



GVMC Hosts Senators Jansen and Hildebrand For A Discussion on the Personal Property Tax

On April 23rd Senators Dave Hildebrand and Mark Jansen met the representative of GVMC including our Legislative Committee. This is the first time in GVMC history that two senators met at GVMC to discuss a very important emerging issue. We truly appreciate the Senators willingness to meet with us. Almost 30 local governmental representatives attended.

During the discussion, our members presented to the senators facts regarding repeal of the PPT and how it impacts their communities. In Grand Rapids, the loss could exceed \$1.6 million, for Kent County the loss could exceed \$4.7 million. For all communities, the higher their level of industrial tax base, the greater impact the loss will have on their budget. Another factor in the legislation is that companies with less than \$40,000 in taxable value will be exempt from the PPT. This \$40,000 threshold will eliminate 75% of the personal property taxpayers in our communities. The 8 bill package is before the Senate Finance Committee and is expected to be sent to the full Senate soon. Partial reimbursement will come from a new Treasury Dept. fund, but no formula or process has been developed for distributing the funds at this time.

GVMC On the Radio

Mayor Rob VerHeulen and I will be guests next week on Shelley Irwin's "Morning Show" on WGUV. The show will air on May 4 at 9:30 on 88.5 FM. Our topic will be governmental cooperation. We will focus on the future of GVMC, our goals and strategic initiatives and highlight a few of our cooperative efforts.

Don't Forget to Submit Your Elected Officials Survey

Last week Thursday all area elected officials should have received a brief survey by email or from the post office. The survey is being conducted by Dr. John Risley of the Johnson Center at Grand Valley State University. The purpose of the survey is to get a broad-based understanding of our collective opinions about governmental cooperation, collaboration and service sharing.

The results of the survey will be compared with an earlier survey of 500 areas residents. As soon as the results are submitted and the data analyzed, we will release the information to all respondents.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in completing your survey as soon as possible. If you did not receive a survey, you can contact Dr. Risley at risleyj@gvsu.edu

Michigan Transportation Team New Session Added Thursday May 3rd on 1:30

At the request of several members we have scheduled another session with the Michigan Transportation Team regarding future funding for our roads and bridges. The meeting will be on Thursday May 3rd at 1:30 at the GVMC office. The MTT will again present to our members information about the new financing proposals. Everyone is invited to attend.

The MTT is a state-wide partnership of businesses, associations, governments and private citizens. Some of the members include: MML, MTA, MAC, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Retailers Association, Michigan Manufacturers Association, GVMC, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Sheriff's Association, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and many more. If you were unable to attend one of the earlier meetings, please feel free to join us.

RSVP to Gayle at mccrathg@gvmc.org

The Next Board Meeting is

Thursday, May 3rd,

8:30 am in the

Kent County

Commission Chambers