

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**August 9, 2006**

**8:30 a.m.**

40 Pearl St. NW Ste. 410  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**MINUTES**

**1. Call To Order**

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Jim Day	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Erika Rosebrook Dibble	Ottawa County
Bill Holland	Georgetown Township
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Joe VanderMeulen	City of Rockford
Ted Vonk	Kent County

**2. Call to Order**

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

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION – To Approve the July Legislative Committee Minutes. MOVE – DeVries.  
SUPPORT – Day. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Expansion of Road Commission**

Don Stypula explained that this issue was brought back to the Legislative Committee upon the request of Daryl Delabbio. Previously the Legislative Committee had approved support

of the bill, which would allow for the increase in the number of Road Commissioners from 3 to 5. The Executive Committee concurred and forwarded it to the GVMC Board Agenda. At the GVMC Board meeting, Don Stypula requested it be sent back to Legislative Committee so that Jon Rice could have the opportunity to speak on the issue. After Mr. Rice's presentation, the Legislative Committee voted to table the issue.

**MOTION – To Take the Expansion of the Road Commission off the Table. MOVE – Vonk. SUPPORT – Day. MOTION CARRIED.**

Jim Day reported the Kent County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to support the issue.

Ted Vonk added that the County supports it because it would offer more representation for all communities, especially when one of the commissioners is absent. History and institutional knowledge is also lost if more than one commissioner leaves at the same time.

Erika Rosebrook Dibble stated Ottawa County has not taken an official position, however they are not opposed to it as long as it is an option rather than a mandate. They would be interested in making sure commissioners (if elected) came from equal population districts.

Rick Root asked the status of the legislation.

Don Stypula stated it was stalled in committee and CRAM doesn't see it being moved this year.

Mike DeVries reported it was difficult for him to take a position either way as he greatly respects the County Commissioners' opinions, but at the same time feel Jim Rice and the Kent County Road Commission are doing a fine job and have been very responsible. If it is not broke, why fix it?

Ted Vonk stated the Road Commission does do a good job, however five members would serve the county better.

Mike DeVries suggested since there was not good representation at today's meeting, the issue be tabled until next meeting where a decision to the issue's fate can be made by a larger group.

**MOTION – To Table the Issue of Expansion of the County Road Commission Until the Next Regularly Scheduled GVMC Legislative Committee Board Meeting Where a Final Decision Will be Made on its GVMC's Position. MOVE – DeVries. SUPPORT – Lumpkins. All In Favor Except Day. MOTION CARRIED.**

Don Stypula will inform all that the issue will be decided at the next Legislative Committee Meeting.

## **5. Primary Review**

Results of the August 8, primary were discussed.

Winning places on the ballot were:

- Agema
- Doyle
- Meekhof
- Dean
- Jansen
- Byl

Mike DeVries suggested that now that those on the ballot have been decided, we should take our position papers to the candidates and ask what their position is on our priorities. Invite them to our next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding best date and format for the meeting.

It was determined the October meeting will be held on October 4, at 8:30 a.m. at the County chambers. All candidates will be invited by Don Stypula and will be forward talking points including our position and giving them the opportunity to bring questions to us. A continental breakfast will be served. Root and DeVries will develop a format.

## **6. Telecommunications Franchising**

Don Stypula distributed John Pestle's analysis of the issue and stated he will be talking with Stabenow and Levin. Don will let everyone know what the outcomes of the meetings are as soon as they are held.

## **7. SBT Replacement Tax**

Sikkema wants to move the SBT replacement tax in December; DeRoche wants to move it in the spring. Right now it appears the solution will focus on gross receipts tax and will include the elimination of the PPT. Even with a replacement tax, revenues should be down \$100 million.

## **8. Advisory on MWEA/MWWA Legislative Reception and Lunch**

Don Stypula advised the committee the MWEA / MWWA will be holding a legislative reception and luncheon in Lansing on Tuesday, September 19.

**9. Assisted Living**

Rick Root reported on the bills to change the status of all assisted living facilities to tax free. Mr. Root will be speaking with Sen. Hardiman, who states that the bill will “right a wrong.” However, “righting the wrong” (changing the status of certain facilities which previously fell through the cracks) would be illegal. The bill as it stands would create an enormous loophole and would include almost anyone who provided any type of care to the elderly, regardless of ability to pay.

**10. Other**

Bill Holland reported he has had two meetings with Sen. Kuipers regarding advisory ballots. Georgetown wants the ability to do advisory ballots. Kuipers is asking the Attorney General to rule on the legality, and if need be, a bill will be drafted.

**11. Adjourn – 9:40 a.m.**