

Commissioner Minutes of August 11, 2009

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session August 11, 2009. 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 – There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

The **Regular minutes, and Committee of the Whole minutes of July 28, 2009** were then considered. County Clerk, Laura Brandon-Maveal, noted that three commissioners asked that comments, or discussion, be added to the minutes. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the minutes with the revised comments added. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$71,439.35** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Posey, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – Mandi Bergman thanked those members of the Board who supported the Relay for life by walking the opening lap during their ceremony August 8th. Chairman Whittington commented that he would have attended, but just had knee surgery. Commissioner Smith stated that she was very impressed with the cleanliness of the area after the event, noting that she would like to compliment and thank those individuals for their efforts.

Commissioner Carl then asked that the Clerk read cash balances for the 101 fund and 231 fund for the Board's consideration. **General Fund- \$210,670.28 231 Fund -\$19,587.35.**

Correspondence from the Chairman –

The DARE program is hosting "The Best Show in Branson" Country Music Show on August 19th at 7 p.m. at the Beaverton High School gym.

Chief Circuit Court Judge, Thomas R. Evans, is recommending that two individuals be appointed to fill an expired and vacant seat on the Jury Board. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to appoint George Chelenyak (term expiring April 30, 2013) and Nancy Kleiss (term expiring April 30, 2015) to the Jury Board. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

A letter had been sent to Beaverton City responding to their decision to drop out of EDC.

That the Financial Report from MERS had been received and is available for review.

Christy VanTiem, County Treasurer, came before the Board with a **Land Bank agreement.** Discussion on the benefits of entering into this agreement and option for County to still purchase properties. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by*

Commissioner Carl, to authorize the Chairman and Treasurer to sign the agreement as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Commissioner Walters reported:

- On Veterans matters, commenting on the following:
 1. The office has an assistant provided by federal grant monies that is doing a great job and has been a huge benefit to Ginny.
 2. The Forgotten Eagles were here on the 5th, commenting that it was a super ceremony.
 3. THE POW MIA National Recognition day will be held September 18th, with the Governor having a brief ceremony at 1:00 p.m.
 4. On the passing of three veterans from our County. Thomas Meixner – Korean War, Grout Township, Donald Hinman – WWII, Sage Township, Kenneth Koss – WWII, Clement.
- On setting up for Relay for Life on the 7th.
- On assisting at the Airport breakfast on the 8th.
- On participating in the Relay for Life walk, noting that it was a touching program.
- On the plane that went down Friday evening the 7th at 3:30 p.m. and found Saturday the 8th at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Walters stated that he appreciated the help from the search teams, 911, and the Sheriff Department.
- On attending Troop #779 Eagle Scout ceremonies at the Parks and Recreation area on the 10th.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the July 28th Committee of the Whole meeting.
- That she attended the District Library Board meeting on July 28, 2009, noting that the renovation of the Arena has started, Friends of the Library held a quilt and other handmade items sale during Carriage Festival, and Bruce Guy has been working to get broadband internet service into our area. The State Library may be closing and that the Gladwin County Library will receive all of their Genealogy records.
- On attending the Data Committee meeting August 4, 2009, commenting that Commissioner Posey will give full report.
- That she attended Carriage Festival Friday, August 7, 2009 and Sunday, August 9, 2009.
- Was honored to walk the opening laps for Gladwin County Relay for Life at the Beaverton High School track.
- On attending the breakfast at the Airport on Sunday, August 9, 2009.
- That she attended the Tobacco Township meeting on Aug. 10, 2009.
 1. Discussion was held about renewing garbage pickup services and the garbage company furnishing trash receptacles for each household.
 2. Report was given on meeting of addressing committee and discussion was held about each township paying part of the cost for the surveying project to move this along.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Planning Commission meeting on the 5th.
- On the August 7th Finance meeting.
- On the Personnel meeting on the 10th and the review of applications for the **Emergency Management Director position**. Eight applicants were reviewed, and the committee is recommending hiring Leo Gary whom they believe to be the most qualified for the job. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Reid, to offer the job to Mr. Gary and that the Board hires him upon his acceptance of wages and duties. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Board then took a short recess at 9:35 a.m. to meet with Mr. Gary.

Chairman Whittington called the meeting back to order at 9:40 a.m. Mr. Gary has accepted the job with the same rate and benefits that were received by Mr. Duby. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to hire Mr. Gary effective today and to allow the Chairman to sign the prepared contract upon presentation. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Carl continued reporting:

- On the topic to eliminate the zoning department. Sandra Walling, Zoning Administrator, will be sending out a letter to the 10 participating townships, and the 5 that have their own zoning, to offer them zoning services for an annual fee of \$4,000.00. Commissioner Whittington commented that Billings Township may be looking to come back into countywide zoning. Discussion.

Commissioner Posey reported:

- On attending the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 28th.
- On the Grout Township meeting on the 3rd, noting that they are exploring mosquito control.
- On the August 4th Data committee meeting, noting that she will give a full report later.
- That she had filled in for Commissioner Carl on the 4th for the Department Head budget meetings.
- On attending the Relay for Life walk on August 8th.
- On the Beaverton township meeting on the 10th, noting that the Board had reevaluated road work projects, and applied for grant funds for the Townhall Road bridge project.

Data matters –

1. Bob Frei has traced the amount of streaming traffic on the internet since the committee sent out a letter reminding employees of inappropriate use. Mr. Frei has noted a decline by 75%.
2. That the committee is recommending that the offices shut down all computers before they leave for the night for energy savings.
3. That all new electronic purchases must be Energy Star compliant.

4. On the recommendation of the committee to renew two copier contracts for the Sheriff and Clerk.
5. On the recommendation of the Committee not to renew the lease on the Annex Building postage machine.
6. On the request by Darrell Schlese to purchase a new computer for FOC in the amount of \$1400.00, noting that the committee has no recommendation.
7. On the billing from **Core Technologies for \$2400.00**. It is the recommendation of the committee that the bill be split as follows: Sheriff - \$1800.00, District - \$300.00, Probate - \$300.00. *Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to approve for the payment of the bill as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Chairman to sign the copier contracts for the Clerk and the Sheriff as recommended by the committee. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Posey, supported by Commissioner Reid, to not renew the contract lease for the Annex building's postage machine. Discussion. Sherry Augustine questioned how this action would save the County any money. Commissioner Reid commented that there would be a \$400.00 savings on the lease plus any energy costs. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to not purchase a new computer for FOC at this time. Ayes carried, motion passed. Commissioner Rhode voting no.

Commissioner Reid then commented on the July 28th Committee of a Whole meeting, stating that the layout of cuts could have been presented better. Commissioner Reid then commented that the proposed cuts are only ideas and that the departments are thinking, and shouldn't feel threatened, but create good ideas so that we can all work together. Commissioner Reid did comment that he thought it was a good meeting overall and a good idea.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the August 4th Data meeting.
- On the GBPA meeting on August 5th, commenting work is being done in connection with the EDC's Travel and Tourism committee.
- On visiting Chappel Dam on August 5th, noting that work on the Dike is in progress and looking good.
- On the August 6th meeting at Gladwin City with a representative from EMCG. It was discussed where the funds went for energy efficient projects and the idea to work with Clare County on some "bulk purchasing" projects to mesh ideas and save money. Several other ideas were discussed.
- On attending the Relay for Life and the Carriage Festival on August 8th, noting that a lot of effort was put into both.

- On the need to provide the Courts with a copy of their budget for review and consideration before their meeting with the Budget committee on the 14th.

Commissioner Reid then asked that the Board take action to **close a portion of Sergeant Road for ORV use per the request of the DNR**. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to close the South portion, of Sergeant Road contained within Sherman Township, Gladwin County, at the direction and request of the DNR. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- That the **EDC had a new application for funding business plans** (Economic Gardening), and would like the approval of the Board. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to implement the new application as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- That EDC has offered a resolution to accept the Lackey report. Discussion. This resolution will be sent to each Board member for their review, and voted on at the Board meeting on the 25th.
- That the Uniform Addressing committee has been asked to speak at the next Council of Local Government meeting on the 24th at Sherman Township to answer any questions.

Commissioner Rhode then commented on the 2010 budget process. He stated that the budget is being handled the same way it has been every other year. When the budget was brought to the whole Board early for their review and guidance, no direction was given. The Department heads met with the budget committee to look for ways to cut the budget and a little under \$100,000 was cut, which is far from the amount the Board needs to cut. Commissioner Rhode then stated that there will be major cuts made, not just employees, but maybe entire departments. He continued to comment that over the past two years the Board has cut 2.5 million from their budget, and in 2010 the Courts will have to make cuts also, stating that their revenues have all been reduced for 2010 and their expenses have gone up.

Finance Matters:

1. Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, has requested that **five dispatchers be allowed to attend the Michigan APCO Fall Conference in Tustin, MI**. Total cost is **\$1000.00**. There are no lodging costs for this training, only meal allowances. If approved cost to be paid from 282-000-804.001. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Carl, to approve the training request. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. The Auditors have recommended that the Board adopt a **Journal Entry Policy**. The Finance Committee has reviewed the policy and is recommending that it be adopted. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Posey, to adopt the policy as reviewed. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Carl then asked if the Uniform Addressing minutes were being sent to the Townships for their review. The Board Secretary stated she will be sending those out.

Commissioner Reid asked if the Board can get a breakdown of the budget for their review. Chairman Whittington stated that the Secretary has a budget folder that the Board is welcome to review. Commissioner Reid also requested that County Affairs be allowed to explore a policy for sale and/or bid of county assets.

Commissioner Smith then commented that she had not received a phone call stating that the Courthouse was closed on Thursday the 6th. Commissioner Smith requested that the Board members be put on the call list for any closings. Chairman Whittington commented that the Secretary would add them to the notification list, and that Rick Ghent and his crew did a fine job handling the situation.

Public comments –

Laura Brandon-Maveal, County Clerk, commented that she would be at conference during the next Board meeting and that her Chief Deputy Cheryl Edgar would be handling the minutes on the 25th.

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

Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adjourn. Ayes carried, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until August 25, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise ordered.


Laura Brandon – Maveal
Clerk


Terry Whittington
Chairman