials. He will forward it to Rep. MacGregor.

## **Gas Tax**

Rep. MacGregor reported there is no movement on a gas tax. Recently it has been found there were gas tax revenues that have been diverted from transportation. This has been rectified.

## **Lame Duck**

Rep. MacGregor stated prevailing wage legislation may be taken up during the lame duck session.

## **What Can We Do?**

John Weiss asked Rep. MacGregor what GVMC members could do to help him.

Rep. MacGregor stated he will be reaching out to GVMC members more for information and analysis of legislation.

## **5. Adjourn – 10:00 a.m.**