

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL  
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 11, 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 GVMC Larry Silvernail.

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Jim Day	Kent County
Cindy Heinbeck	Alpine Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Barb Holt	City of Walker
Jerry Hunsburger	Kent ISD
Paulien Luben	City of Hudsonville
Gayle McCrath	Grand Valley Metro Council
Jarod Rodriguez	Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Bonnie Shupe	Cannon Township
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Bill Wiersma	Tallmadge Township

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed.

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

**2. Update on State Budget and Revenue Sharing**

Don Stypula reported on the Governor's budget and revenue sharing announcement. He stated that cities, villages, and townships will essentially have the same revenue sharing payments in the 2005 budget. Counties will have their statutory payment drop to zero for the 2005 fiscal year. They will be allowed to collect taxes early in July from December to alleviate the shortfall, but will then be required to send the proceeds to the state and then will be allowed to immediately request a 50% repayment of the amount.

The county association is supporting it because they believe it will assure them a line item in 2005 and therefore in future years also. 180 – 200 million will be lost by counties.

There is some talk about over a period of time eliminating statutory revenue sharing as constitutional grows.

There is a movement in Lansing to redirect money from the ISDs to the K-12 budget.

Don Stypula will make detailed information regarding this proposal available to everyone after 12:00 noon tomorrow.

Cindy Heinbeck asked whether they were still considering applying the sales tax to services.

Mr. Stypula replied that it is still being looked at.

### **3. Potential Reduction in Local Transit Funding**

Shirley Johnson wants to cut local transit funding because of lack of ridership. A meeting has scheduled between Rep. Johnson and the primaries involved in the discussion.

Barb Holt stated she wanted the date and time of the meeting to assure the appropriate people are there.

Don Stypula said he would get the information to Barb, as well as inform Carol Sheets and Peter Varga about the meeting.

### **4. TEA-21**

Mr. Stypula does not anticipate a new 6-year funding bill to be signed before the election. Soon there will be a vote on a continuation of the current funding. For more information go to [fundingfairness.com](http://fundingfairness.com).

### **5. State Sanitary Code**

The Governor has sent a special message to the legislature proposing a statewide sanitary

code on home and on site septic systems. Don Stypula reported GVMC has done work with the sanitary code information for Kent County in the past. Mr. Stypula stated he would bring Corky Overmeyer and John Koches in to represent the area on the issue.

Cindy Heinbeck stated that was a hot topic at the Home Builders luncheon for managers and supervisors. The idea is not well received and it seems they feel it went too far.

Jim Day – A sanitary code is not a dead issue at the county level.

Don Hilton expressed interest in helping to select the candidates who were familiar with new on site technology to participate in the meeting. He will forward his suggestions to Don Stypula as soon as possible.

## 6. Update

- A. **Tipping Fees** – Continue to express our opposition. Do not see anything happening soon.
- B. **Mobile Homes** – Starting fresh with new bills and seem to be moving towards phasing in of a tax.
- C. **Drain Code** – Still slogging along and don't see it emerging before summer.
- D. **Recall** – The House passed a bill which extended the amount of time an elected official (with at least a 4 year term) is protected from recall to during his/her first full and last full year.

## 7. ISD Legislation

Jerry Hunsburger of Kent ISD spoke to the group on legislation which is pending regarding ISDs. Mr. Hunsburger reported there are about 12-13 bills that have been introduced into the legislature regarding ISD reform, mainly as a reaction to trouble in the Oakland ISD. He stated that the bills cover a variety of oversight issues, most of which Kent ISD already adheres to as good stewards of the public's money and trust. Mr. Hunsburger said that Kent ISD has no problem with most of the bills as they put into law practices already in place by Kent ISD. The only bill that they oppose is the one which calls for ISD boards to be popularly elected. He reported that ISD boards are already elected by area school board members, who are elected officials themselves. Mr. Hunsburger stated that by continuing with the same election system, those voting on the ISD board members are more likely to be familiar with their qualifications and background than if it was put to a popular vote.

Rick Root asked Mr. Hunsburger for about the millage increase that Kent ISD is requesting and reasons he should support it.

Mr. Hunsburger explained that the requirements placed on special education are unfunded mandates, and in order to fulfill them, money is currently being taken away from the general

education funds. If the millage is passed, all the money will go directly to local districts, and general education will benefit by not having to subsidize special education. He added that there hasn't been an increase in funding since 1988 and that Kent ISD has the lowest rate in the state on general education.

**8. Time of Legislative Committee Meeting**

The committee decided to permanently change the start time of the Legislative committee to 8:30 a.m. so that it will not conflict with other regularly scheduled meetings.

**9. Adjourn**