



November 30, 2012

December Board Meeting

Our next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Thursday, December 6th at 8:30 am. We will again be meeting in the County Commission Chambers on the third floor of the Kent County Building.

The primary presentation item on the agenda is the emerging issue of restoring the rapids along the Grand River in downtown Grand Rapids. In the coming months we will hear a great deal in the media about this project and it is my desire to give the GVMC Board direct information early in the process and also give you the opportunity to provide your thoughts.

This extensive project will bring major changes to the Grand River and surrounding property as it flows through the city. I look forward to the presentation.

We will also be swearing in Jay Spencer the new Supervisor of Plainfield Township as a member of our Board of Directors.

This meeting will also be the final GVMC Board Meeting for Walker Mayor Rob VerHuelen. He leaves us to become a new member of the Michigan House

of Representatives and we all wish him well and look forward to working with him in the future.

East Grand Rapids City Manager and LGROW Chairman Brian Donovan will be nominated to serve as a member of the Executive Committee replacing Rob .

If you have any questions about our agenda or GVMC in general, do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Personal Property Tax

As we all know, for almost a year the legislature and administration have been working on PPT reform. That effort continues. Months ago, the Michigan Senate passed legislation to eliminate the PPT but no action was taken in the House of Representatives.

A small group of representatives of GVMC have been working on a variety of proposals and also analysis of various options for replacement of the PPT revenue. Our work continues and we hope to have the ability to influence the final outcome of the reforms.

We are currently waiting to

see copies of the multiple Bills involved in this matter. Our partner organizations like MML, MTA and others will be providing further information about the changes to PPT. As soon as the Bills are made public we will also begin our own analysis of the legislation.

All I can say at this time is that we remain hopeful that changes to the PPT program can be accomplished which will continue to promote economic growth in Michigan while also insuring that local governments have the resources to maintain the quality of life for our residents. Stay tuned, this is very much a moving target.

Kent County MTA

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak to the Kent County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association. There were about 30 people in attendance including many newly elected Township leaders.

If your group or organization would like more information about GVMC or like me to discuss our organization, please feel free to contact me. I really enjoy the opportunity to meet with our members and discuss the many activities of GVMC.