

Commissioner Minutes of November 9, 2010

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session November 9, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Rhode. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call found all Commissioners present, except the vacant seat created by the resignation of Commissioner Killian.

Agenda – *Judge Farrell, 80th District Court will be added to discuss a grant. Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to proceed with the agenda as amended.*

The Regular Session minutes of October 26, 2010 were then considered. Commissioner Carl stated that the minutes should reflect that four members of the Board asked that the Personnel Committee be allowed to meet with the Corrections Unit one additional time without attorney assistance. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the minutes as corrected. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The **cash balances** for the General Fund and the Judicial Management Fund were then read. *General Fund - \$335,473.61 231 Fund – (\$37,171.34).*

The **semi-monthly Finance report totaling \$41,329.63** was then considered for payment. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the bills for payment as presented. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Public Comments – Reverend Karen Blatt spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Board. Reverend Blatt stated that the Chamber has had a mission to know and welcome all area businesses, noting she has spent a lot of her personal time visiting local businesses. After these meetings, she has found that businesses are receiving demand for County and ORV maps for distribution. Reverend Blatt commented on her meeting with County Affairs and wanted to know where the committee was at with the mapping project. Commissioner Walters stated that the committee was working with Gina Conrad on mapping updates and will schedule a December meeting to finalize distribution of the maps in the spring.

Bob Evans, Drain Commissioner, introduced his new employee Kathy Mills. The Board welcomed Mrs. Mills to her new position.

Commissioner Smith added that the Tobacco River Muzzleloaders are hosting their annual sight in days at their range on M-18. Times are 9-5 daily. Cost is \$5.00 per firearm, noting their will be experienced individuals there to assist.

Sheriff Mike Shea asked for an Executive Session during the meeting to discuss a litigation matter.

Correspondence from the Chairman:

- Frank Starkweather, EDC Director, has resigned. The EDC Board will be meeting tomorrow to discuss replacement plans for the position.
- On a letter received from Walter Hart requesting the **Nativity Scene** be placed on the Courthouse grounds again for the Christmas season. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Reid, to allow the "non-denominational" Nativity Scene to be placed as requested. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
- **DHS** has made a request for **appointment to their Board**. The Board has named **Teasha Robertson** as the proposed addition to their Board. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Smith, to grant the recommendation as proposed. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Commissioner Smith commented on the placement of the notice in the paper and how well it worked to get interested persons to come forward.
- On the letter received from MSU on the "**New Commissioner Workshop**", noting that each Commissioner will need to sign up with the Board's Secretary if they are interested in attending. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow all Board members to attend if they so choose. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Dan Bolle, Equalization Director, came before the Board with the **2010 Apportionment Report** for the Board's adoption and review. Discussion on levied rates and special millages. Mr. Bolle explained that the Chairman and Clerk would need to sign the L-4029 after a vote. *Motion by Commissioner Carl, supported by Commissioner Walters, to levy the tax at the same rate as last year. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Discussion on the Apportionment Report. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept the Apportionment Report as prepared. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

The Board then took a recess at 9:16 a.m.

Meeting called back to order at 9:22 by Chairman Rhode.

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to go into Executive Session with the Sheriff to discuss a litigation matter. Ayes carried, motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Carl, to return to Regular Session. Ayes carried, motion passed.

Committee Reports by District

Commissioner Walters reported:

- That he would like to thank everyone for their support during the Election.
- On the Veterans meeting this afternoon at 3:00 p.m., noting the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held this Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in front of the Memorial Wall.

Veteran Matters

Three additional Veterans have passed away.

Grover Ankney, Korea – Clement Township

Robert Rowe, WWII – Secord Township

Tommy Rosencrants, Vietnam – Clement Township

- That his Township meetings are upcoming.

Commissioner Carl reported:

- On attending the Data meeting on the 2nd.
- On the CMDHD meeting on the 3rd.
- That his Township meetings begin tonight.
- On the “Deer Hunters supper” sponsored by the Clement Township Fire Department is on November 14th.

Commissioner Carl then asked the Clerk on when the Special election would be held to fill Commissioner Killian’s vacancy. Clerk Maveal stated that the election would be held in February. Commissioner Carl commented that he has reviewed the election results and based on the totals would make a *motion to appoint Don Birgel to the vacant Commissioner seat until a special election can be held.* Motion supported by Commissioner Walters. Commissioner Whittington commented that there were problems with the election in that district and asked the Clerk to explain to the Board what those problems were. Clerk Maveal stated that because the State is reviewing the issue, she can not make comment. Commissioner Rhode stated he would like to hold off on an appointment until after the State has finished their review. Discussion. 3 yes, 3 no. Tie vote, **motion fails.**

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On attending the Finance meeting on the 4th, noting a **patrol vehicle was in a car / deer accident.** Three bids were obtained for the repairs. *Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Carl, to accept the lowest bid of \$1,486.20 from Grimmer’s Auto Body.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Finance Matters

1. Bob Frei, IT Director, has purchased **8 computers for various departments for \$5,055.21.**

Approval is needed for the purchases from the following line items:

101-253-831 0	\$631.90
231-136-811 0	\$631.90
231-137-727.01	\$631.90
101-258-815.933	\$1263.80
231-148-933.0	\$631.90
101-215-933.000	\$1263.80

Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the purchase as outlined. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

2. Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, has requested **3 training classes** as outlined below:
 - Hundley, Tefner & Laidlaw to “Building 911 Life Bridges to Suicidal Callers” in Roscommon County. Total cost \$1,047.00 from 282-000-804.001.
 - Sarazin & Doherty for “Team Building” in Clare County. Total cost is \$718.00 from 282-000-804.001.
 - Fitzpatrick & Nunn to “Survive and Thrive Together in the 911 Center” in Roscommon County. Total cost is \$698.00 from 282-000-804.001.

Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Walters, to allow for the training as requested. Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Reid then noted that the General Fund cash balance that was read was inclusive of repayments to all "borrowed" money from miscellaneous funds and that there is still \$113,000 plus 9% delinquent charges from tax collections that will be added to that. Commissioner Reid then mentioned the following: *"It has been several weeks that the budget / finance committee has been reviewing the County's revenues and expenditures, special funds, negotiating with the unions, and working on insurance packages. With all that said, even if we do negotiate no wage increase and accept the new insurance options, with no other bells and whistles, we will still have a significant shortfall for our 2011 budget. The only way we see to help balance the 2011 budget with little affect to our mandated services, and to our current staff, is to cut each department in the General fund by 2% and each department in the Courts by 3%. This will help with the 2011 budget but will in no way protect the County for the 2012 budget. It has been predicted that the State will have deeper cuts in reimbursement programs and revenue sharing in 2012. We encourage all Commissioners and Department Heads to think about the next few years while budgeting and investing in the County. It is a goal of the budget / finance committee to make all the Commissioners and Department Heads aware of the present state of the County and the State and together try to cut back a little now so it won't hurt so much later. All of the cuts we have been doing, consolidations, and efforts, still will have the County borrowing money by February 2011 until the taxes are collected in August. So please keep all of this in mind as we move forward with negotiations and our County's 2011 budget. It is important to know that the insurance program the County has put into place over the past few years has saved 12-15 jobs, noting that there is not a business in Gladwin County that hasn't had to reduce costs. I would like to thank Commissioner Rhode and the Insurance committee for all of their efforts."*

Commissioner Smith reported:

1. On attending the Personnel meeting on the 26th.
2. On the District Library Board meeting on October 26th, noting their regular meetings in November and December will be held the third Tuesday of each of those months. Miss Donna Frederick, the children's librarian, has retired and is not being replaced at this time. Mrs. Stacie Fassett will be filling that role for the present.
3. That she attended Personnel meeting on the 29th.
4. On the second Personnel meeting on the same day.
5. On attending the NMSAS meeting on November 1st in Gaylord. The current director is retiring and Ms. Sue Winter has been hired to replace Dennis. There are presenters available to pass along information about the problems with prescription drug abuse. Contact Ms. Winter for further information. The staff is working very hard to implement electronic record keeping.
6. On attending the regular Data meeting on November 2nd. Gina Conrad attended and asked that we approve the adding a "shopping cart" to the online GIS information. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Carl, to allow a "shopping cart" to be installed for purchasing online GIS data.* Discussion. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Bob Frei is compiling the list of machines that will be made available to the Townships, non-profit groups, and the public. This will be done in December and announced by letter to the townships first. The equipment will be displayed in the Commissioners' chamber for the sale so that it does not have to be moved multiple times which could lead to possible damage.
7. On the Personnel meeting on November 5th.
8. On attending the Personnel meeting on the 8th. This meeting concerned payment for work compiling "splits" for the Equalization department. The cost of temporarily bringing splits up to date is \$6,500.00 and the Personnel Committee is recommending paying this one time cost from lines #101-253-720-000 and 101-225-720-000 to line #101-225-802-000 for the actual payment. The final decision for permanent assignment of these duties must be made by January 31, 2011. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Walters to pay the Treasurer up to \$6,500.00 to perform the duties as outlined with the personnel committee to meet again with the Treasurer and Mr. Bolle to work out the detail of payment between the two offices.* Discussion. Ayes carried, **motion passed**. Commissioners Whittington and Rhode voting no.
9. Attended Tobacco Township meeting on the 9th, noting there were 1,015 voters on Tuesday.

Commissioner Reid then noted that each Board member should look at the revenue and expense sheets that were given to them to see where each department is on collection of revenues and spending of their department expenses.

Commissioner Reid and Sheriff Shea then spoke about the Secord Township Noise Ordinance and the enforcement of. Sheriff Shea explained that Secord Township is acting as a "pilot program" and that response time is not a priority. Discussion.

Commissioner Whittington reported:

- On the Personnel Meetings with the Unions and suggestions given to begin bargaining for a two year wage freeze and open wage and insurance negotiations in the third year. So far, Command, Deputies, Dispatchers and UAW are listening to the Board's concerns and there have been no "road blocks" yet. Commissioner Whittington stated that credit does need to be given to the Department Heads and Elected Officials for working to keep their budget down. Discussion. Commissioner Rhode stated that there is only one measure to keep costs down, and that is reduce positions, noting that this will only result in a decrease in revenue. The Finance Committee is looking at a 2% cut for all General Fund departments to reduce the \$142,000 deficit.
- On attending the Billings Township meeting, noting that the road construction project is finished and looks very nice.

The Board then discussed the EDC Director position and the direction the EDC Board is going on filling the position. Commissioner Carl commented that the Board should make sure that the hired person is willing to go to Township meetings and work with each Township as Mr. Starkweather did in the past.

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 Whittington, supported by Commissioner Carl, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. until November 23, 2010 unless otherwise directed.***


Laura Brandon-Maveal, Clerk

William Rhode, Chairman