

Commissioner Minutes of November 27, 2012

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session November 27, 2012. 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 Commissioners Walters and Carl who had been excused.

Chairman Reid commented that there are two portions of the agenda dedicated to public comments, at the beginning and end of the meeting. The Board would like individuals to reserve their comments for those areas of the meeting.

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Walters, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

The cash balances for the General Fund were read by Commissioner Rhode. *General Fund - \$136,190.97.*

Public Comments – *none at this time.*

Chairman Reid then reviewed the communications to the Board, noting a copy of the letter of understanding that was sent to the unions and a letter from Billings Township.

Commissioner Reports by District -

Commissioner Whittington reported:

- That he has nothing new to report, but is working on getting out to all of his Township meetings.

Commissioner Smith reported:

- On attending the Beaverton City meeting last night where John Andrist was sworn in.
- The “Holiday Hunt” in Beaverton City was great success.
- The Presbyterian Church will be hosting their “cookie hunt” on December 14th from 9-2:00.
- On Bob Frei’s reappointment to the Library Board as a representative from Beaverton City. Nancy Bodnar will be replacing the Library Board vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Novak.
- That she attended the Beaverton School Board meeting last night commenting that Maureen Thurlow donated her time to reupholster the media room chairs.

Commissioner Birgel reported:

- That he is still working with the Fair Board to obtain a water source for events, noting Gladwin City has an ordinance that is creating a problem with the installation of a well for use. Once the issue is resolved, the grounds can be used for “off season events” that will create revenue for the Fair.
- Linda is doing very well.

Commissioner Reid reported:

- On the letter that has been prepared as communication to Judge Evans. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to allow the letter to be sent to Judge Evans for his review.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- The jail will be selling electronic cigarettes to the inmates for the creation of revenue. The total up front cost will be invoiced with a total profit of \$1900.00. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Rhode, to allow for the purchase and the product and creation of the revenue line.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- John Turney has resigned by the Zoning Board of Appeals. *Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Smith, to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Turney for his years of service.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- The Equalization contract has expired and needs to be signed and submitted to the State for renewal at the same terms. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to allow the chairman to sign the contract.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- The following individuals have expired terms to the Planning Commission and need to be re-appointed. Robert Killian, Fred Sisco and Richard Christie for the term ending 12-31-2015. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to accept the re-appointments as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- Richard Christie's term has also expired on the Zoning Board of Appeals. *Motion by Commissioner Birgel, supported by Commissioner Smith, to re-appoint Mr. Christie as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- There are three members of the Construction Code Board of Appeals who have terms that are expired. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to re-appoint Craig Wolfe, Joseph Pleiman and Donald Kehoe to the Construction Codes Board of Appeals.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**
- The Board will need a representative to EMCOG in 2013. *Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Reid, to appoint Bill Rhode to the Board as a County Representative.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Veterans Lost –

Avon Starr, Beaverton Township – WWII, Robert Carriveau, Billings Township - Korean, Leonard Rose, Butman Township – Korean, Kenneth Kruger, Bentley Township – Vietnam, Donald Lyons, Gladwin City – WWII and Garath Schaefer, Butman – Korea.

Lauren Essenmacher, Senior Services, then came before the Board to request money for equipment for the Senior Center kitchen from fund balance. Discussion. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the purchase as requested.* Ayes carried, **motion passed.**

Commissioner Rhode reported:

- That he has had several meetings over the past two weeks.

- On the HHS meeting and the services to low income that are declining but the work on new revenue areas to create funding for those programs.
- That 211 services have been revamped to the public and that the services are still being utilized.

Finance Matters –

1. The Equalization contract has expired with Great Lakes Assessing. The Finance committee has made the recommendation to renew the contract at the same annual fee. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to allow the Chairman to sign the contract upon presentation. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
2. The Emergency Management contract has also expired. Motion is needed to allow the personnel committee permission to post the position at a wage of \$20,000+/- and conduct interviews. A revised job description/posting will be available in your Board packet. This job posting needs to be formally approved for advertisement by the Board. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the posting as described. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
3. The IT services contract has expired. The personnel committee is recommending that the wage for this position is reduced by \$15,000. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to approve the decrease as recommended by Finance. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
4. Carey Bregni, Prosecutor's Secretary, has accepted different employment and is due unused and accumulated vacation and personnel time upon her termination with the County. Total cost of \$1,872.54 to be paid from 101-229-706.000 upon approval. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to allow for the payment of time as described. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
5. Ann Manning has requested to attend the UCOA conference in December at Bay City. Total cost is \$50.00 plus mileage. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the training expense as outlined. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
6. The Cleaning bids have been opened by the Finance committee and the recommendation to use AWOL cleaning at an annual cost of \$54,080 was made. This service will begin on January 27, 2013 based on the 60 day layoff notice given to the three union employees. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the sub-contract of services, and layoff of the three employees, under the Unit #6 contract. Ayes carried, motion passed.* Commissioner Whittington voting no. Commissioner Reid commented that the committee has done a lot of research and made tough decisions on this topic. The committee will work with the union this week to see if there are additional savings that can be made to ensure the jobs are retained. Discussion.
7. Aaron Miller, Prosecuting Attorney, has made a request to fill the vacancy in his department. It is the recommendation of the Finance committee to allow Mr. Miller to fill the vacancy. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to allow the vacancy to be filled per the request of the Prosecutor. Ayes carried, motion passed.*
8. The Building and Grounds department has an additional pickup truck that can be sold. A motion is needed to advertise for the sale of the truck by sealed bid to the County Clerk. *Motion by Commissioner Rhode, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow for the sale of the vehicle by sealed bid. Ayes carried, motion passed.*

Commissioner Rhode then noted the negotiations with Command. The group will be eligible for the 2% raise by "default" under contract language, but with no concessions of PPO insurance and MERS C-1 retirement. Discussion. Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to go into executive session on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 9:34 a.m.

Return from EXECUTIVE SESSION 10:15

*Motion by Commissioner Smith, supported by Commissioner Birgel, to return to regular session. Ayes carried, **motion passed.***

*Motion by Commissioner Reid, supported by Commissioner Smith, to allow the Command group to go on the PPO II insurance to save the employees and county money under the following conditions – 1) There will be no promotions within or to the Command unit until their contract is negotiated. 2) They must sign the health care letter of understanding providing for PPO and HMO options to health care coverage. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Commissioner Rhode voting no.*

Public Comments –

Rick Ghent, Maintenance Supervisor, spoke on behalf of Mike Hudson and his years of service with the County and the urge for the Board to reconsider their action. Discussion. Bob Evans also commented on the service provided by Mike Hudson.

Mike Brubaker, 911 Director, spoke on his concerns to reduce the salary of the Emergency Management Director and won't support a reduction of preparedness and services knowing that other public service agencies will "have to fill in the gaps".

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

*Motion by Commissioner Whittington, supported by Commissioner Reid, to adjourn. Ayes carried, **motion passed.** Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m., until December 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., unless otherwise ordered.*

Laura Brandon-Maveal
County Clerk

Josh Reid
Chairman

Budget Workshop
December 11, 2012 8:30 a.m.

Commissioners Rhode and Reid reviewed the highlights of the 2013 budget including reductions and additions to the proposed 2013 budget. Commissioner Reid commented that the committee did not budget for any personal property tax and that the employees had received a 2% raise and changed health care from BCN to PPO II. Commissioner Whittington voiced his concern in the budget not being "balanced" with the appropriation from Unallocated in the amount of \$338,038.00. Commissioner Whittington also spoke about the layoffs in the maintenance department and the reduction of the salary of the Emergency Management Director; asking if the committee looked at the consequences of cutting these positions. Chairman Reid spoke about the "supplement program" that is being developed for the Emergency Management position to help support the position's current wages and the allocation from Unallocated being much less than in years past, showing an overall reduction to costs. Commissioner Smith thanked the committee for their hard work in preparation of the budget, commenting they have done a nice job making the reductions (as hard as they were to make) in the County's best interest. Treasurer Christy VanTiem commented that there were no funds set aside for this contractual printing of tax bills for 2013. Discussion. Chairman Reid stated that he appreciates the work that is done by the Treasurer, but believes the Board needs to hold off until bids can be obtained in writing. Susie Ruppert, Butman Township Treasurer, spoke in favor of the Treasurer providing these services and the large responsibility of maintaining the rolls accurately. Ms. Ruppert discussed the costs and programming for the creation of the bills and what would be expected of each Township if the County decided to give the process back to them. Commissioner Rhode stated he believes this budget is what is best for the County, noting that outsourcing work that can be done in house will always cost more money, which is not in the best interest of the County. Discussion on contingent. Kathie Hart, Hay Township, spoke in favor of the Clerk and Treasurer commenting that the County receives \$38,000/ year for Equalization services and where is that money being spent if it is not on the maintenance and preparation of tax rolls. Ms. Hart commented that many Townships are not capable of doing this work and do not have the additional resources to pay for the programming, equipment and software. Ms. Hart stated that the residents of the community have elected the Board to make sure that they do the right thing and spend the taxpayer money correctly, noting she does not feel that many will be happy with this decision made by the Board. Discussion. Ms. Ruppert commented that the Treasurer has been doing this "extra duty" for 6 years without additional compensation or help. Chairman Reid asked the Treasurer to consider going "status quo" on these responsibilities until the Board can make a firm decision. Treasurer VanTiem stated that she doesn't want to see anyone get laid off, or lose their job, but she does not feel she should continue to take time away from her family and work late or on weekends without compensation. Ms. VanTiem commented that this is not a salary increase, but a contract for services. Commissioner Rhode stated that he has issue with an outside person doing the job and making certification to the State without the knowledge of Gladwin County. Commissioner Whittington stated that the Board cannot give raises to everyone who takes on additional duties. Discussion. The Board then moved to their regular Board meeting.