

Commissioner Minutes of August 10, 2010

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session August 10, 2010. 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.

Agenda – *Commissioner Reid asked that Sheriff Shea and Vincent Barry, Secord Township Supervisor, be added to the agenda to discuss a noise ordinance enforcement contract. Chairman Whittington noted they would be added.*

The Regular minutes of July 27, 2010 were then considered. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the minutes as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Committee of the Whole minutes of July 27, 2010 were then reviewed. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept the minutes as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The cash balances for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$126,204.95 231 Fund - \$51,746.99.*

The semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$77,806.34 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.

Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, came before the Board with an EDC update and invited each of the Board members to attend tomorrow morning's EDC meeting.

Resolutions for consideration – none.

Correspondence from the Chairman –

- On communication received from Region VII Area on Aging.
- That Donna Beck is no longer serving on the DHS Board, noting that the Board will have to make an appointment.
- On the EDC agenda for tomorrow's meeting.
- On communication sent from Attorney Stoker to the Unions to begin negotiations.
- On receiving the annual report from Risk Management.

Chairman Whittington then asked that the Board consider the request from **DHS to allow him to sign an amendment from a previously approved contract.** *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Chairman to sign the contract amendment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Vincent Barry, **Secord Township Supervisor**, and Sheriff Shea then came before the Board to discuss entering into a contract to provide **noise ordinance enforcement** by the

Sheriff's Department to Secord Township. Sheriff Shea highlighted areas of the contract for the Board. Commissioner Carl commented that Clement Township had looked into the same ordinance and found it to be "unenforceable" by the County in a written opinion of their Township legal counsel. Commissioner Walters asked about the criteria for responding to calls. Discussion. Sheriff Shea pointed out that there was a 90 day "out clause" in the event either party found that they were unhappy. Discussion on Township Constable duties. Commissioner Carl voiced his concern over County liability. Commissioner Walters asked if the County's attorney has had a chance to review. Sheriff Shea responded that he would provide a copy to Attorney Jacobson for his review. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Whittington, to allow the Chairman to sign the contract between Sheriff Shea and Secord Township pending Attorney review; and to additionally allow the Clerk and Treasurer to establish the appropriate expense and revenue lines.* Roll call vote as follows: Walters – yes, Carl – no, Rhode – yes, Reid – yes, Killian – yes, Smith – no, Whittington – yes. 5 yes, 2 no. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** *Commissioners Smith and Carl commented they voted no because they believe it should be the duty of the Township Constable to enforce this ordinance.*

Chairman Whittington then asked the Board to review the **Land Sale list.** Discussion on listed properties and availability to the State and Townships. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to not take any of the properties listed, and allow them to go for sale.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Committee Reports –

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the Library Board meeting on July 27, 2010 where the audit was received and accepted.
- On the special Finance committee meeting on July 30, 2010.
- That she attended the Gladwin County "We the People Rally" on July 31, 2010, noting she was very pleased to see the professional manner in which this rally was held and how many were in attendance. Commissioner Smith states that she talked to several people as to their reasons for attending and they all responded "for information", noting they all said that they were pleased with the information that came from the candidates and were glad that this event happened.
- On the DATA Committee meeting on August 3, 2010. At this meeting we met with representatives from MOS and discussed implementation of print integration procedures and recommendations that will be forthcoming from Bob Frei and this committee. Selection decisions will have to be made at the first meeting in September because contracts will end at the end of the September. DATA also discussed alternatives to the Centrex utilization and what will be the best course for the County. Bob Frei and members of the committee will be meeting with each department to more closely examine the department needs and wants for printing. There will be a representative from MOS with us as these visits are made as they have requested. The purpose is to enable printing companies the opportunity to make the most accurate bids for our business.
- That she attended the Personnel committee meeting on August 4, 2010.
- On attending the Budget/Finance committee meeting on August 5, 2010, noting work was started on compiling budget figures with department heads.
- On the Finance meeting on August 6, 2010 followed by Budget/Finance.
- On attending Relay for Life and did one lap, noting the event was well attended and organized.
- That the Tobacco Township meeting was last night.

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On attending the Mental Health Finance meeting on July 27th, commenting that there will be a ground breaking for the new Mental Health building in Midland.
- That he attended the “We the People” rally on July 31st, noting a good turnout.
- On attending the Vietnam Memorial at the Clare County Fairgrounds on August 7th.
- That he attended the Relay for Life ceremony with his wife Mary this weekend.
- That his Township meetings are upcoming.
- That the Building and Grounds committee is dealing with a mold issue.

On the Veterans lost over the past two months-

Leon Mavis, Beaverton – Navy, WWII

Gary Dell, Beaverton – Army, Vietnam

Fredrick Breault, Gladwin City – Navy, WWII

Clare McPherson, Billings – WWII

William Harris, Secord – Army, Vietnam

Tim Carrier, Hay – Navy

Commissioner Killian reported:

- On the Grout Township meeting on August 2nd and the discussion of a millage for road improvements.
- On attending the August 3rd Data meeting.
- On the Beaverton Township meeting last night, commenting that Joe Sprague had been appointed to the Fire Department committee and Bart Quider to the Building Authority.
- On a complaint from a resident on a wild cat issue and the Animal Shelter, noting he had spoken to Ron Taylor and the matter was resolved.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Data meeting on the 3rd.
- On Commissioner Reid filling in for him at the Planning Commission meeting due to a doctor’s appointment, noting his appreciation.
- On attending Bonnie House’s funeral.
- That he attended the “We the People” rally on the 31st, commenting that it was a non-political and everyone had the opportunity to speak, although their fair booth had negative comments.
- That his Township meetings begin tonight.

Commissioner Carl then inquired as to where the Board is at with the Equalization Director’s position. The Board Secretary responded that they had received 3 or 4 resumes. Discussion.

Commissioner Carl then asked the Board to consider **lowering the approval amount on invoices from \$500.00 to \$250.00**. Discussion. Sheriff Shea spoke about his struggle right now with the \$500.00 limit for car repairs and clothing allowance. Commissioner Reid then noted that the Department Heads could contact the Chair of the appropriate committee for approval. Discussion. *Commissioner Carl then made motion to have all purchases over \$250.00 sent to Budget Coordinator, Martin Lee, for his approval; with*

Mr. Lee keeping track of all requests that come before him for Board review. Discussion. Ayes carried, motion passed. Rhode and Whittington voting no.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Planning Commission meeting on the 4th for Commissioner Carl.
- On the Secord Township Enforcement Contract, thanking the Board for their consideration.
- That Hay Township was able to purchase tables and chairs through Quill at a savings.
- On the request from the Gladwin County Record to get a PDF file of the ORV map for publication in a "hunter's edition" insert of the paper. Discussion. It was decided that the Gladwin County Record could purchase the file for \$100.00 with a printed disclaimer to not reproduce.

Chairmen Whittington excused himself from the meeting.

Commissioner Reid continued to report:

- On the EMCOG meeting on the 3rd, noting the checks are ready to be sent for reimbursement. The consortium is still working on a centralized purchasing.

Commissioner Reid then commented on the budget process and some of the comments that he has heard since the committee of the whole meeting on July 27th. Commissioner Reid stated comments were made implying that the employees would need something in return if they were not getting raises, and he feels the Board is acting responsibly during these times and a pay freeze is needed. Employees need to appreciate what the County is offering and be happy the employees are not losing jobs. Commissioner Reid continued to say that unemployment in the County is close to 20%, and that he personally has been several years without a raise. Commissioner Reid would like to see the Board and employees to agree on "holding back" for a couple years to see how the budget looks, and where the SEV and housing market is, before proceeding forward with raises. Discussion. Commissioner Reid stated he feels the Board has worked collectively to gouge the budget to the point where no department has made comments on what can be done to further reduce the budget. Commissioner Smith stated she has sat through the budget meetings with the Department Heads, and does believe that they have looked at all avenues to save money and adjust revenue. Commissioner Reid stated that he does appreciate all the employees work and sympathizes with them in getting through these next couple budget years. Discussion.

Commissioner Carl asked to go back to the **ORV map** discussion. Discussion on the sale of the map for **\$100.00 with a disclaimer attached to the map not to reproduce.**

Commissioner Carl made motion to create a process through the County Affairs committee to allow local businesses to sell the map with a portion of the profit going to the County. Motion supported by Commissioner Smith. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- On the preliminary budget meeting with Martin Lee and Department Heads, noting that it went very well with most departments and some are still working on reducing numbers and changing revenues.

Finance Issues -

- On the need to correct the Construction Codes/Zoning budget to reflect a portion of Justin Schneider's wage. The matter has been referred to Mr. Lee to address.
- That Ron Taylor, Animal Shelter Supervisor, has requested to increase "pickup fees" from \$20.00/dog + \$3.00 for each additional to \$30.00/dog + \$5.00 for each additional to begin effective immediately. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow the fee increase as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- **Bob Evans**, Drain Commissioner, has requested that he be allowed to hire someone at **\$9.00 an hour to fill his vacancy**. Commissioner Carl stated he cannot support this request, noting it will set precedence and there is a policy in place. Commissioner Carl did state that he would be willing to suggest that the top salary be increased, or the scale be adjusted, to allow part time staff to have better wages to work toward. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to deny the Drain Commissioner's request and to follow the policy to start his new staff at \$8.00/hour. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Rhode voting no.

Finance Matters:

1. Bev Przystas, MSU, is requesting a transfer to her mileage line item to cover upcoming conference & travel costs. The below budget amendment is provided per her request.

101-257-727.0	\$500.00
101-257-850.0	\$300.00
101-257-860.0	\$800.00

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the budget amendment as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.

2. Judd Eastman, Jail Administrator, is requesting to apply for a grant for a portable fingerprint computer. This would allow citizens to be fingerprinted without entering the jail area for non-criminal fingerprinting. Total cost of the project is \$16,325.00 with the County responsible for a 10% match. The match funds of \$1,632.50 can be paid from the SECURUS technology funds if approved. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the purchase of the portable Livescan as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. Justin Schneider, Building Official, has requested to attend a "Lead Renovator" training course in Gladwin at a cost of \$180.00. If approved, payment for the course can come from 101-371-860.000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow Mr. Schneider to attend the training as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode then referenced the letter from **Treasurer VanTiem on her request to laterally transfer a non-union employee to a union position in her office at 100% of Unit #6 wage scale**. The Union has responded to the Board that they are willing to waive the first 6 months of the pay scale. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to provide a lateral benefits transfer for the employee, and begin her pay scale at the 85% as proposed by the Union. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode commented that Ginny Grant, Veteran Affairs, has stated that she will be retiring in a few years and that the Board will need to provide for a replacement in her budget.

Commissioner Rhode then spoke about changes by line item that Department Heads requested, and projects that could be done this year rather than budgeted for next year.

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

Public Comments –

Sheriff Shea asked for clarification on the spending limit going from \$500 to \$250, and if Mr. Lee was aware of this change, or being compensated for the additional duties.

Discussion. Sheriff Shea expressed his concern with operations on the small limit he has to operate with under a 24/7 operation, noting someone would need to be available on nights and weekends to approve purchases. Commissioner Smith stated that this is something that can be reviewed, and later changed, if it doesn't work. Discussion.

Commissioner Killian inquired how we enforce the spending limit and if there a policy in place. Commissioner Walters suggested that we maintain the \$500.00 spending limit and review in 30 days. Discussion.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m. until August 24, 2010 unless otherwise directed.

Laura Brandon Maveal

Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

Terry Whittington

Terry Whittington, Chairman