

## Commissioner Minutes of May 22, 2012

*The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session May 22, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Reid. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present.*

The items bolded from the **consent agenda** were then reviewed by the Board. Commissioner Smith asked that item J – Data be removed from the consent agenda for discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund were then read by Commissioner Rhode. *General Fund - \$169,302.49 after payroll and the delinquent tax payout done early.*

**Public Comments** – *Bob Longstreth, Beaverton Township, addressed the Board with his concern on the drain cleaning. Mr. Longstreth stated that the culvert to his field was removed and not replaced, leaving him no access into the field. Drain Commissioner, Robert Evans, spoke on the condition of the culvert and the responsibilities of his office under drain code. After much discussion, the Drain Commissioner will work with the County Attorney to see if the matter can be resolved.*

**Mark Sohldon, County Road Commission**, came before the Board with Road Commissioners Donn and Miller. Mr. Sohldon gave information on the **upcoming millage** and answered questions of the Board members. The Board members spoke about HB's 5612-13-14-15 regarding the opening of the roadways for "connectors".

Commissioner Rhode then offered a **resolution in support of fully replacing, not erasing, Michigan's Personal Property Tax**. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign the offered resolution and send to the State for their consideration. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Birgel – yes, Smith – yes, Whittington – yes. 7 yes, 0 no. Ayes carried, resolution 2012-008 declared adopted.* Commissioner Rhode commented on the efforts of the association to put guaranteed funding levels on our State revenue.

### Comments from the Chairman –

- The Board needs to begin brainstorming ideas for 2013 committees. Is it an option to attend "outside" meetings monthly, by video conference, or by an appointed individual.
- Mr. Sprang has resigned from the ZBA committee. The Board is looking for a member replacement and an alternate member.
- The Tractor Show, Farmers Market opening and Thunder on the Strip were all last weekend, making a very busy weekend for him.

**Data Matters:**

Commissioner Smith noted that Bob Frei had done an excellent job on the report presentation to the Beaverton City Council regarding the MERIT system and fiber optics.

The Data committee met to discuss a request from **Spicer Group for data to be used in the preparation of drain districts**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve Spicer Engineering to assist with the re-establishment of Drain Districts with the close cooperation of Bob Evans, beginning with the two drains that are currently considered. Any charges from Spicer's use of County GIS must be assessed back to the Drain Districts for payment. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The monitoring charges for the Breault Tower are being updated and will be discussed with the Road Commission prior to coming back to the Board for approval.

IT Right performed a walk thru of the building with Bob Frei and Commissioner Birgel. Commissioner Birgel commended Mr. Frei on the maintenance on the equipment and noted that some of the equipment is dated and that a list has been prepared for Data to review at their next meeting.

Equalization has requested an update to their programming. The Data committee will be meeting with the Directors and the Treasurer on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. to review the request.

**Old Business** – none at this time.

**New Business** – none at this time.

**Board Member comments –**

**Commissioner Walters** thanked those members who filled in for him while he was in Washington DC at the Police Officers Memorial. Commissioner Walters stated that the memorial was “totally outstanding” and “you could not believe what took place” in honor of the men and women, noting it was a great time to spend with his sons. Commissioner Walters commented that he attended Thunder on the Strip and cooked hamburgers at the airport.

**Commissioner Carl** stated that the County Affairs meeting would be held today at 4:00 pm to review the FEMA study and that this would be the last chance to review before it is sent to the State. Commissioner Carl voiced a concern from Sherman Township asking the County to adopt a resolution to prevent fracking in Gladwin County. Commissioner Carl commented that this issue is similar to the blight resolution that was adopted in the past, and noted that legally it cannot be done. Commissioner Reid commented that he can work with Representative Johnson to look into the issue.

**Commissioner Whittington** commented that there will be an EDC meeting held with the Township Supervisors on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Michigan Works building. Commissioner Whittington also attended the races, adding that things are going well at the Airport. The AT&T tower will not be constructed in Billings Township as previously reported, noting he was contacted by an AT&T representative that stated they have no intentions of upgrading the area in the near future.

**Commissioner Smith** stated that she attended the Beaverton City meeting last night and that 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration flyers were passed out with the agenda of activities. Commissioner Smith commented on the report provided by the Gladwin County Genealogical Society and the publication of the "Guide". Both documents were given to Board members for their review.

**Commissioner Birgel** stated that he attended the Airport meeting, noting everything is moving along smoothly. The Fair Board is keeping a close monitor on their financial concerns and working very hard to bring in new events to increase traffic and revenue to the fairgrounds. Commissioner Birgel commented that he attended the Beaverton Township meeting, noting that they have road matching funds to use for the maintenance of Township roads and that the Beaverton Area Fire Department will be building a new facility in the future. Commissioner Birgel reported that he and his wife Linda attended the Republican Convention at Cobo Hall where Barb Schafer was elected a National Delegate. Commissioner Birgel commented that he is very proud of Barb on her accomplishments, noting that she has put in many volunteer hours in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts.

**Commissioner Rhode** asked the Board for consideration of a proposal by Undersheriff Hartwell to add a Jail Administrator. Commissioner Rhode stated that the restructure would put the department back to the original structure prior to the retirement of Mr. Eastman. (1 Jail Administrator, 2 Sergeants, 9 Full Time Correction Officers, 3 Part Time Corrections Officers) The savings for the 2012 budget year would still be \$23,309.00. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow for restructure as outlined above. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

- Gina Conrad has received the payment for the first half of the 911 GIS Grant. The project is 65% complete and is for the centerline road project.
- The Maintenance Truck has damage in the amount of \$1,283.09 from hitting a turkey. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow for the repairs as quoted. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- 211 has received enough money in donations to satisfy the total needed to operate Gladwin County for the next budget year.
- EDC will be preparing current project sheets for the Board's review.

**Public Comments** – Bob Frei stated that the final approval for the MERIT fiber optic grant was finalized last week and that he will be speaking to DATA about the amount of funding needed by the County toward the project.

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

*Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn. Ayes carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until the June 12, 2012 Regular Session meeting at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise directed.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

Josh Reid, Chairman



GLADWIN COUNTY  
**BOARD OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS**

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Resolution # 2012-008  
A Resolution in Support of  
Fully Replacing, Not Erasing,  
Michigan's Personal Property Tax

**Whereas** local units of government and municipalities have experienced a decline in revenues, including property tax values and State revenue sharing, coupled with unfunded state mandates which has caused unprecedented fiscal constraints; and

**Whereas**, local units of government and municipalities are charged with the provision of crucial services on behalf of state government; i.e., delivery of road patrol services, corrections, foster care, clean water, food safety, the judicial system, etc., and

**Whereas** the ability of local units of government and municipalities to provide mandated services to the public and others if personal property taxes are eliminated would be seriously hampered; and

**Whereas**, at the same time, local units of government and municipalities have confronted consistent and unrelenting increases in the cost of operation, including the cost of living for employees, massive increases in the cost of basic employee benefits, and excessive fuel cost increases; and

**Whereas**, due to this unrelenting fiscal pressure, local units of government and municipalities throughout East Central Michigan have been compelled to reduce workforce, reduce employee wages and benefits, and reduce the level of municipal services historically provided to the residents, businesses, and schools; and

**Whereas**, these municipal services protect the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens, and are essential to a strong local and regional economy and vibrant communities as is currently being advocated by the Governor through Placemaking initiatives; and

**Whereas**, it is proposed by some that the Michigan Personal Property Tax be erased; and

**Whereas**, the Personal Property Tax is relied upon by local governments, comprising as much as 20% of the local budgets of some communities; and over \$20,000,000 in revenue within the EMCOC region in 2010.

Whereas, the Personal Property Tax has been a stable source of needed revenue, facilitating efficient management, providing for needed local services, and paying for existing and future debt for major capital investment for economic development; and

Whereas, the loss of Personal Property Tax will have a negative impact on equalization values and corresponding tax revenues; further reducing local units tax revenues;

Now, therefore, **Be it Resolved**, that the Gladwin County Board of Commissioners urges the Legislature and the Governor to specifically condition any change in the Michigan Personal Property Tax that would result in a reduction in revenue to local units of government to a full – not partial – amount of replacement revenue for both the Personal Property Taxes lost and other property tax revenues lost from adjustments to equalization values due to elimination of Personal Property Tax or a gradual phasing out of the tax with subsequent identification of alternative revenue enhancement; and

**Be It Finally Resolved**, that on behalf of our citizens, businesses and schools, and in recognition of the vital importance of the substantial and stable revenue derived from Michigan's Personal Property Tax to Michigan's future long-term economic success, The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners urges the Legislature and the Governor to ensure replacement of the Michigan Personal Property Tax through an identified replacement source of revenues to be determined as part of a collaborative mutually agreed solution with Michigan's local governments and municipalities.

Moved by Commissioner Rhode seconded by Commissioner Carl to approve the above resolution at a regular meeting of the Gladwin County Board of Commissioner's meeting held on May 22, 2012 and passed by a vote of:

Ayes - 7  
Nays - 0  
Abstain - 0

Certified True Copy - Laura Brandon-Maveal Date: May 22, 2012  
Laura Brandon-Maveal, County Clerk