



## Gladwin County Board of Commissioners Board Minutes, July 23, 2024

**Mike Visnaw, District 1**, (Sherman, Butman, Clement, & Secord Twps.)  
**Ron Taylor, District 2, Vice-Chair** (Sage, Gladwin Twp. & Gladwin City P1)  
**Tammy O'Donnell, District 3**, (Bentley, Billings, Bourret, Grim & Hay Twps.)  
**Karen Moore, District 4, Chairperson** (Buckeye, Beaverton City & Tobacco)  
**Rick Grove, District 5**, (Grout, Gladwin City P2, & Beaverton Twp.)

The Gladwin County Board of Commissioners met for a regular Board Meeting on July 23, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Karen Moore. The Pledge of Allegiance was said, Commissioner O'Donnell was excused, all other commissioners were present.

**Public Comment – Agenda Items - None**

### City Report

Chris Shannon, City Administrator for the City of Gladwin, reported on the trail of two cities; it is complete. The city will be doing tree planting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, reach out to Tom Winarski to volunteer. Two trees on the county property are in poor condition, the city would like to replace them with new ones. Additional details were shared on a water main break in the city recently.

### Review of the Agenda

The Board reviewed the consent agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve the agendas as presented, seconded by Commissioner Visnaw. All in favor, motion carried.

### Approval of the Board Minutes

1. **July 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting**
2. **July 9, 2024, Public Hearing**

**Cash balances** were read by Commissioner Taylor. The General Fund balance is \$15,126.54 before the payment of bills.

### Department Head Reports

1. **Police Academy Cadet Hourly Wage**  
Undersheriff Ray Hartwell shared details of the request for changes to academy cadet wages. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, to approve a wage increase from \$12/hr. to \$20/hr. for academy cadets. Seconded by Commissioner Grove, all in favor, motion carried.
2. **Upgrade to Camera Systems for the Courts**  
Undersheriff Ray Hartwell shared details of the request for upgrades to the camera systems in the Court's Hering Rooms  
A motion was made by Commissioner Grove, to approve upgrades to the camera systems in the Court's Hering Rooms. Cost of \$ 8,866, to come from ARPA line 281-000-802.000. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor, all in favor, motion carried.

### Move to Miscellaneous

1. Update on Economic Development services provided by Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) in Gladwin County

Jim McBryde and Matt Lang shared MMDC statistics from 2023, as well as approaches to county growth, community development, and workforce development. Details were shared on projects completed within the district and highlighted the ones in Gladwin County. Sept 17<sup>th</sup> will be a Downtown Pitch for small businesses in Gladwin County. Additional details were shared on grant opportunities for training and childcare services.

**2. Little Forks Conservancy Presentation**

Elong Lipshitz & Benjamin VanDyke of Little Forks Conservancy shared information on the George & Sue Lane Preserve and the Cedar River Watershed District. The background, locations and details on conservation efforts and invasive species control were shared. Educational and recreational events are held in Gladwin County, volunteers are always welcome.

**Return to Department Head Reports**

**3. Approval of Veterans Committee selection of new Veterans Services Officer**

VA Director Ken Roberts introduced Carly Knapp, and shared details of the interview process. Carly shared information about herself and her family.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve the selection of Carly Knapp as the grant funded position of Veterans Services Officer. Seconded by Commissioner Visnaw, all in favor, motion carried.

**4. Annual Veteran's Report**

Ken Roberts shared details of the 2023 Annual Report. Veterans in the office have been steady, phone calls from our veterans have increased. The Federal GDY report was provided; it included statistics for Gladwin County comparable to other counties in Michigan. Veterans benefits per person in Gladwin County have increased over time, a breakdown of those benefits was reviewed.

**Finance**

**1. Recovery Court Report and Request for Funds**

Lisa Ashley shared details of PA2 funds used for substance abuse prevention and recovery support. Statistics were shared on costs per individual served, and House bills being worked on. Additional information was shared on the number of statistics and the funds available to fund them. September is Recovery Works month; Ms. Ashley would like a day in September declared Recovery Works Day in Gladwin County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve \$15,000 to the Recovery Court Fund and \$5000 to Veterans Treatment Court Program from Opioid Fund. Seconded by Commissioner Visnaw. Additional conversation was had on the success of the program. All in favor, motion carried.

**2. Request Battery Backup Purchase**

Melanie Thume shared details of a server battery backup that went down two weekends ago.

A motion was made by Commissioner Visnaw to approve Quote# HP002776 for a battery backup. Price in the amount of \$1,071 from line 101-258-815.000, Computer Hardware. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor, all in favor, motion carried.

**Committee Meeting Reports**

**Data 7/09/24**

**Data 7/16/24**

**Routine Payments Made Within Department's Budget, less than \$500**

- 1. Fall Conference Request MACVC 2024 for Veterans Director, Ken Roberts. Cost of training and lodging \$270, plus meals and mileage, reimbursement to be paid from 101-682-860-000.**

**Payments Required by Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**New Business**

- 1. Hazardous Waste Day –**

Gladwin City Administrator, Chris Shannon, shared statistics of participation in hazardous waste day, along with the costs over the last six years. The 2024 Hazardous Waste Day will be Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Gladwin County Road Commission building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve a \$3000 environmental contribution to the City of Gladwin for Hazardous Waste Day from the ARPA fund, 281-000-802.000. Seconded by Commissioner Visnaw; additional conversation was had. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Moore asked for a motion regarding the correction of the year in the dates on the consent agenda item, Committee Meeting Reports. A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Visnaw, to correct the year in the dates to 2024, from 2023. All in favor, motion carried.

## 2. RFP for Civil Attorney

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to post an RFP for Civil Attorney Services for the County. Seconded by Commissioner Visnaw. All in favor, motion carried.

## 3. Request to write RFP for Computer Services

A motion was made by Commissioner Visnaw to allow Vector to draft an RFP for IT Services for the County. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Additional conversation was had. All in favor, motion carried.

## Old Business

### 1. Violated Contract, next steps

Attorney Hoerauf shared the status, and options for next steps.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to direct Attorney Hoerauf to file a collections action in District Court. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grove. All in favor, motion carried.

## Chairperson Comments

Commissioner Moore shared details of the success of the Fair last week. July 13 was the street festival, it was a great community event.

## Board Comments

Commissioner Visnaw, District 1 –

- The 10<sup>th</sup> was Butman and Clement Township meetings. They were well attended.
- 16<sup>th</sup> was the first new County Data Committee meetings. Next one is the 28<sup>th</sup> of August.
- Sherman Township meeting was the 16<sup>th</sup> also. They have applied for and anticipate funds from a recent grant opportunity.
- Secord Township meeting was on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended contract negotiations.

Commissioner Taylor, District 2 –

- On the 10<sup>th</sup> were negotiations.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> was the Airport meeting, one of the staff, Pete, passed away.
- 15<sup>th</sup> was the Gladwin City meeting; the July 13<sup>th</sup> festival was a success.
- 15<sup>th</sup> was also the Sports Complex meeting.
- 16<sup>th</sup> were the Lake Improvement Boards; species of aquatic plant growth were discussed.
- 17<sup>th</sup> were union negotiations & Gladwin Township meetings.
- 18<sup>th</sup> was the Veterans meeting.

Commissioner O'Donnell, District 3 –

Commissioner Moore, District 4 –

- July 10<sup>th</sup> was a recent Four Lakes update; it is available on the webpage. Because of the lawsuit, work is still halted.
- Middle Michigan Development Corporation holds in person events that a a great opportunity to collaborate and bring information back to our county.
- Discussion on a vending machine outside the county building was being discussed.
- VC3 sent out a notice on the condition of the server. Conversation was had on recent issues and concerns.
- Eastern MI Council of Government is talking about infrastructure as it pertains to electric vehicles. Gladwin should be considering a grant opportunity for this purpose.
- The Chill Grant TPA contract with PCD has been re-written, and needs approval from the board, pending receipt of the MSHDA approval letter.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Moore, second by Commissioner Visnaw to sign the PCD Consulting Services contract pending receipt of the MSHDA approval letter. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Grove, District 5 –

- Timelines for some of these grant projects are aggravating.
- No objection to the vending machine outside the door
- The airport employee, Pete, who passed away, will be missed.
- Attended the landbank meeting
- The fair was great, a lot of money was raised in the large animal auction.
- The Grout Township Supervisor would like to know when solar presentations are being done at the county.
- Not for, or against, charging stations at the county.
- ARPA funds need to be allocated soon; we need to be thinking about that.
- He has been hearing about an easement of marsh historical farmland.

### **Administrators Report**

### **Civil Attorney Report**

- After the county heard from InVenergy, attorney Hoerauf approached Wade Trim about their availability to evaluate applications as they come in. They are available and willing, with the emphasis that they are a disinterested party. DTE suggest a retainer deposit of \$25,000 from InVenergy; the base cost from Wade Trim is estimated at approx. \$17,000.  
A motion was made by Commissioner Visnaw, second by Commissioner Taylor, to have attorney Hoerauf request retainer letter from Wade Trim for this purpose. All in favor, motion carried.
- The Heron Cove appeal is pending, motions to expedite have been filed.
- The Bruno suit, we are still waiting for the appeal period to pass.
- Negotiations are being worked on in between lake appeals.

### **Public Comment**

- Joel Vernier, Secord Lake, stated that their townships IT team can also do backups for the county's server; he will initiate that communication if the board is interested. Secord Lake Association met on Saturday; people are getting vocal about the appeals. The next Council of Local Government meeting will be Monday, Aug 26, at 6:00 p.m.

**Closed session to discuss collective bargaining strategy, pursuant to MCL 15.268(1)(c)**

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Visnaw to go into closed session to discuss bargaining strategy. Roll call, 4 - y, 0 - n

Closed Session began at 12:43 p.m.

Open Meeting restarted at 1: 02 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Visnaw to go back into open session. Roll call, 4 - y, 0 - n

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to approve a negotiation strategy within the parameters set forth in closed session. Motion second by Commissioner Visnaw. All in favor, motion carried.

**Receive and File**

June 2024 Library Stats

No Further Business, the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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Karrie Hulme, County Clerk

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Karen Moore, Chairperson