

Commissioner Minutes of January 26, 2016

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 26, 2016. 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, except Commissioner Aultman who had been excused.

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to proceed with the agenda as prepared. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

The **cash balances** were then read by Commissioner Birgel. *General Fund - \$177,274.18.*

Public Comments –

Amy Bissell, Benzie County Registrar and President of Michigan Association of Registrars read a resolution in opposition of the combination of the Clerk and Register of Deeds offices. Ms. Bissell spoke on the distinctly different duties in each of the offices. The resolution that was read was passed unanimously by the Register of Deeds Association on December 29, 2015. Further discussion on the opposition to the combination and SB 599 and the financial impact it would have to the revenues of Gladwin County. Ms. Bissell explained that land records are an imperative part of the Register's office and that proper public service protects those records.

Laura Flach, Sage Township Clerk and former County Clerk, commented on the combination and urged the Board to not combine the offices, noting it has been researched by the Board in the past and was found that it would not save the County financially. Mrs. Flach spoke on the fact that both the Clerk and Registrar are "working department heads" and the combination would eliminate working knowledge of two individuals; creating an "administrative role" and the hiring of replacement staff. Discussion on the location of the two offices and the need for renovations to allow for proper management. Mrs. Flach continued that in her years in office the Board discussed the issue at least two times and found that it would weaken the offices, not save the funds as originally thought and would be a disservice to the public.

Lori Sorenson, Wexford County, read a letter prepared by Joyce Watts of Allegan County in opposition to the combination. Ms. Saurenson then responded that the County would not recognize the savings they believe they could.

Brandon Krause, Bay County, spoke on his experiences as an elected official, stating that he has been a Township Trustee, a County Commissioner and now the Registrar in Bay County. Mr. Kraus spoke on the automated funds through the Register's Office that can be used for technology. Discussion on fast moving legal changes and that the Board should not move forward on the combination. Discussion.

Michelle Stevenson, Roscommon County, read a prepared statement on the diversity of the two offices and asked that the Board spend time learning each office prior to making a decision in the matter. Ms. Stevenson stated that the combination of the offices will not save money and will not serve the public well.

Roberta Sacharski, Chief Deputy Registrar – Genessee County, spoke on the experiences in Genessee County in their first term of combination. Ms. Sacharski discussed the unfair labor lawsuit in her county due to the combination, noting there was no financial gain and public service has been compromised.

Pam Mayfield, Clare County, spoke to the Board “as a friend and a neighbor”; stating that she strongly opposes the combination of the two positions. Ms. Mayfield commented on the lawsuits over records and liability that will occur if not done correctly and with careful understanding and consideration. Discussion on statutory duties of each office and the overwhelming responsibilities.

Kathy Wilton, Secord Township Clerk and former Commissioner, spoke on her opposition to the combination of offices, noting that the past Board found that it would not work, or save money. Ms. Wilton stated that she has personally utilized the services in both offices, commenting that the duties could not be more different. Discussion on concerns of staffing levels and reductions of staff in the two offices over the past several years.

Denise Simmons, Ogemaw County Registrar, spoke on her reasons for opposition of the combination of offices. Ms. Simmons spoke on her attendance at the “New Commissioners Workshop” sponsored by MSU, noting speaker John Arpine’s comment on the importance of both the Clerk and Register’s offices. Ms. Simmons urged the Board to speak with their local oil and gas and title companies to understand the importance of the office before making any decisions.

Larry Grell, Billings Township Supervisor, gave his reasons not to combine the offices and asked the Board to not consider any actions until the entire Board is able to be present to review all of the information.

Shari Swanstra, Mid Michigan Community Action Agency – Emergency Services Coordinator, gave an overview of the services provided by MMCAA, noting February 27, 2016 is the annual “Walk for Warmth” event at the Doherty Hotel in Clare. Ms. Swanstra provided handouts to the Board and stated she could provide additional copies for those Commissioners who would like to use them at their Township meetings. The Clerk then read the proclamation in support of the “**Walk for Warmth Day**”. *Motion by Commissioner Smith*, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to adopt the proclamation as presented. Roll call vote as follows: Hinman – yes, Walters – yes, Aultman – yes, Smith – yes, Birgel –yes. 5 yes, 0 no. **Resolution 2016-001 declared adopted.**

The Board then took a short recess from 9:50 – 9:55 a.m.

Mike Kruchkow, Gypsy Moth Director, spoke on the 2015 program. Mr. Kruchkow stated that it is not easy to find temporary seasonal employees, but was able to utilize five individuals for the count in September and October. Mr. Kruchkow reviewed the statistics and map that was provided for the Board’s review and asked that the Board make the decision if there is a spray program needed or not. Discussion. The matter will be put into committee for review. Mr. Kruchkow then reviewed the 2013-2015 financials with the Board showing the savings to the Gypsy Moth program dollars. Discussion. Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Kruchkow on the good work that he and his department put into the program and for his kind comments.

The Board then reviewed the **contract with Mid State Substance Abuse**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Hinman*, supported by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the Chairman to sign the contract as drafted and presented. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. The Mid State bills for July and October are also due. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel*, supported by Commissioner Smith, to authorize the payment of both billings. Ayes carried, **motion passed**.

The Board then discussed the option of providing 1099's to the employees that took County vehicles home each night. Discussion on tax benefits. The matter would be referred to committee for review. Discussion.

The matter of the combination of the Clerk and Registrar's offices would be referred back to a committee for further consideration. Commissioner Smith stated that the implication of this action being political is not true, stating that politics have no place in City, County or Local government and that she was very bothered by that comment. Commissioner Hinman stated that he felt that all the information received today was "enlightening" and that he would like to schedule a committee of the whole meeting for February 10, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. The matter would be further addressed at that date and time.

Finance Matters – Commissioner Birgel:

1. Undersheriff Hartwell explained a project in the Jail to accommodate the **breathalyzer machine** that is experiencing "malfunctions" in the current location. Total cost of the renovation will be paid from 101-351-930.000 and will not exceed \$2,570.00. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the project to begin as soon as possible.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
2. The cabling project for the server conversion in the Register of Deeds office was discussed. The Registrar has not received a quote, but has been told it will be around \$350.00. After discussion, this matter will be reviewed by DATA on February 3, 2016.
3. Bob Evans, **Drain Commissioner, has requested permission to fill the vacant position in his office.** The position will be hired for 21 hours/week at 80% of a comparable position's union wage. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to allow the Drain Commissioner to hire as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
4. Kayti Newman, **Prosecutor's Office, has made a request to order business cards** for the office in the amount of \$48.44 from Vistaprint. This online order will require the use of the County's credit card. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to allow the Clerk to use the County's credit card to complete the order.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
5. An estimate has been obtained to **tear out and replace the sidewalks and step walk on the west side of the Courthouse.** Total estimate is \$3,450.00 and will be paid from 101-265-930.000 upon approval. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the project as outlined.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
6. James Maveal and Tammy Lane have requested to **donate 42.5 hours of sick time to an employee in the Prosecutor's Office** who is undergoing medical treatments. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Clerk to adjust the leave balances as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Smith thanked the donating employees for their generosity.
7. Ray Hartwell, Undersheriff, is **requesting to hire a Deputy** as budgeted for in the 2016 budget. Discussion on the need to replace the position now. Undersheriff Hartwell explained that there are two positions that were laid off and one employee that will be out on medical leave for an undetermined amount of time. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Undersheriff Hartwell to advertise and hire for the position immediately.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Smith spoke on the development of the Headlee information into a power point presentation that could be used at various meetings. Commissioner Smith outlined the County's efforts to save money and the reduction of staffing in various departments. The liability issues with MMRMA were addressed and outlined and the need for law enforcement were discussed. Commissioner Birgel spoke on the importance of the message that the taxes will be offset in other millage funds to help reduce the taxes to the residents. The next Legislative Breakfast is

February 12th at 7 a.m. at St. Anne's Church in Edenville where the Headlee presentation information can be shared. Commissioner Smith stated that the funds used for the printing of the flyers and other information has been paid for by the Board and others who wish to contribute, noting there are no County funds being used.

The Board then reviewed the **committee appointments for 2016**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Hinman, to adopt the committee appointments as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Reports by District –

Commissioner Birgel reported:

- That he has been working on several Finance and Personnel issues over the past several months.

Commissioner Hinman reported:

- On attending the Butman Township meeting.
- That he attended the Clement Township meeting.
- On the Gladwin Township meeting.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting.
- That he has been working with Commissioner Birgel on Personnel issues.
- That he met with the State Court Administrator in Mt. Pleasant concerning Court issues.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the County Affairs meeting on January 13th, noting work and discussion on the Headlee Restoration question for the March 8th ballot.
- On the Purple Heart and Bronze Star presentation for William Yoder on January 14, 2016.
- That she attended the Hay Township meeting on January 14th.
- On the Health and Human Services meeting was cancelled due to school closings.
- The Library Board met on January 19th where they adopted a new open/closed policy for both libraries as follows: Libraries will be open for all scheduled days unless the Courthouse is closed for weather or other emergencies.
- That she attended the Land Bank meeting on January 20th, noting the renovated home has been sold.
- On attending the Beaverton's Got Talent on Sunday, January 24th, commenting that she really enjoyed the performances. Commissioner Smith has provided flyers for each of the Board members with the calendar of events for the year.

Comments from the Chairman:

- On attending several Finance meetings.
- That he participated in the Veterans meeting.
- On the Hazardous Mitigation meeting.
- On attending the Purple Heart Ceremony for William Yoder.
- That he went to the Emergency Management meeting on January 19th.
- The Saginaw Bay RC&D will be holding a presentation in Frankenmuth on February 25th. If any Board member wishes to attend, there are registration forms available.
- The 5th Annual Freedom Park 5k will be held on April 30th. Registration forms are also available for this event if anyone is interested in participating.

- On attending the “Active Shooter” training with the Emergency Management Director and the Undersheriff.
- The American Legion is hosting their “Boys of Summer” event on February 6th from 5:00 – 10:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Roger Mason will be the speaker. Commissioner Walters commented on all the efforts the American Legion puts into the baseball youth of our community. Tickets are 3/\$25.00 or \$10.00 each.
- Mid Michigan Community College will be holding their annual “State of Community” event on February 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Harrison Campus.

Commissioner Walters thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today, noting he appreciates the caring they have expressed.

Commissioner Smith stated that each Board member has been given a bookmark with the calendar of events for the BAC. February 13th will be the “Heart Hop” and March 19th is the “Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic”.

Public Comments – Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, stated that IT Right is still addressing email issues on her computer.

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

*Motion by Commissioner Hinman, supported by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. until the regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 9, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Terry Walters
Chairman