

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 13, 2004
8:30 a.m.**

40 Pearl St. NW Ste. 410
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by Chairman Ted Vonk.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Jim Day	Kent County
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Jerry Hunsburger	KISD
Pauline Luben	City of Hudsonville
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jared Rodriguez	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Larry Silvernail	Byron Township
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township
Ted Vonk	Kent County

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were reviewed.

MOTION – To approve the minutes of the June, 2004 GVMC Legislative Committee meeting. MOVE - Root. SUPPORT – Luben. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Wrap-up of state budget negotiations / Look ahead to lame duck legislative session.

Don Stypula reported that the budget was now balanced, and it appears as though next year's will probably need some adjustments.

Don Stypula made a conference call to Bill Anderson of the MTA to get his insight as to the happenings in Lansing.

Mr. Anderson reported that there was a short timetable as both chambers are out and will not be back until after the election. Then they will be out for hunting and Thanksgiving, with only a couple of weeks actually in session.

There is talk about looking at the single business tax. Expanding the base for the tax into services and entertainment might be considered.

There is also talk about changing the personal property tax.

Both of these raise flags and we have no real idea if either one will happen.

From the land use perspective, committees have been pretty active. Bills to allow conditional zoning have been proposed. The zoning would revert back if the developer did not move forward with the proposed site plan and land use. The bills have already passed in the House and they have an agreement with the Home Builders. (HB 6164)

Joint Planning – Legislation would allow two entities to jointly plan for a common area, such as a common business corridor. It would effectively allow you to push certain types of development into certain areas, and exclude them from others in a jurisdiction as long as they were allowed somewhere in the joint planning zone.

They may also look at amendments to the land division act. A work group has been meeting with Senator Birkholz trying to streamline the approval process.

Recall – Senator Sikkema continues to be the critical link. MTA has talked with his office and cleared up some misconceptions, but he still has some reluctance to bring the bill up for a vote.

Mobile Homes – MTA has been working on bills with Garcia and Cassis to create a modified property tax. There is concern with taxing the lowest valued homes. The budget had everything bogged down for the past few months. Now they are trying to get the bills written within the next couple of weeks. It could pass in lame duck, but could also get buried. Most legislators agree with our position; however it will still take a lot of work to get everyone to formally sign on.

Panel on Government Finance – Has not yet convened. Everyone is out of town

right now. It is not currently an item of focus.

4. HB 4358 – Increase Truck Weights and Lengths

Don Stypula reported on HB 4358 which would increase allowable truck lengths to increase from 59' to 65', cap fines for weight violations to \$250, and according to the MML, would allowed such vehicles on any road.

Pauline Luben asked if it would do away with truck routs.

Mr. Stypula responded that according to the MML, it would. He said that he put a call in to CRAM for their input a week and a half ago, but they haven't contacted him back.

Bill Wiersma stated he was concerned with local truck routs and construction standards, engineering and turning radiuses for local roads.

Rick Root said that this will definitely cause maneuvering problems in developed areas, as it is already an issue with current lengths. The longer the spread is between axels, the more roads are torn up. You can't support higher weights when not restricting the travel only to truck routs.

MOTION – To strongly oppose this bill and to notify Sen. Sikkema's office, and the offices of all of our legislators or this A.S.A.P. MOVE – Root. SUPPORT – Silvernail. Motion Carried.

Ted Vonk suggested Jon Rice be contacted and with his help, formulate a statement with at least three reasons why we oppose it.

Mr. Stypula reported the MML as well as the MTA was opposed to the bill.

5. SB 1432 Enable Local Units to Form a Watershed Alliance

Don Stypula reported that at the request of several southeast Michigan communities and SEMCOG, this bill was developed to enable two or more local units of government to – by resolution of the local governing bodies – to form a Watershed Alliance to develop and implement regional watershed management plans and coordinate activities to improve local water quality. It would give them the authority to tax citizens to pay for storm water management.

Chairman Vonk asked if someone wanted to make a motion to support the bill. There was none offered. The Committee does not support the bill.

6. Update on Congressional Reauthorization of TEA-21

Don Stypula reported congress will not reauthorize the bill before the election. Things will start over in January. This is a hit to GVMC as transportation spending is being held at a 2% increase over last year.

7. Other

Don Stypula handed out information on historical districts. The bill would amend the historic district act to allow local authorities to overrule in order to redevelop.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.