

Commissioner Minutes of July 27, 2010

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session July 27, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Whittington. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was then held in remembrance of Bonnie House that had passed away last evening. Roll call found all Commissioners present.

Agenda – no changes or additions.

The Regular minutes of July 13, 2010 were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$224,816.66 231 Fund - \$47,728.45.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$96,778.74** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – none at this time.

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, came before the Board with a brief **update to the EDC Gardening Program**. Two local companies, S&H Engraving and Gladwin Metal Processing, have been selected to participate in a \$20,000 marketing grant through USDA. Discussion.

Robert Evans, *newly appointed Drain Commissioner*, introduced himself to the Board and invited the Board members to visit the office with any questions. Commissioner Whittington welcomed Mr. Evans.

Correspondence from the Chairman-

- The building is having their “cross contamination” inspection today.
- The UAW Local 1974 has a new International Representative, Chad Wurtzel, replacing Dave Tanney.
- On the letter received by the Record & Clarion.
- On receiving the 211 report for review.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On sending a report to the Beaverton City meeting on July 19, 2010.
- The Personnel meeting on July 22, 2010.
- On attending the Finance meeting July 23, 2010, noting Commissioner Rhode will give a full report.
- That the Library Board will be meeting tonight.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On attending the Veterans meeting on the 13th, stating that the “Moving Wall” for the Vietnam Memorial will be at the Clare County Fairgrounds August 3rd – 7th.
- On the Sage Township meeting on the 14th, commenting that the Township Board appointed a new Supervisor, Renee Zelt, beginning August 12th.
- On attending the Sherman Township meeting on the 20th.
- On attending the Wiggins, Pratt, and Contos Lake Improvement Board meeting on the 21st.
- That the Community Mental Health Finance meeting is tonight at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Killian reported:

- On attending the Beaverton Area Business Association luncheon on the 14th, noting their golf outing raised \$7,000 toward the Beaverton fireworks.
- On the Gladwin County Endowment Fund meeting on the 22nd.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- That his Township meetings went well and everything is quiet.

Chairman Whittington commented that he attended both of his Township meetings, noting everything is well.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On communication from Darrell Schlese, Circuit Court Administrator, on the need for AC units in the Friend of the Court offices. Commissioner Reid stated he responded via email noting costs of operation and installation has been the reason that the Board has declined the request three times.
- That the Building & Grounds and Public Safety meetings were cancelled.
- On the Fair, commenting it was nicely organized and well attended.
- On attending the Secord Township meeting, noting that they are working on enforcement of a noise ordinance with Sheriff Shea.
- That Valley Electric has completed the work for the Energy Grant and that the final billings can be submitted for reimbursement.

Chairman Whittington then asked the Board for consideration on the **Housing Development Authority contract**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Chairman to sign the contract as reviewed and discussed. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On the third insurance meeting with an “outside agency” per State requirements. The committee has looked at three options and has decided to stay with Cadillac Insurance, noting they have been pleasant to work with and they continue to work with the County to cut costs.
- On attending the Michigan Works meeting in West Branch on the 15th.

- On the Eastern Michigan Council of Government meeting on the 16th
- On the Farmers Market Grant through the City for the building of a pavilion. Discussion on vendors and local business.
- On the Northern Michigan Association of Counties meeting on the 19th where Equalization Director requirements have been changed by County.
- On attending the Gladwin City Council meeting on the 19th.
- On the Health and Human Services meeting on the 20th, noting a list of 211 calls was provided for review.
- On attending the Gladwin Township meeting on the 21st.
- On the Personnel meeting on the 22nd, noting the matters below:
 1. Gina Conrad, Gypsy Moth Director, is working on an Inter Governmental Agreement with Clare County for Gypsy Moth services. The contract will be given to the Board for their review upon completion.
 2. Troy Rabidue, Sheriff Lieutenant, began negotiation conversations with the committee.
 3. Ray Hartwell, Undersheriff, requested that the committee consider allowing a **Corrections Officer to be hired into the 911 Dispatcher vacancy at a lateral rate of pay and transfer of leave balances**. If this occurs there will be a vacancy created in a part-time Corrections position that will need to also be filled. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Undersheriff Hartwell to fill both positions as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- On attending the Finance meeting on the 23rd and the matter listed below:
 1. Mike Brubaker, 911 Administrator, is requesting to send **2 dispatchers to training in Midland**. Total cost of \$539.00 to be paid from 282-000-804.001. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow the Dispatchers to attend training as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode then stated that Revenue Sharing cuts are back on the table. The Governor is opposed, but the State budget committee is reviewing the matter. A Medical Marijuana seminar is being planned and dates will be passed along as they are available.

Commissioner Carl commented on the State standards for Equalization and his concern with the advertisements placed by Gladwin County for a new Director. Commissioner Rhode advised that the advertising for the position is fine; the State is only determining the minimum level required by County SEV.

Chairman Whittington then commented on the vacancy on the Substance Abuse Board, and the need to notify of a replacement.

Chairman Whittington then inquired as to the insurance requirement of Mr. Seebeck in the Parks and Rec area. Commissioner Smith stated that they committee will not be meeting until August. Commissioner Reid noted that he had spoken with Mr. Seebeck


and his insurance costs would be \$1,500/year and would probably be dissolving his organization and proceeding forward as a volunteer under the County's insurance.

Public Comments – none at this time.

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

Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m. until August 10, 2010 unless otherwise directed.


Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk


Terry Whittington, Chairman

Committee of the Whole

July 27, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Chairman Whittington called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive a Chamber / EDC update from Scott Govitz. Commissioner Carl noted that this discussion previously got off on the "wrong foot" and that he had received an opinion from MAC stating that the two entities could not be merged, but could work in cooperation together to achieve goals and projects. Mr. Govitz ran through the history of the EDC program and the goal that was to be achieved by partnering the EDC and Chamber. Mr. Govitz stated that he is very fortunate to work at MMCC and have the ability to put time into the EDC, as the college is very interested in EDC and small business development in the County. Mr. Govitz spoke about the importance of the County continuing to invest in the EDC by budgeting annual appropriations. Mr. Govitz continued to say that many of the "brainstorming" ideas have been taken out of context, and that the ball is in the Chamber's court. Discussion on the separation of "finances", and the possible "co-habitation". Commissioner Reid noted that the EDC Board and the Chamber Board would need to discuss the facts and see what they feel is a comfortable venture, if any at all, and communicate back to the Board. Discussion. The Board thanked Mr. Govitz for his time.

Committee of the Whole

July 27, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Chairman Whittington stated the purpose of this meeting was to "brainstorm" budget ideas for upcoming negotiations.

Commissioner Rhode reviewed the insurance options to move to Blue Care Network from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and the reduction of costs with those plans. Commissioner Rhode commented that the change would put the County into class rated vs. experience rated which would lower costs and save on prescription coverages. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode added that a dental plan would be offered as an incentive to the Unions to switch to Blue Care Network.

The Board then discussed proposed wages for the three year contracts. Commissioner Rhode stated that he would like a wage freeze for the next two years and a 1% in the third year. Commissioner Smith would like the Board to explore a flat raise vs. a percentage raise. Commissioner Reid stated that there may not be any raises at all, and that the sick and vacation days should be a "use or lose" benefit. Commissioner Walters spoke about the payout of vacation time and the misunderstanding by the public. Undersheriff Hartwell discussed with the Board the possibility of getting rid of vacation, sick and personnel time and going to "earned time" with a short time disability policy.

Commissioner Reid stated that there are some cuts that can be made on maintaining that heated sidewalks at the Annex building by just salting and shoveling. In addition, Commissioner Reid stated examples that the Board could take in reducing the Board Secretary to part time and the part time maintenance worker could be eliminated with better use of inmates to maintain the grounds. Commissioner Reid stated it is important to note that he is not picking on these two positions, but are only using them as an example. These two positions would save approximately \$20,000 each and the Board has looked at several other positions, including these two, in the past. The Board has to do whatever they can to uphold their services and reasonably respond to our economy and budget. Commissioner Reid continued to state that he does not support any increases at this time, and believes the employees would respond the same if in the same situation. Commissioner Reid also noted that the \$500.00 cap for approval on invoices needs to be dropped to \$250.00 because it is being abused, and that the Board needs to begin to set aside funds in the MERS retirement plan that is required under GASB.

Commissioner Whittington stated that the \$1,000 additional pay for the Chairman could be eliminated, the Board could vote in a pay cut for 2011, and the per diem pay could go back to \$25.00/\$40.00 from the \$25.00/meeting. Commissioner Walters stated that if the employees take a cut then the Board needs to reduce their salaries also. Discussion.

Justin Schneider, Building Official, spoke about reimbursement from the Townships to maintain their ordinance enforcement and that his department revenue is up 20-30% from this time last year. Mr. Schneider also stated that the Board could look at keeping wages the same and giving employees a percent of their salary twice a year. Discussion on different wage options for the Board to explore.

Commissioner Walters asked about offering a retirement incentive. Commissioner Carl stated that the County should implement a policy to disallow the rehire of employees that retire. Discussion on retirement options.

Commissioner Reid stated the Board should look at using some of the Gypsy Moth fund. It was stated that the funds could only be used for Gypsy Moth purposes, unless voted on to be used for other reasons. Discussion. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Board should avoid using any further funds from the unallocated account. Further discussion on pay freezes and budgeted wages.

The Board then adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. A date will be scheduled with Martin Lee to review preliminary figures with the Board.