

## Commissioner Minutes of October 25, 2016

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Walters. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, with the exception of Commissioners Aultman and Hinman, who had been excused.*

There were no changes or additions to the agenda. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to proceed with the consent agenda as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** were then read by Commissioner Birgel. *General Fund - \$1,472,223.93. The borrowed amounts from Unallocated and EMS have been repaid.*

*Public Comments:* Jason Wentworth, Candidate for 97<sup>th</sup> State Representative, stopped to say hello to the Board before “knocking doors” for the day.

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer commented on the numerous attempts to collect assessment data from the Drain Commissioner for the winter tax bills, without success. Discussion. Chairman Walters commented that she cannot continue to wait and that he will have until 4:00 p.m. today to submit the assessment information, or the Treasurer can print without those assessments on the tax bills. The Board Secretary also commented that there have been letters delivered to the Drain Commissioner from FEMA that have not been picked up from his mailbox. The Board Secretary stated that she has even made phone calls to the Drain Commissioner to make him aware that they are in his mailbox and should be picked up. Discussion.

Marianne Hill, Emergency Management Director, introduced Annette Swain from Red Cross. Ms. Swain thanked the Board for allowing her to speak and gave her background as first a volunteer with the Red Cross, and now the Disaster Program Manager for 10 Counties. Ms. Swain outlined that services that are offered, including the “free smoke alarm” installation program. Discussion. Ms. Swain was thanked by the Board for her work here in Gladwin County.

### **Finance Matters – Commissioner Birgel:**

1. Undersheriff Hartwell has requested the purchase of a computer and monitor for the jail nursing department. The quote from IT Right is \$1,014.00 and will be paid from 101-351-727.001 if approved. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the purchase as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. Ronnie Burkhardt, Corrections Clerk, has prepared writs of garnishment for judgements on unpaid room and board. There will be a \$6.00 fee per garnishment and there will be a total of 60 served. Ms. Burkhardt is requesting a check in the amount of \$360.00 payable to the State of Michigan from 101-351-727.000. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow a check to be cut according to the above listed details. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. Aaron Miller, Prosecutor, would like to hire to fill the open position of Child Support Specialist in his office. Mr. Miller has done the required posting and has selected a candidate. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Mr. Miller to fill the position as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
4. The paperwork for the conversion from Blue Care Network to Simply Blue effective 1-1-2017 has been drafted. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Chairman to sign the paperwork as drafted. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
5. An advertisement for a public hearing and notice for bid have been prepared for the USDA loan application process and Courthouse improvement project. Discussion. *Motion by*

## **Commissioner Reports by District –**

### **Commissioner Smith reported:**

- On attending the Hay Township meeting, noting all is going well there.
- That she participated in the DATA walk through on October 17<sup>th</sup> with representatives from Charter, IT Right, Dispatch and John Pung. After much discussion, it was decided that Gladwin County is not ready to sign an agreement for phone services. The equipment that the County currently uses is sufficient for what they need, but would need to have a reliable carrier that will provide service from the outside to the buildings. For most of the service, fiber is our best option, but fiber only is not the best service for 911. The phone charges will continue to be examined and the County will continue on a month to month basis with CMC.
- On the HSBC meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn Miller from North Michigan Arbor is looking for activities this group can volunteer to assist. They have workers and money to donate to worthy causes. United Way has started their new campaign and EMS is asking for your support on the renewal of their millage on the November ballot.
- That she attended the Library meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, noting the Board has received their first payment from Beaverton City in the amount of \$10,000 for the purchase of the former Beaverton Branch Library. This building will eventually become the new Beaverton City Hall.
- On the Buckeye Township meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. They are currently working on completing the necessary paperwork to become part of the County Hazardous Mitigation Plan.
- That she attended the County Road Commission meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Heather Cameron is the new Secretary-Clerk of the Road Commission and Pam Weaver has returned part time until Heather's replacement is hired.
- On the Land Bank meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, noting the school project is moving along well. The Treasurer received a grant for \$67,000 for use to demolish 18 houses in Gladwin County.
- That she attended the Council of Local Government meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Smith then stated that she would like to make a few remarks to be placed on the record. *“Mr. Chairman I would like to make a few remarks that will be entered into the official records of this meeting concerning the Gladwin County WikiLeaks disclosure concerning our Clerk's Office. While this disclosure may not have been illegal in the eyes of the law, I personally feel it was ethically and morally wrong for Commissioner Birgel to have used his position to attempt to advance a political agenda. I have always vehemently expressed my position that political parties have NO place in local elections. We are neighbors, restaurant eaters, sidewalk walkers, shoppers and members of the Gladwin County community. We have to live together, we do not need to like each other, but we are all part of this community.*

*I will apologize to the Clerk's Office for what I perceive as a vindictive personal attack from a member of this Board. I was not party to the attack, but as Chair of the DATA committee made the decision that ultimately provided inaccurate information that was shared. For that I am very sorry. The ultimate response from Gladwin County citizens will be tallied after the November election.”*

**Commissioner Birgel reported:**

- On attending the Beaverton City meeting, commenting that they have a new council member, Terry McCartney.
- On the budget process.
- That he attended the Sports Complex meeting.
- On the Airport meeting.
- On meeting with the MMRMA manager.
- That he has been working on the Health Insurance transition.

Commissioner Birgel then responded to Commissioner Smith's comment on the DATA reports. Commissioner Birgel commented that he has been monitoring the computer use by department for months. These reports have been discussed in public meetings and he has made copies available to anyone who asked when they requested. Commissioner Birgel commented that the personal use of computers is the same as what happened in Beaverton City. Discussion. Laura Brandon-Maveal spoke on the inaccuracy of the reports and the need to educate those that receive them so that they are properly interpreted. Discussion. Commissioner Smith stated that as Chair of DATA, IT Right has told us that these reports were to be shared with the Board and Department Heads only and that they are inaccurate, noting she only uses them to check the adult sites and gambling. Commissioner Birgel stated that why is the County paying for something if they are not monitoring it, or fixing it. Further Discussion. Chairman Walters called the discussion to a halt and the meeting proceeded.

*Treasurer VanTiem spoke on the use of the KCI program to print and mail tax statements, noting most Townships are not interested in using the service.*

**Comments from the Chairman:**

- On attending the Housing Commission meeting.
- That he attended the Sage Township meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Gladwin City meeting, noting discussion on the rail trail.
- On the retirement dinner for Mayor Winarski.
- On meeting with Doug Janes and Dirk Presidio on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- That he met with Mr. Borushko to review information on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Gladwin City meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- That he attended the Soil Conservation dinner on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- That he would like to thank Jackie Morgan for her assistance with the USDA loan application.
- On the Jeep Creep, noting it went well and there were over 700 jeeps in attendance.
- That the County has posted vehicles in the paper for sale and the request from Soil Conservation on the use of one of the vehicles for Gypsy Moth and Soil Conservation. Discussion.

Commissioner Smith stated that there are informational sheets available on the Tobacco River Muzzleloaders Club Sight in Days that are next weekend.

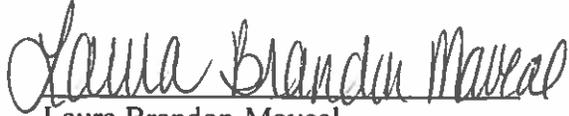
Commissioner Smith also commented on Beaverton's win over Gladwin and their advancement to the playoffs against Morley Stanwood this Friday night. It has been 16 years since Beaverton has been in the playoffs and 30 years since they have beat Gladwin, noting they have had a great season. The Beaverton Cross Country team ran the

“Beaverton vs. Gladwin” game ball from Gladwin to the field on Beaverton for their game last Friday.

**Public Comments** – none at this time.

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to receive and file various correspondence and reports. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Walters, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m., until the next regular Board meeting on November 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*



Laura Brandon-Maveal  
County Clerk



Terry Walters  
Chairman