

Commissioner Minutes of July 9, 2013

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 9, 2013. 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 Walters who had been excused for work.

The **cash balances** were then read by Commissioner Whittington. *General Fund - \$41,359.50 includes a \$655,000 advancement from Unallocated, \$350,000 from Gypsy Moth and \$325,000 from E911.*

Public Comments –Bill Rhode gave the Board an EmCOG update. Noting the following:

- The County's membership billings will be coming out soon. There will be no increase to the 2013 dues. The Townships will also be sent membership billings that could help financially.
- The Federal funding is "drying up" which makes funding projects very hard. EDA funding is still available to help Counties and Townships with large projects.
- Hazardous Mitigation is a service offered through EmCOG and is a program being widely used right now.
- There are 33 members that sit on the Board, noting it has been a valuable group for the Regional EDC and EmCOG to use.

Joel Johnson spoke on the State's implementation of the Veterans Drivers License Program and the ORV Legislature that will allow the County to set up local plans for ORV use.

Rick Seebeck, Seebeck Family Foundation, came before the board, by invitation, to give an update on the Park and Lodge. Mr. Seebeck commented on the following projects and stages the park is currently under:

- A \$70,000 grant was secured from the USDA for the construction of a new kitchen facility.
- A grant of \$2,500 was obtained from Midland/Gladwin foundation for the renovation of the bathrooms and bar area.
- The lodge was inspected for insects, none found, and treated for bats.
- A metal roof has been installed on the "groomer garage".
- The old and rotted split rail fence has been removed with assistance from the Boy Scouts.
- The picnic tables have been repaired and refinished.
- There have been 10 lodge rentals this year.
- An extension has been done to the mountain bike trail to 6.6 miles.
- New trail markers are being installed on the hiking/bike trail.
- The "Restore the Lodge" campaign is in full swing. The proceeds of the fundraiser will go towards the cleaning and restaining of the exterior walls and the replacement of old windows.

Mr. Seebeck went on to explain the use of the proceeds from fundraisers and rentals, noting no "profits" go into the Seebeck Foundation. Chairman Reid stated that the Board will be holding a Public Hearing on July 23, 2013 at 8:55 am to welcome public comments on the Community Kitchen Project.

Bill Borushko was invited by the Finance Committee to give the Board an update on upcoming Union negotiations and problems and issues they may encounter as the Board moves forward. The following topics/comments were discussed:

- Major issue – County Finances and that all employees should be aware of the current shortages.
- That personnel costs are 75% of the county's budget. The bulk reductions will come from that area by one of two ways: Reduce the total amount of personnel or the overall cost of personnel. There will be a meeting on July 25th to discuss those ideas/information with the Union heads.
- A 5% cost reduction to personnel has been recommended by Mr. Hammerbacher. There are three units from the Sheriff's Department that have the right form 312 arbitration, noting the meeting on the 25th should address those ideas with the Union.
- In 2012, Legislation in acted PA152 limits to health care which requires Counties to vote each year to elect hard caps or an 80/20 co-payment, noting 80/20 is a larger burden to the County. This right does not change under arbitration and currently all County units comply with the exception of the Courts.
- The Courts have extended their contract for 2011 and 2012 and the contract does not contain PA 152 language. The Judges believe they do not have to comply with PA 152 and that the Courts have cost the County \$125,000 over the hard cap limit in the past 2 years.
- Treasury has stated that Courts are to be included under PA152 standards and that Counties must be compliant with PA152 in order to receive EVIP payments. The Supreme Court has also issued a letter stating they expect the Courts to comply with PA152.

Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to cancel the MEBS coverage for the Court employees effective January 1, 2014. Ayes carried, motion passed. Mr. Borushko stated that he hopes to get all contracts negotiated this fall. Chairman Reid noted that it is important to get all the employees on one medical plan. Mr. Borushko added that he is working very closely with Cadillac Insurance on these matters. Commissioner Birgel spoke about the importance on offering the employees more than one health care option. Discussion. Chairman Reid commented that Barb Uhl is retiring at the end of the week and that the Board thanks her for her many years of service. However, this would be an opportunity not to put another employee on the "county payroll" and work with the Finance committee before hiring a replacement. Chairman Reid will send another letter reminding the Courts of the hiring policy as has been noted in several meetings including those of May 14th and May 28th.

Commissioner Reports by District -

Commissioner Carl reported:

- That he attended the Planning Commission meeting in regards to the “Miller Letter”, noting the Miller’s made no requests at the meeting and no action was taken by the Planning Commission.
- On attending the Central Michigan Health Department meeting where they discussed the need for the County to pay their appropriations.
- That he attended the Lincoln Day Dinner.
- That his Township meetings start tonight.

Commissioner Birgel reported:

- On attending the MSU meeting.
- That he attended the Region 7B meeting.
- That Central Michigan Health has selected a replacement for Mary Kushion and that the Board will vote on that recommendation at tomorrow’s meeting.
- On problems with Equalization data in Beaverton and Grout Townships. Discussion. The Treasurer spoke on efforts from her office in trying to help with the corrections. The Township Assessors are responsible for keeping their records up to date and Bill Mason, Equalization Director, is working to fix the issue.

Commissioner Whittington reported:

- On attending the Billings Township meeting last night, that he has Grim this afternoon and Bourret tonight.
- There is an EDC meeting tomorrow.
- That he has been working with the Chairman, Borushko and Hammerbacher in Finance on insurance and negotiation issues.

Finance Matters:

1. The Board needs to authorize the Chairman to sign the two **grant agreements with USDA for patrol unit purchases**. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Carl, to authorize the Chairman to sign the grant agreements for funding reimbursement. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. **Patrol Unit #26-7 that was involved in a car/deer accident**. The committee is recommending the Board use the low bid of **\$1,509.22 from Grimmert’s**. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to authorize the repairs with Grimmert’s for \$1509.22. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. A motion is needed to allow the Clerk to conduct an election for a **MERS delegate to go to the conference in Acme, Michigan October 1-3rd**. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Clerk to conduct the election and make the appropriate reservations. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
4. The Sheriff and 911 Director are seeking permission to make application for a **grant toward the purchase of 911 equipment**. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to allow for the grant application as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
5. Deputy Binger has requested a **payout of 94 hours of PTO time**. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Clerk to make payment of \$1,959.90 to Deputy Binger per his contract. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

6. The Inmate Meals (Dept 355) is in need of a Budget Amendment to correct the transition from employees to contracted services. See the below amendment:

101-355-706.001	\$21,129.00
101-355-706.002	\$31,275.00
101-355-706.004	\$ 1,000.00
101-355-720.000	\$19,224.00
101-355-807.000	\$72,628.00

This is a transfer from salary and fringe to the inmate meals contractual line. Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to approve the budget amendment as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.

7. The committee would like a motion by the Board to not allow for payment of wages to the new hire in Judge Mienk's office until the Courts have met with the Finance committee and the Board on the vacancy. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to not allow the Clerk to pay the new hire until the Courts have met with the committee on this matter. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Reid reported:

- That there will be a public meeting on July 23rd for the Parks and Rec kitchen project.
- If the Board would like any changes to the meeting folders to let him know.

Public Comments – none at this time.

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

Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m., until July 23, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Josh Reid
Chairman