

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 13, 2011

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:

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| Haris Alibasic | City of Grand Rapids |
| Alex Arends | Alpine Township |
| Jim Buck | City of Grandville |
| Sam Bolt | City of Wyoming |
| Bill Cousins | Cascade Township |
| Daryl Delabbio | Kent County |
| Mike DeVries | Grand Rapids Township |
| Carol Hennessey | Kent County |
| Don Hilton | Gaines Township |
| Denny Hoemke | Algoma Township |
| Rick Root | City of Kentwood |
| Don Stypula | Grand Valley Metro Council |
| Don VanDoeselaar | City of Hudsonville |

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the June, 2011 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Hoemke. SUPPORT – VanDoeselaar. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Update from Lansing with Bill Anderson of the MTA

The legislature has been out the last two weeks. It has been a very active legislature. New amendments to Act 312 are before the Governor. One concerning the last best offer might have to go back in and be worked on. Everyone is onboard with the direction that needs to be taken. Healthcare is still hanging out there. They are currently looking at combination of hard cap or 80/20 payment with option of 2/3 vote to waive or if not, pay penalty.

A supplemental appropriations bill has been passed so as not to harm anyone due to the census change. This is a one time deal. The new constitutional revenue sharing amounts will reflect the new census from here on.

Personal property tax elimination is on the horizon and it is not known where it will go. At this time negotiations seem to be very closed door.

Rick Root asked if the Governor's pledge to not add to the 6% business tax will change in light of PPT elimination.

Bill Anderson said it will probably remain. The only option which wouldn't end up hurting municipalities would be one that included a credit back from the state.

Senator Jansen's Senate Bill 8 "super urban cooperation" is being expanded statewide. There is some meat in it. It streamlines the joint agreement process. Legislators are concerned it is the One Kent bill.

Rick Root reported the One Kent group is proceeding to push possible legislation and is looking for sponsors.

Bill Anderson stated they need to show good reason and prove big cost savings.

Don Hilton reported 19 of the 21 townships have passed a resolution in opposition to it and the two remaining townships are expected to soon follow.

Bill Anderson stated there is a bill out there regarding publishing requirements and also one regarding sending out two tax notices per year.

5. Personal Property Tax

Don Stypula reported a group is meeting on the 28th to continue to look at ideas to replace the revenue of the PPT. GVSU representatives are expected to be there to run the numbers. Don will invite MML & MTA to participate.

6. Legislative Priorities

State Tax Policy and Local Fiscal Stability

- a. Revenue Sharing – The Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP): The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the fair and equitable implementation of the Michigan Economic Vitality Incentive Program in a manner that ensures program eligibility for all counties, cities, townships, villages and other taxing authorities that have demonstrated compliance with EVIP performance metrics.
- b. Tax Restructuring and Inducements for Economic Development: The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the restructuring of Michigan’s tax code to provide a more predictable and stable tax environment for businesses and ensure that county and local governments have at their disposal tax incentives and other inducements to retain and grow existing businesses and attract new business investment. The GVMC further supports the phase-out of Michigan’s existing Personal Property Tax provided that there is a revenue replacement mechanism, placed in the Michigan Constitution by state voters, to ensure adequate revenues to support critical county and local government services.

Funding for Transportation and Municipal Infrastructure Improvements

- c. The Grand Valley Metro Council, in its capacity as the metropolitan planning organization for the Grand Rapids region, supports increases in both state and federal transportation funding to improve the state’s entire multi-modal transportation network together with funding mechanisms to ensure that public water and sewer systems and other public assets are maintained and improved through strategic public investments. To that end, the GVMC desires to engage Governor Snyder, Lieutenant Governor Calley and the members of the 96th Michigan Legislature to help develop efficient and effective approaches for financing improvements to critical public infrastructure.

Improving Governmental Efficiencies

- d. **One Annual Property Tax Bill:** To enhance governmental efficiency and lower operational costs, the Grand Valley Metro Council supports legislation

enabling taxing authorities to develop and transmit to property owners a single, annual property tax bill.

- e. **Electronic Publication of Legal Notices:** The Grand Valley Metro Council supports legislation to eliminate current legal requirements to publish official public notices in a “newspaper of record” and authorize counties, cities, townships, villages and other public entities and corporations to publish official legal notices and other pertinent public information via web sites, social media sites, web-based information portals, and other more accessible and timely electronic methods.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

- f. **Elimination of Obstacles for Multi-Jurisdictional Service Sharing:** The Grand Valley Metro Council supports amendments to 1989 P.A. 292 – the Metropolitan Councils Act – to remove language that limits the ability of Metro Council-member counties, cities, townships and villages to share the provision of services on a regional basis through a Metropolitan Council.

Unfunded State Mandates

- g. The Grand Valley Metro Council steadfastly opposes the imposition of unfunded state mandates on counties and local units and strongly encourages the Legislature to adopt the recommendations cited in the 2010 report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates.

Medical Marihuana

- h. The Grand Valley Metro Council supports the efforts of Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette to seek court clarification of the issues surrounding medical marihuana dispensaries and strongly urges Governor Rick Snyder and members of the 96th Michigan Legislature to support legislation amending the voter-initiated Medical Marihuana Act to give local governments greater control over the activities associated with the growth, distribution and dispensing of medical marihuana.

7. Adjourn – 10:00 a.m.