

Commissioner Minutes of June 14, 2011

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session June 14, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Reid. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, except Commissioner Smith who had been excused.

Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to go into executive session to discuss union contracts. Ayes carried, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:05 – 9:30)

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Agenda – No corrections or additions.

The Regular Session minutes of May 10, 2011 and the Committee of the Whole / Special Board Minutes of May 24, 2011 were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund were then read by Commissioner Rhode. *General Fund - \$23,958.22.*

The **monthly Finance report totaling \$152,133.10** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – none at this time.

Guy Alderton, newly appointed EDC Director, came before the Board to introduce himself and give an overview of his job experiences. The Board asked questions of Mr. Alderton and thanked him for attending the meeting. Commissioner Carl asked that Mr. Alderton attend the Township meetings so that they can become acquainted.

Lauren Essenmacher, Council on Aging, came before the Board with the **2011/12 Budget** for approval. Ms. Essenmacher reviewed figures and rationale with the Board and answered all questions. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the 2011/12 Annual Budget as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Dan Bolle, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the **2011 millage rates** for the County. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the 2011 millage rates and allow the Chairman to sign the L-4029. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Committee Reports by District

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On the Fair Board and Sherman Township meeting on the 17th.
- On a number of FEMA meetings. Commissioner Reid commented that he received a phone call from Erin Maloney, Representative from FEMA, noting that the County needs to provide her with details of the County's FEMA plan, dates of the extension, and details from our engineer. Commissioner Reid commented that is sounded like FEMA was planning on working with us on the extension.
Discussion.
- On the Lake Improvement meetings on the 18th.
- On attending the Parks and Rec meeting on the 19th, noting there will be a meeting and clean-up held tonight at the lodge.
- On a thank you to all the volunteers who placed flags at headstones before Memorial Day. Don Hall – Grout Township, Mark Schultx and Leo Martinosi, Dale and Highland Cemetery, Earl Chervus – Ridge, Secord Lutheran, Butman, McClure, Sacred Heart and Sherman, Bill Ellsworth – Beaverton Cemetery, Frances Moore – Billings and Ginny Grant – Arbutus.

Veterans Matters - Overseas Military who have lost their lives supporting Operation Enduring Freedom:

Private Thomas Allers, 23, of Plainwell, Michigan - Afghanistan
Private 1st Class Robert Voakes, 21, of L'Anse, Michigan – Afghanistan
Staff Sgt, Ergin Osman, 35, of Harrison Township, Michigan

Local Veterans lost:

Charles Smith, Beaverton City – Navy WWII
Mildred Muriei, Billings Township – Army
Raymond Case, Butman Township – Army WWII

Commissioner Walters noted that there would be a bus trip sponsored by the Eagles to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home on Friday, September 9th.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On the FEMA meetings held through the County Affairs committee, thanking all the Elected Official and concerned residents for attending the open house.
- On the Data meeting held on June 1st with MOS, noting there was some dispute over equipment and charges. The committee did discuss the need for a **“finisher” in the Sheriff's Department at the cost of \$891.00** to be paid from the sale of equipment. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the purchase of a finisher for the Sheriff's Department at a cost of \$891.00. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- On the County Affairs meeting concerning FEMA held on the 3rd.
- On a FEMA meeting on the 8th.
- On the Clement Township meeting on the 8th.
- On attending the Butman Township meeting on the 9th.

- That the air quality testing has been conducted in the Judge's office, results are being sent and the remodeling will be concluded. After the renovations are complete another air quality will be conducted before staff moves back in to the area.
- Gina Conrad, GIS Coordinator, has had a request for **GIS files from Title Check LLC**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow Title Check LLC; the company working with the Treasurer on the auctioning of the parcels in tax foreclosure, a free temporary username and password for the online Land Records Portal and Webmap. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Carl then asked Drain Commissioner Evans if he had final pricing on the FEMA study project, noting that those costs and estimated dates of completion needed to be sent to FEMA a.s.a.p. Mr. Evans replied that he is working with Mr. Mueller on reducing the pricing back to the agreed upon figure discussed with the Townships.

Commissioner Carl then made motion to not accept the Deputies contract. Motion supported by Commissioner Walters. Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Babcock – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – no. 5 yes, 1 no. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Whittington commented that he voted no because it went against the Attorney's opinion.

Commissioner Carl then made motion to not accept the Dispatchers contract. Motion supported by Commissioner Walters. Roll call vote as follows: Carl – yes, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Babcock – yes, Smith – excused, Whittington – no, Walters – yes. 5 yes, 1 no. Ayes carried, motion passed. Chairman Reid then read a letter prepared by Commissioner Smith stating her favor in both contracts.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

Finance Matters –

1. Katie King, People to People, met with the Finance Committee to review the **renewal of the Inmate Nursing Contract**. The Contract would be for three (3) years expiring July of 2014 at \$40.00/hour. The committee is recommending the contract to the full Board with the option to re-negotiate cost terms of the contract if needed. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the renewal of the contract. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, asked for approval of a **Radio North billing in the amount of \$1150.88 to continue with the "Narrow Band" project**. If approved the bill will come from 101-422-933.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the purchase as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. Judge McLaughlin has agreed to do a one (1) time infusion of **\$5000 from the Probate Court Child Care Fund to DHS**. This agreement was reached based on the request from DHS for additional 2011 appropriations. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the Treasurer to appropriate \$5000 from the Child Care fund to DHS as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
4. **Barb Uhl, Judge Mienk's Secretary, has requested payment for five (5) unused vacation days per her Court Personnel Policy**. Total payment of 751.80 will come from 101-131-704.000 upon approval. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to make the payment as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
5. The Board reviewed the **MERS plan for 80% funding** at the last Committee of the Whole meeting. Full Board approval is needed to allow the Clerk to disburse funds according to the plan prior to June 30th including the transfer of \$138,000 from the Disaster Contingency Fund to 101-

- 861-720.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the MERS plan and make the transfer as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
6. Discussion on **MSU contract for service vs. 2011 actual**. Discussion by Commissioner Rhode that the recommendation from the Finance Committee would be that the County participate by paying only the amount budgeted for 2011 and that the balance of the funds come from fundraising and/or donations. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to only fund MSU in 2012 for the 2011 budget amount and that the rest of the contract be paid by donations and/or fundraising. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
 7. **Ann Manning, Register of Deeds, has requested a transfer within her technology fund.** Transfer \$3524.00 from 256-000-933.000 to 256-000-727.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the transfer as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
 8. **The Animal Shelter has requested caller ID for their phone system.** Total cost is \$8.50/month from their telephone line 101-430-850.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the Caller ID as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
 9. Ron Taylor, Animal Control Supervisor, has also proposed an **increase to fees effective 7-1-2011**, except the license fees that would increase for 2012 sales in November 2011. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to increase fees as outlined by the Animal Shelter. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
 10. Ra y Hartwell, Undersheriff, has informed the Board that he has a vehicle in the shop with **undercarriage repairs that is estimated to cost over \$600.00**. The Undersheriff brought this to the committee because the repairs will be over \$500.00 and requires Board approval. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to pay for the required repairs as requested by the Undersheriff. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
 11. The Boa rd needs to take action to allow the Treasurer to **borrow from the Unallocated fund as needed to fund bills and payroll**. The amount borrowed from Unallocated and Gypsy Moth will need to be repaid by the year end. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow for the borrowing as needed. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Whittington voting no.*
 12. **The MERS Ann ual Conference is September 27-29 at the Grand Traverse Resort**. The Board may elect to send a Board member, and the employees have the right to elect a delegate to attend. The Board needs to make a motion to allow the Clerk to hold the election and make registrations. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow for the election and registrations as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Finance Committee has met and recognized the following Budget recommendations and deficiencies for the 2011 Budget year:

- That the revenue and expenses were in line, but departments are spending money that is not budgeted for, noting health care will be short of budget by \$200,000 with a total shortfall expected of \$250,000 to \$300,000.
- On using a cleaning service in lieu of nighttime janitors at a savings of \$40,000 per year.
- That there will be a meeting scheduled with Cadillac Insurance to address options to decrease insurance costs in 2011. Commissioner Whittington commented that the Board can't always look to Cadillac Insurance to "bail them out financially" and that something needs to be done.
- That the Clerk, Treasurer, and Sheriff have been asked to decrease the department expense budget by \$22,500.
- That the Register of Deeds office will not be allowed to re-hire staff.
- On the standing policy of not filling vacancies in staff without Board approval, noting the Board will remind each department of the policy and enforce it.

Commissioner Reid stated that the Finance Committee has tried many different options to save money (insurance, furlough days, etc) and no department is willing to come forward to help. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode then spoke about an option for the posting of an Equalization Director, noting many local assessors and residents are not happy with the service they are receiving. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to post for a part time Equalization Director to be hired.*

Discussion. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Further discussion on options to reduce costs and the need to cooperate with Department Heads and Elected Officials for results.

Doug Jacobson, County Attorney, came before the Board with a brief FEMA update. Mr. Jacobson stated that he will be speaking with Mr. Mueller today to get final costs and a timeline to submit to FEMA.

Commissioner Babcock reported:

- On attending both of his Township meetings, noting that they are both "on board" with the FEMA plan.
- On the Data meeting with MOS, stating there are still four leased machines that need to be returned.
- On a meeting with Gina Conrad to review Gypsy Moth.
- That he still needs to meet with MSU for an overview of that committee.
- On attending the FEMA meetings with the Townships.
- On the upcoming Farm Bureau meeting.
- That he will continue to stop at departments to introduce himself and that he is beginning to feel comfortable.

Commissioner Whittington reported:

- On attending the Billings and Bentley meetings.
- On the EDC meeting.
- On attending the Airport meeting.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That he has attended 18 meeting since the last Board meeting.
- On problems in Hay Township with residents who are unable to receive internet services.
- That the Finance committee needs to review the janitorial bid from Hi-Tech before the Committee of the Whole meeting so that it can be discussed for recommendation.

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

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

*Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Whittington, to adjourn. Ayes carried. **Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. until the June 28, 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise directed.***



Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

Josh Reid, Chairman