

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 27, 2010

2:00 p.m.

GVMC Offices
678 Front Ave., Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

MINUTES

1. Call To Order

Chair Rick Root called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Haris Alibasic	City of Grand Rapids
Alex Arends	Alpine Township
Sam Bolt	City of Wyoming
Chris Burns	City of Cedar Springs
Bill Cousins	Cascade Township
Mike DeVries	Grand Rapids Township
Don Hilton	Gaines Township
Denny Hoemke	Algoma Township
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County
Michael Young	City of Rockford

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the April 11, 2011 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Burns. SUPPORT – Hilton. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Resolution Endorsing Governor Snyder’s Reinvention of Michigan

Don Stypula reviewed the 2nd draft version of the resolution.

Mike DeVries said if GVMC is to take a position, we need to be careful that the resolution reflects our legislative priorities. That should be the first point on our resolution.

Bill Cousins stated if we change the resolution to reflect GVMC's legislative priorities, the revenue sharing point would be in conflict with the Governor's plan.

Haris Alibasic reported most of the legislative priorities are consistent with the Governor's plan and it is better to take a position sooner rather than later in order to be a player. We could incorporate the legislative priorities into the whereases.

Michael Young said he has a hard time making a blanket statement about supporting the Governor as his proposals are in some ways attacks on home rule, but he doesn't want to say we don't support the efforts. We want to say we support the efforts, but not specific policies.

Keith VanBeek stated we can just change a couple of key words. Make it a broad statement that we know things need to change and we want to be at the table. It wouldn't include legislative priorities, but could say we have more information that could be discussed. We should take out the wording on the Governor's policy initiatives. It could say we support the overall approach.

Haris Alibasic said this is a very positive message that lets them know we are willing to work with the Governor. We really shouldn't include wording on business incentives, but rather innovative solutions and not get into specifics. I would encourage this to be sent out sooner rather than later.

Ken Snow said we need to be in the best position possible when the dust clears. Keep it short; keep the tone friendly.

Alex Arends reported in this resolution, GVMC needs to show its desire to participate in the process.

Mike DeVries said we need to be careful not to get into fights we have nothing to do with, but rather show we are anxious to participate and be a resource.

Michael Young stated if the reason for the resolution is to promote the effort, we should say that and not be specific on the tax policies, etc.

Keith VanBeek said if we are not going to position ourselves as being on his side, these things will go through anyway and we won't have a place at the table. We don't agree with everything, but we want to be part of the solution.

Mike DeVries stated the first whereas should give the background on the Metro Council and reference legislative priorities that are being worked on now and say we are interested in a new, just & fair tax policy.

Michael Young reported we need not say we support the initiatives, but rather the effort.

Chris Burns said we need to keep it brief and eliminate the first two paragraphs.

Keith VanBeek reported we want to retain and impact the ability of county and local government to provide essential public services.

Haris Alibasic said the tax wording should be simple, fair & efficient. The forth whereas should include wording that GVMC is an example of collaboration and cooperation.

Don Stypula reported he will e-mail the third draft to everyone. Changes will be made based on everyone's input and the resolution will then go to the GVMC Board at the May meeting.

5. Adjourn – 3:30 p.m. MOTION - To Adjourn - Cousins. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED.