



GVMC Legislative Committee

8:30 a.m. Wednesday April 13, 2011 – Metro Council Offices

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2011 meeting**
- 3. Economic Development Incentives – Development of a GVMC position**
- 4. Local Option Taxation – Discussion**
- 5. Personal Property Tax – Collaboration request from Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce**
- 6. Issues Update**
- 7. Other Issues**

**GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

March 9, 2010

8:30 a.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 8:35 a.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
Bob Homan	Plainfield Township
Jim LaPeer	Cannon Township
Eli Lumpkins	City of Grand Rapids
Rick Root	City of Kentwood
Ken Snow	City of Greenville
Don Stypula	Grand Valley Metro Council
Keith Van Beek	Ottawa County
Roger Wills	City of Belding

3. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – To Approve the Minutes of the February 2011 GVMC Legislative Committee. MOVE – Hilton. SUPPORT – Arends. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Update from David Bertram, MTA (via phone)

David Bertram from the MTA reviewed the following issues:

Urban Cooperation Act – David is part of a work group on reforms to the Urban Cooperation Act. An issue arising is incorporating stipulations regarding harming of an entity.

Publication of Legal Notice – There is a hearing in the House on this tomorrow. Proposed changes would let entities post notices on-line and not have to post in papers. Publishers are fighting this.

PA 312 – Is being looked at again. However, the political reality is that legislators probably don't have the warewithall to eliminate it.

Revenue Sharing – David testified on the subject. The Governor's proposal is to eliminate statutory revenue sharing and, in its place, create a pot of \$200 million to be given to those who exhibit best practices. Current statutory revenue sharing payments are \$307 million. However, consolidation and cooperation do not necessarily result in cost savings. Sometimes it is at a cost increase. The Governor has to recognize those who are already doing so. Not recognizing / rewarding them would be harming them. The Governor proposes only townships and villages currently in formula for revenue sharing would receive these funds. He is not creating a fund for counties. Talk on this has actually stymied joint projects as entities are holding off further action until they know how this will roll out.

Rick Root asked if they are considering amending PA 312 rather than eliminating it.

David Bertram said if anything is done, it would likely be reforms.

Alex Arends asked about S2 grants. The Budget Director has eliminated them. Does he trump the Governor? Many entities went ahead with plans based on what was said in the current administration. Now they are left holding the bag.

Don Stypula said he will get an answer to everyone.

Chris Burns said she has a memo detailing it already & will send it on to Don.

Don Stypula said he would talk with the Director.

5. Local Option Taxation

Rick Root asked Don to get a history and talking points on revenue sharing to

distribute to members.

Keith VanBeek said there is a good one on the MML web site.

Mike DeVries reported what they are really talking about is regional taxing. Revenue sharing precluded locals from collecting sales tax and liquor tax. We don't need another option to tax. It can just be added on to property tax.

Haris Alibasic said the City of Grand Rapids is not going to oppose the changes as they are going to happen. They want to be at the table to help create the solutions. The Right Place has been singled out by the Governor as a model of what works. Eric DeLong and the UM team has created a position paper and would like to present it to the group. Haris will send out a summary first.

Keith VanBeek added, the State doesn't have the money. Maybe a local option tax is better because we can control it.

6. Economic Development Incentives

Don Stypula reported it is up to officials in each community to make noise and fight what is being proposed. The Right Place and others are unable to fully engage the administration and legislators. It is very important to engage legislators individually.

Haris Alibasic reiterated that the City of Grand Rapids is not taking a position on this as they want to be at the table with the Governor to create the solution. It is going to happen. We have to work with them.

Don Stypula suggested having Eric DeLong present at the next Legislative committee meeting.

7. Adjourn – 9:55 a.m.