

## Commissioner Minutes of April 11, 2017

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Walters. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a short prayer was given. Roll call found all Commissioners present, with the exception of Commissioner Aultman who had been excused.*

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

The cash balances were then read by Commissioner Birgel. *General Fund has a balance of \$97,860.14 before the payment of the bills.*

### **Public Comments:**

*Stacey DeMoines, Beaverton City resident, asked the Board for a report on the department cuts and loss of revenue based on those cuts, noting concern of the loss in revenue and services to the community. Chairman Walters commented that the Board will work on something and mail it to her.*

### **Finance Matters:**

1. Justin Schneider, Construction Codes, has requested that his part time employee is granted full time status effective April 11, 2017. This action will require a budget amendment to provide the funds for full time status. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the full-time position as requested by Mr. Schneider. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. The contract for recreation services with the Seebeck Foundation is set to expire on April 14, 2017. The Board has decided that the contract should be re-visited and financials should be reviewed. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to send a letter to the Seebeck Foundation to extend their contract on a month-to-month basis until the Board can make the appropriate revisions as deemed necessary. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, has provided quotes for several projects.
  - NexLog Logging Recorder for the dispatch center for integration into the new NG911 system. Total cost of \$32,939.00 to be paid from 282 funding. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to allow for the purchase as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
  - A new "South Tower Fire Repeater on Billings Township Frequency". Total cost of \$13,145.00 through Radio North to be paid from 282 funds. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to purchase the equipment as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
  - The "Connectivity Project" for curbside telephone services for the County buildings. This project involves three different vendors to complete the project: INdigital - \$6,221.17 for the internet switches and modems to provide VPN connections. DayStarr - \$3,151.20 for the installation of four Adtran services. Radio North - \$2,800.00 for patch cables and installation. Once approved, this project will be paid from 101-258-815.005. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to proceed with the project as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
4. The Sheriff will be attending the Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference May 7-11, 2017 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The cost of this conference is free, with lodging in the amount \$288.00 to be

reimbursed to the County. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to allow the Clerk to make the reservations as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

5. The following individuals have requested payout of unused vacation or PTO hours due to retirement or resignation:

- Jamie Hinman – 191.50 hours = \$4,107.87 from 101-141-705.000
- Nora Seelbach – 258 hours = \$4,432.44 from 101-351-703.000
- Cody Schlese – 253 hours = \$4,612.19 from 101-351-703.000
- Joseph Laidlaw – 611 hours = \$10,448.10 from 101-422-704.000

*Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Clerk to make the payouts as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Hinman abstained from voting.*

6. The service contract for Prosecuting Attorney and Assistant through Gladwin City has been received. The Board has already taken action on the acceptance of providing the service to the City for civil matters, however there needs to be action taken on the issuance of payments. It is the understanding of all the parties that the distribution will be made to Mr. Miller and Mr. Gage as a 1099 contract position. These payments will not run through payroll or be eligible for fringe benefits provided by the County. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Clerk to make the disbursements as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

*The minutes of March 28, 2017 were then reviewed. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Kim Halis, Equalization Director, reviewed with the Board the **2017 Personal and Real Property totals** for Gladwin County. Ms. Halis asked the Board to approve the figures, noting potentially there could be changes. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to accept the report as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Chairman Walters asked that the Board consider the **appointment of Lisa Ashley**, in replacement of Paul Graveline, to the **Mid-State Substance Oversight Policy Advisory Committee**. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to make the appoint of Lisa Ashley to the MSHN committee. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Board then considered two resolutions supporting the Office of Emergency Management. Both resolutions were read aloud by the Clerk. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Smith, to adopt the Resolution in Support of “Statewide Tornado Drill Day”.* Roll call vote as follows: Hinman – yes, Walters -yes, Aultman – excused, Smith – yes, Birgel – yes. 4 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **resolution 2017-006 declared adopted.** *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Smith, to adopt the Resolution in Support of “April 16-22 Severe Weather Awareness Week”.* Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Aultman – excused, Smith – yes, Birgel – yes, Hinman – yes. 4 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **resolution 2017-007 declared adopted.**

#### **Commissioner Reports by District –**

##### **Commissioner Birgel reported:**

- On attending the Personnel Meeting.
- That he went to the Central Michigan District Health Department meeting.

- That he participated in the DATA meeting in the absence of Commissioners Smith and Hinman. There was much discussion with Paul Trinkline from IT Right. The voice alarm discussed for the Circuit Court area (Judge Evans office) is no longer needed.
- On attending the Beaverton Township meeting last night, noting discussion on the Modern Machinery expansion.

**Commissioner Hinman reported:**

- On the Personnel meeting to review the contract with the Equalization Director. There has been a rider added to the contract that has not been reviewed with the Director. This matter will be tabled for further review.
- The contract drafted by Attorney Jacobson for civil counsel services has already been resolved.
- On attending the Central Dispatch committee meeting.
- That he will be researching the bill submitted by the Drain Commissioner for legal services and report more information at the next Board meeting.
- That the Personnel Committee met with the Clerk regarding her staffing levels. He would ask that the Budget Committee meet with the Clerk on April 20<sup>th</sup>, to review her budget requests.

**Commissioner Smith reported:**

- That she has reviewed the Seebeck Contract, noting there will be an organizational meeting on April 18, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. There is currently reported damage to the roof on the building. The Seebeck Foundation would ask that the County's insurance handles the repairs, with the foundation paying the deductible.
- That she attended the EOC meeting after the last Board meeting.
- On attending the Rail Trail meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup>, commenting that they would appreciate a letter of support from the County.
- On the Finance committee on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On attending the Tobacco Township meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>, adding that lifetime member of the community, Merlin Wooley, has passed away.
- The final Legislative Breakfast will be held this Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m. at the Beaverton Presbyterian Church.

**Comments from the Chairman:**

- On attending the EDC meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- On the upcoming Trail meeting at Gladwin City.
- That he attended the 911 meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- That he attended the Emergency Management training in Bay City at the Doubletree on March 31<sup>st</sup> with the Mayor and 12 other people.
- On April 4<sup>th</sup>, he met with Coleman Electric and Marianne Hill on the generator project.
- On attending the "Weather Spotter" class on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- That he participated in the DATA meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On the Finance meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

*Upcoming Events:*

- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner April 27, 2017.
- Community Clean-up Day is May 6<sup>th</sup> at the DPW garage.
- Coffee with a Cop will be at Mack's on Main on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

*Undersheriff Hartwell added that it is National Telecommunicators week, asking everyone to thank those for what they are doing for the community.*

Judge Farrell then came before the Board with changes in personnel that was discussed with the Court Management Council. Judge Farrell commented on the change in staff due to retirements. Steven Worpell has taken over for Mike Greer as District Court Magistrate, Nick Madaj to replace Darrell Schlese effective 5-1-17 as Juvenile Referee/Court Administrator. Judge Farrell stated that the Judges and the Board members have met several times to review the changes in staffing and the proposed raises that would be attached to these positions. The Court Management Council is recommending the following salaries:

Dr. Karen Moore – Court Administrator/Magistrate	\$70,000
Nick Madaj – Juvenile Referee/Court Administrator	\$50,000
Steve Worpell – District Court Magistrate/Administrator	\$50,000

Judge Farrell stated that he is very aware of people losing their jobs due to layoffs, but has explored these salaries in comparison to other counties based on size. Discussion. Commissioner Hinman commented that he has met several times with the Judges, noting the other three Judges are not in favor of this proposal. Commissioner Smith asked if these wages and fringes are being split with Clare County. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Hinman, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the proposal for salaries for the three individuals as presented by Judge Farrell.* Discussion as followed by several individuals:

Judge Evans – commented that Judges Mienk, Klaus and himself are all opposed to this proposal. Judge Evans stated that during the budget process \$60,000 was in the budget for the replacement of Mr. Schlese, noting that wage was offered to Mr. Madaj and he accepted the position based on that wage. Judge Evans explained that the reason for the \$60,000 proposed salary for the replacement of this position is due to the requirement of this position to be an attorney. The budget further was adopted with \$64,000 for Administrator Moore and \$44,000 for Magistrate Worpell based on the recommendation of Judge Farrell. Judge Evans does not have a problem with anyone receiving raises, however; does not believe that money should be used from the Circuit Court budget to fund raises in District Court that were not properly budgeted. Judge Evans continued to comment that it is not fair to Mr. Madaj to be offered a wage, and accept the position, to only be reduced to fund raises in other departments. Judge Evan closed with saying as Judges, it is each of their responsibilities to keep their word and engage in fair dealing.

Judge Mienk – commented that the wage surveys used to establish salaries for the Magistrate are inaccurate because some of these counties have more/less duties and that he believes it is important to establish a starting salary and provide a plan for top wages over a period of time. Judge Mienk clarified that Mr. Madaj was offered and accepted the position at \$60,000 and that the salary of the District Court Magistrate was set too low at \$44,000 and agrees with the wage increase. Judge Mienk asked that the committee work to establish a top wage for each of these positions and the rate steps associated with these positions and to fund the Juvenile Referee position at \$60,000.

Commissioner Birgel stated that with all the information that was received today, he would like to see the motion laid on the table until the next meeting for further review.

Judge Farrell- spoke on his appointment as Chief Judge and the decisions that have to be made that people don't like. Judge Farrell commented that the 2017 budget was not submitted to the Chief Judge

prior to adoption and the employee chosen to replace Darrell Schlese was not approved by him either. The wage study that was done was based on experience on the job, with both persons in question have less than 5 years of experience. The Court employees of Gladwin and Clare Counties have not had a raise in 7 years and couldn't risk going too high on these wages and lose staff that operates services to the public. Judge Farrell believes this was a well-researched decision and he respects the comments of each of the Judges today. Judge Farrell asked that the Board move forward on the proposal on the positions and raises that was presented. Discussion.

Commissioner Smith thanked the Judges for their "well worded disagreements", noting it has been very interesting. Commissioner Smith stated that the budget that was adopted in December, and the budget amendments that were adopted in February, were both passed with a 3 yes, 2 no vote and that she voted no on both.

Commissioner Birgel again asked that the Board review this information and take action at the next Board meeting. Judge Farrell asked the Board to move forward on the wage proposal.

Judge Evans spoke to the wages and the job standards that can only be done by an attorney in the Juvenile Referee position and that the Board should take action to "pay the position, not the person" in this case. Currently, Clare County is paying Dr. Moore, Gladwin County is paying Mr. Worpell and they are splitting Mr. Schlese's position. After the raises, what County will be responsible for what wages/raises? Judge Farrell responded that he will prepare a letter of disbursement for each County. *The motion was called for a vote. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Lisa Ashley, Recovery Court Coordinator, introduced herself to the Board and spoke on the process of the Recovery Court and thanked them for their support.

Public Comments – none at this time.

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

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m., until the next regular Board meeting on April 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*



Laura Brandon-Maveal  
County Clerk



Terry Walters  
Chairman

## Statewide Tornado Drill Day

**WHEREAS**, Gladwin County may experience severe weather in the form of thunderstorms, wind storms, floods, and tornadoes each year, which threatens the health and safety of residents.

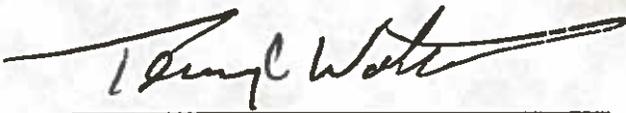
**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 1,000 tornadoes strike the United States, including an average of 15 in Michigan and,

**WHEREAS**, since 1950, 1,025 tornadoes have been reported in the State of Michigan, resulting in substantial loss of life and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, all individuals are encouraged to be aware of the warning signs of severe weather and follow proper safety and emergency procedures; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Gladwin County Office of Emergency Management joins together with the Michigan State Police and other emergency management partners to educate the public about the dangers of tornadoes and other severe weather events and the precautions that can be taken to save lives and protect families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Terry Walters, Chairman of the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2017, as Statewide Tornado Drill Day.



Terry Walters, Chairman



Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

**April 16-22, 2017: Severe Weather Awareness Week**

**WHEREAS**, severe weather, in the form of thunderstorms, wind storms, floods and tornadoes, is a threat to the health and safety of all Gladwin County residents, and,

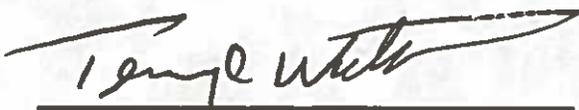
**WHEREAS**, each year, more than 1,000 tornadoes strike the United States, including an average of 15 in Michigan; and,

**WHEREAS**, since 1950, 1,025 tornadoes have been reported in the State of Michigan, resulting in substantial loss of life and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, all individuals are encouraged to be aware of the warning signs of severe weather and follow proper safety and emergency procedures; and,

**WHEREAS**, each year, the Gladwin County Office of Emergency Management, Michigan Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, and news media join together to educate the public about the dangers of tornadoes and other severe weather events and the precautions that can be taken to save lives and protect families;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Terry Walters, Chairman of the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 16-22, 2017, as Severe Weather Awareness Week in Gladwin County.



Terry Walters, Chairman



Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk