

Commissioner Minutes of April 28, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session April 28, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Whittington. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present except Commissioner Carl who was excused to be on vacation the month of April.

Agenda – There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

The Regular and Executive Board minutes April 14, 2009 were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$47,552.70** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments:

Bev Przystas, MSU, came before the Board to invite them to a *luncheon held for the Graduates of the 2009 Leadership Program*. The Luncheon will be held at the Church of the Nazarene Friday, May 8th at noon.

Frank Starkweather, EDC, gave the Board a brief summary of EDC programs and a conference he had attended. Mr. Starkweather then notified the Board that a company in Gladwin County, Buckeye Township, had just been awarded a contract from the Department of Defense.

Chairman Whittington then asked the Board to review the *corrected resolution* from Sandra Walling, Zoning Administrator. The resolution was adopted at the April 14th meeting and read “Grout” township. The corrected resolution now states the township of “Gladwin”. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept the correction as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Board then reviewed two resolutions from MAC. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adopt the Resolution in Support of the State of Michigan to Fulfill its Obligations and promises and Fully and Unconditionally Restore State Revenue Sharing for All Michigan's 83 Counties*. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – excused, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **resolution 2009-013 declared adopted**. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adopt the Resolution Supporting Adequate State Funding to Hold Counties Harmless from the Department of Human Services Lawsuit Settlement Agreement*. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – excused, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Posey – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes, Walters – yes. 6 yes, 1 excused. Ayes carried, **resolution 2009-014 declared adopted**.

Correspondence from the Chairman –

The Board received a letter of “thanks” from Chemical Bank for allowing the Sheriff to participate in their Emergency Readiness Training.

A letter was drafted to Lapham and Associates from Attorney Doug Jacobson requesting a contract extension for surveying services for 2009.

The Jail audit has been completed.

Sherry Augustine, Drain Commissioner, came before the Board with a *conservation easement for the Dike property that had been purchased*. Ms. Augustine had stated that she had reviewed the easement with Attorney Jacobson, and that his questions had been answered. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to enter into a conservation easement with the DEQ. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Ms. Augustine then reviewed with the Board her **2008 Annual Drain Report**. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept and file the Annual Report as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Commissioner Reid then inquired about the bond rate for Wiggins Lake. Ms. Augustine noted that it was a 6.6% bond and could be paid off early without penalty.

Denise Hall, Equalization Director, brought before the Board the **2009 Equalization Report**. Ms. Hall went through the report stating that the State required the figures to be based on a one year study vs. a two year study; which is what is usually conducted. Ms. Hall pointed out the decrease in figures by Township and discussed Senate Bill J. Ms. Hall cautioned the Board that if the State requires that she continue to do a one year study the figures will have a “bouncing effect” and collections could be difficult. Commissioner Whittington commented that the charts were a nice resource. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to certify the equalized values that were presented in the report. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Ms. Hall then requested that she be allowed to **act as a representative of the County at the State Tax Tribunal**. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow her request. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Commissioner Reid then inquired of Ms. Hall if her office had the software installed yet to run the GIS program. Ms. Hall stated that she needs Microsoft Access installed and is not confident in using the data due to most of it being almost 3 years old. Discussion. Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth, stated that the entire shape file is being sent with all the updates so that the County will have a complete file.

Commissioner Whittington commented that the *Zoning Department has notified the Board that they have adjusted the working hours of the staff so that the office can be open further into the afternoon*. No extra hours are needed and there will be no extra cost to the County.

Commissioner Whittington then commended Bob Duby and Terry Walters for the work they have done in obtaining grants and handling projects.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the Northern Tradition at Jay's on the 19th.
- On the Beaverton City Council meeting on the 20th, noting that there are still concerns with notification of changes to the Chappel Dam to the Beaverton City workers. Commissioner Smith stated the concern is due to the structure and repairs needed to the Beaverton City Dam. Ms. Augustine stated that she will send a letter to the Dam worker to remind him of this importance.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 24th.
- On the Council of Local Government meeting on the 27th.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On the Veteran Affairs committee meeting on the 14th, noting that he has had some complaints in his announcement of veteran deaths and the month they actually passed away. Commissioner Walters explained that the timing in the paperwork is the cause of the delay. At this time he would like to recognize Charles Bennett, WWII and William Robinette, Korea. Ginny Grant is back from her training in Lansing and is able to process computerized discharges now. The flags for the cemeteries are in and the volunteers will be placing those. Commissioner Walters noted he appreciation for the volunteers that place the flags and work to assist the veterans in other areas. The Clare County Veterans Clinic will be opened May 8th. Ms. Grant is able to assist those in making appointments in Saginaw or Clare.
- On attending the Sherman Township ORV meeting on the 18th, noting it was very interesting.
- On the Sherman Township Board meeting on the 21st.
- On the Fair meeting held on the 25th, noting that he has flyers for the Rodeo if anyone would like to take one. The Rodeo will be held May 23-24. The Fair Board is looking at doing an ATV pull on the Monday evening of fair before the Tractor pull, and a poker run from the fairgrounds to State land with your ATV to raise money.
- On attending the Relay for Life kickoff at the Riverwalk on the 27th. The Relay for Life will take place August 8-9 at the Beaverton High School Track.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Earth Day program at the Community Center on the 22nd, sponsored by the Master Gardeners.
- On attending the Council of Local Government meeting on the 27th in Billings Township. Focus of the meeting was School Tax Collections. Discussion. Commissioner Smith noted that it is not a good plan and that there needs to be

better communication between the School and Treasurers. Commissioner Posey stated that it has the potential to be a big mess.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Building and Grounds and Public Safety meetings on the 15th. Public Safety – discussed ORV and the complaints that have been received, noting that they have responded to eight. Commissioner Reid and Sheriff Shea are going to work with the paper on a “Q&A” section to address some of the public’s common questions or concerns.
- On the meeting at Gladwin City Hall with John Fink and Bob Moffitt regarding the Iditarod, noting that they would be having a meeting with the Sheriff and DNR to discuss the road use.
- On marking a trail through the Sports Complex to Easton Road, and communicating with the surrounding property owners. There are still some issues to be worked out, but coming along. Discussion. Commissioner Reid noted that Secord, Hay, and Buckeye townships have all passed a resolution, and forwarded them to the Road Commission to open their roads. Commissioner Reid commented that Secord Township is unique in the fact that it is split by Secord Lake, and that he is continuing the networking of roads there for ORV access.

Commissioner Reid then reviewed the **bids for the Health Department roof**, stating that he wished to abstain from voting due to the fact that he works with each of these contractors daily. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept the bid from Uhl & Sons for \$21,829.00. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Reid stated that he has been questioned on the **location of the TV screen** and the need for better placement. Discussion. *The Data committee will look at the price of a “swing arm” mount so that it can be positioned in front of the white board without removing the cabinet.*

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On attending the Central Michigan Health Department finance meeting on the 14th.
- On the Personnel meeting with the Courts on the 15th, noting that the meeting went well, cash flow was discussed, and they would continue to meet quarterly.
- That he had sat in on the Building and Grounds meeting for Commissioner Walters.
- On attending the Michigan Works meeting on the 16th. Areas of discussion included unemployment rates, and summer help available to non-profit agencies through the summer with wages and benefits to be paid for by Michigan Works.
- On the Northern MAC meeting in Grayling on the 20th, discussion ORV and Grants.
- On attending the Health and Human Services committee meeting on the 21st, noting that there are still problems with funding.

- On the Central Michigan Health Board meeting in Mt. Pleasant on the 22nd.
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 24th.
- On the Building and Grounds meeting on the 27th.

Finance Matters:

1. Sheriff Mike Shea and Bob Duby have both requested to attend the **Homeland Security Conference** on May 5-7th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Total cost for both individuals is \$436.32. Region #3 will be reimbursing the county for the entire cost after the conference. Up front cost of **\$436.32 to be paid from 101-426-860.000** upon approval. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the training expense as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. *Due to the recent contract negotiation to separate the MERS benefits of the deputies and dispatchers, it is necessary that a check be cut for \$580.00 to MERS to cover the cost of a supplemental valuation. Upon approval payment to be made from 101-101-759.000. Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to pay the expense as outlined above. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode then asked if a *policy change was needed to drive County vehicles home based on the Board's action last meeting to drop the lawsuit.* Discussion.

Commissioner Reid commented that issues have been addressed, and only employees of the County are allowed in the vehicles, the vehicles are not for contracted employees, and that they are being parked after working hours. Commissioner Whittington noted that there are still countersuits in place and the Board should be cautious in actions they are taking. Commissioner Smith asked if there was a specific time each year that the Board reviewed policies. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Board does not have a set procedure for reviewing policies. Commissioner Whittington then voiced his concern with Rick Ghent driving the County truck home, and the need to protect his tools he has stored in the truck. Discussion. Commissioners Walters and Smith agreed that it would be best to wait until all issues are laid to rest before making a decision on this matter.

Commissioner Whittington noted that Doug Jacobson, Attorney, was to be before the Board today with a **Remonumentation contract**. Mr. Jacobson was out of town and running late and may not be available for today's meeting. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Attorney Jacobson to enter into the Remonumentation Grant between the State of Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth for Gladwin County. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, requested of the Board that she be allowed to *contract with Gladwin Schools to collect Secord Township summer tax at \$3.00/parcel.* Ms. VanTiem also recommended that the Board not take action to waive the collection fees for the 2009, as they did last year due to expenses associated with the collection. *Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Posey, to allow the Treasurer to contract with Gladwin Schools for the Secord Summer Tax collection as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*