

GRAND VALLEY METRO COUNCIL

Board Meeting

December 2, 2010

8:30 a.m.

Kent County Commission Chambers

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Jim Buck.

Members Present:

Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Dale Bergman	Sparta Township
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Tom Butcher	Grand Valley State University
Dan Carlton	Georgetown Township
Daryl Delabbio	Kent County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Brian Donovan	City of East Grand Rapids
Tom Fehsenfeld	At-Large Member
Doyle Hayes	At-Large Member
George Heartwell	City of Grand Rapids
Don Hilton, Sr.	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Jim Holtrop	Ottawa County
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Robert May	City of Hastings
Mick McGraw	At-large Member
George Meek	Plainfield Township
Jim Miedema	Jamestown Township
Cy Moore	Treasurer
Sandi Frost Parrish	Kent County
David Pasquale	City of Lowell
Chuck Porter	Courtland Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Al Vanderberg	Ottawa County
Phil Van Noord	Village of Middleville
Rob VerHeulen	City of Walker
Bill VerHulst	City of Wyoming
Roger Wills	City of Belding

Members Absent:

Jerry Alkema	Allendale Township
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Dick Bulkowski	Kent County
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Sharon DeLange	Village of Sparta
Jason Eppler	City of Ionia
Cindy Fox	Cascade Township
Brian Harrison	Caledonia Township
John Helmholdt	At-Large
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Milt Rohwer	City of Grand Rapids
Audrey Nevins	Byron Township
Steven Patrick	City of Coopersville
Jack Poll	City of Wyoming
Toby VanEss	Tallmadge Township
Chris Yonker	City of Wayland
Michael Young	City of Rockford

Others Present:

Andy Bowman	Grand Valley Metro Council
Abed Itani	Grand Valley Metro Council
TaiWo Jaiyeoba	ITP
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Marsha Small	MDOT
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Don Tubbs	City of Hastings

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the November GVMC Board Meeting. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Donovan. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Financial Audit

Treasurer Cy Moore reported the annual financial audit is complete and the audit from MDOT is close to being final. They thought it would be better to hold up for a month or two in order to include the figures from the MDOT audit in the report.

Don Stypula stated they are making good progress and working with the office of Commission Audit on the MDOT audit. Many of GVMC's contacts at MDOT will be retiring the end of December. This audit goes back 13-14 years. We have requested an annual audit from this point forward. He explained that the discrepancy in the audit is due to the accepted methodology of reporting from MDOT, not that the work was not actually completed or that

there was any fraudulent activity. The current financial auditors, Vredevelde Haefner, brought to our attention the methodology discrepancy when they began business with GVMC. Since that time, we have been in compliance.

Al Vanderberg said the State is violating basic standards of care for going back 12 years in the audit. There should be limitations.

Don Stypula reported GVMC is trying to reach a compromise with MDOT. Legal counsel has advised that there is a statute of limitations, but it would require suing MDOT which has been done by others unsuccessfully.

5. GVMC Strategic Initiatives Update

Don Stypula reviewed the strategic initiatives plan. Later today he will meet with people who will redesign the website to make it more valuable and useful for all members. He will also be working with GVSU and student interns working on graduate assistantships.

The taskforce on Governance, Structure, and Operations has been created. Please see the list of members in the agenda packet. The first meeting will be on December 15.

Jim Buck reported he and Don Stypula met with Nyal Deems to research the history of the creation of the Metro Council. Nyal will be at the first meeting of the task force to give an historical perspective.

Don Stypula stated each member of the task force will receive a packet by US mail containing the GVMC bylaws, articles of incorporation and a cover memo.

6. Legislative Advocacy

Rick Root reported GVMC is looking for an opportunity to sit down with newly elected legislators. We are looking at a different format, more of a formal business meeting so we can get more direct information to them.

Don Stypula stated he was looking at January 17, 24, or 31. He will be making the rounds with all the legislators prior to this. He will also continue to work with the governor elect to talk as early as possible. If we are not able to schedule him, Don suggests one of his staffers, possibly Posthumus or Rustum.

Don Stypula reported due to scheduling difficulties, the December legislative committee meeting would be changed to Thursday, Dec. 9.

Don Stypula stated GVMC has been working through LGROW on the Phase II storm water permitting process and arguing with DEQ. Each public corporation which has a permit will be receiving a letter which reverts back to the permitting responsibilities in 2003 rather than the current 2008 levels.

7. Transportation

Abed Itani reported the FY2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) includes the budget for all federally assisted transportation planning activities that the GVMC Transportation Division, the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), will undertake. Any changes in the federal funding amounts under work items in the UWP warrant a UWP amendment and approval by the GVMC Board.

Toll Revenue Credit (TRC) Staff is requesting the amendment of the FY2011 UWP, to reflect federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, previously obligated unspent funds from FY2010. The unspent funds are related to work items “1.3”- Geographic Information System (GIS), “3.3”- Clean Air Action! Program, “4.1”- Pavement Management System (PMS), and “4.2”- Congestion Management System (CMS). Staff is also requesting amendment of ITP program due to changes in state matching funds from to Comprehensive Transportation Fund (CTF) funds.

Staff is requesting to amend “Work Item 1.3” for the amount of \$159,452, “Work Item 3.3” for the amount of \$111,085, “Work Item 4.1” for the amount of \$82,763, and “Work Item 4.2” for the amount of \$108,750. The annual expenditures of the GVMC Transportation Department for FY2011 will not increase due to the FY2010 previously obligated unspent funds.

In order for GVMC to retain these funds the FY2011 UPWP needs to be amended.

MOTION – To Amend the GVMC FY2011 UPWP as Requested. MOVE - Hilton. SUPPORT – Vanderberg. MOTION CARRIED.

George Heartwell registered his deep concern regarding the use of CTF money which will result in reduced operational funding as transit is a key element in the economic revitalization of the region.

8. Other

Don Stypula reported GVMC’s good friend, Marsha Small, of MDOT was retiring at the end of the month. He thanked Marsha on behalf of the Council and invited everyone to stay after the meeting and enjoy cake in celebration.

9. Adjournment – 9:50

MOTION – To Adjourn. MOVE – Meek. SUPPORT – Frost Parrish. MOTION CARRIED.