

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 15, 2006

8:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

ROLL CALL

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Jim Buck	City of Grandville
Jay Cravens	Cascade Township
Jim Day	Kent County
Erika Rosebrook Dibble	Ottawa County
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Andy Johnston	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Elias Lumpkins, Jr.	City of Grand Rapids
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Deborah Nier	City of Wayland
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Michael Young	City of Rockford

2. Call to Order

Chairman Rick Root called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

3. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 2006 GVMC Legislative Committee were received for information.

4. Update on Legislative Leadership Elections

Don Stypula distributed and reviewed a handout on the legislative leadership for the next session.

5. Telecommunications Franchising Update

Don Stypula reported the telecommunications bill passed the House yesterday 80-21 with no amendments. The bill will now move on to the Senate where leadership may be more amiable to allowing amendments which would benefit local governments to the bill.

Don Stypula asked Andy Johnston if he foresaw anything passing in the interim lame duck session.

Andy Johnston stated he couldn't say. The House may be canceling another week of session.

Rick Root reported he talked with Wayne Kuipers regarding the telecom issue, and he may be open to considering the contract cancellation issue. Wording in the bill which benefits AT&T is very specific and clear, that affecting others is very vague.

Don Stypula will try to meet with Kuipers to tell him all GVMC communities are united behind this.

Rick Root stated there is still an opportunity for education, and we need to quickly take advantage of it.

6. GVMC 2006-2007 Legislative Priorities

Don Stypula distributed the following listing of specific and philosophical issues to be considered for GVMC's 2006 – 2007 Legislative Priorities.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

1. Revenue Sharing

- a. Restoration of County Revenue Sharing
- b. Reauthorization of Statutory Revenue Sharing Formula

2. Manufactured Housing

- a. Taxation Issues
- b. Planning Authority
- c. Manufactured Housing Commission

3. Incentives for Multi-Jurisdiction Service Cost Sharing: Amendments to Existing State Laws

- a. 1969 Act 312 – Compulsory Binding Arbitration.
- b. 1989 Metro Councils Act
- c. 1967 Urban Cooperation Act
- d. 1967 Intergovernmental Transfer of Functions and Responsibilities Act

4 Recall

- a. Legislation to Limit Recall of Local Elected Officials

5. Transportation Funding

- a. Equitable Distribution of State Transportation Funds Through the P.A. 51 Formula
- b. Diesel Tax Parity
- c. Increase in Motor Fuels Tax

5 Land Use

- a. Annexation/Detachment Restrictions
- b. Coordinated Planning

6. Tax Restructuring

- a. Incent Business Attraction and Retention
- b. Maintain Adequate Funding for Local Public Services

PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES

1. Local Control

2. Limit / Eliminate Unfunded State and Federal Mandates

3. Limits on DDA/LDFA Tax Captures

4. Wireless Communications – Development / Deployment Incentives

5. Threshold Review of State Government Services and Costs / Improve State Government Efficiency

6. Regulatory Reform / Limits on Regulatory Fees

Rick Root asked if committee members were happy with the list as stands, or would they like any changes made.

Haris Alibasic stated he would like considered those recommendations from the taskforce for local government stability.

Rick Root questioned whether GVMC should stand behind the report as a whole or consider each item separately.

Mike DeVries questioned whether state tax policy should be under the specific or philosophical list.

It was determined that everyone should get a copy of the report for their review. Don Stypula indicated he had a copy and would forward it to all.

Elias Lumpkins stated he is interested in dialogue regarding proposal 2 and how it affects state and local government. It could even affect national scholarships for Native Americans.

Legal challenges are expected, and the committee will monitor the issue and how it affects GVMC members as things develop.

Haris Alibasic also brought up road infrastructure funding.

Don Stypula indicated that would be part of the transportation funding under Act 51.

Michael Young asked where the committee was on the issue of DDA captures. Has that been decided?

Don Stypula indicated it had not yet. However, in a few weeks he would bring the group back together.

Mike DeVries stated state tax structure is all inclusive and we need to be specific with all items that fall under it.

Don Stypula indicated he would rewrite the philosophical issues along with a brief description and points under each.

Mike DeVries stated under item #3 - Incentives for Multi-Jurisdiction Service Cost Sharing: Amendments to Existing State Laws, the word incentives should be taken out. We don't want incentives as they have a way of disappearing. We want to be able to engage in cooperative actions. We want the obstacles taken away. Cost

sharing wording should also be taken out. The best service may well be cooperative, although it may not save money.

Jim Day stated he wanted the issue of county road commissions back on the list. It is a priority to Kent County. Erika Rosebrook Dibble stated it was a priority to Ottawa County also.

Rick Root indicated that would be handled in the future.

Michael Young stated the issue of DDAs and LDFAs will probably see great divisions of opinion among members.

Rick Root questioned if the committee should go with the majority rule on the issue, or if it was too divisive to be considered by the committee?

Jim Day stated this issue is still being discussed among the counties and communities.

Mike DeVries stated that the issue of increasing the size of the Road Commission is a difficult one as he has great respect for those supporting both sides. If the committee decided to support the enlargement of the commission, maybe it would be wise to bring in Jon Rice to explain to him why.

Don Stypula suggested the committee have the Chairman of the Kent County Transportation Committee speak.

Mike DeVries stated we could have both sides send their positions so that we have talking points for the next meeting.

Rick Root stated the committee will use this updated list of priorities for its meeting with legislators on December 11th. A couple of sentences of explanation may accompany each issue, but a detailed position paper will not be presented to the legislators at this meeting. In the future more detailed positions will be crafted.

The group reviewed the list again.

Item #3 should have the wording of incentives and costs taken out, and redrafted to say that obstacles should be removed to sharing services.

Item #4 should be expanded to also include referendum.

Item #5 should include the motor fuel tax and make reference to a comprehensive state tax restructuring.

Item #5b refers to an agreement crafted by the MTA & MML. Don Stypula stated Patti Birkholz packed away after pressure from the HBA. He believes the MML backed sway then also.

Item #6 should include comprehensive overall look at state tax policy. Issue such as PPT need to be reviewed in a way which would make local government whole.

On the Philosophical listing:

Need to add a comprehensive review of state tax policy.

7. Update on Legislative Luncheon – December 11, 2006

Don Stypula indicated the RSVPs are coming in for the Legislative Luncheon. There should be a good turnout. He is also inviting the Right Place staff, as well as several from the RAPID and the Ottawa County Development Authority. New legislators will attend an orientation meeting at GVMC at 10:30 a.m. and then proceed to the Pen Club for lunch with returning legislators and GVMC members.

8. Other

Michael Young reported on a ruling regarding the tax tribunal which said a community cannot put public improvements on the taxable value of a property until it is sold. He asked if there was any talk legislatively about rectifying the situation.

Don Stypula indicated there was a little chatter from MTA & MML on the issue, and that he would look into it.

9. Adjourn – 10:05