



## Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

Mark Knowles, Chairperson

Jan Bunting

Bill Dilts

David Eldridge

Patricia Gillis

Tim Lambrecht

Roland Merignac

Carol A. Vernon, Clerk

Nicole Frost, County Administrator

214 E. Center Street

Ithaca, MI 48847

989-875-5215 (Clerk)

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Minutes Proposed for Approval on August 17, 2010

Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2010

- A. Call to Order by Chair Lambrecht at 3:00 p.m.
- B. Commissioners Present: Bunting, Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Knowles, Lambrecht and Merignac. Also present: Administrator Nicole Frost and County Clerk Carol A. Vernon.
- C. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
  - 1. G-2 Set annual meeting date as the last item on the agenda.
  - 2. G-6 PA88 language issue
  - G-7 Update on Walmart, windmills & MAC Conference
  - G-8 Telephone service bids
  - G-9 Finance meeting times for August, September and October
  - G-10 Set annual meeting time and date for public hearing
- D. Approval of the Agenda

**Board Action:** Motion by Knowles, second by Dilts to approve the agenda with changes. Motion carried 7-0.
- E. Public Comment:

None.
- F. Communications
  - 1. Treasurer's Monthly Report for July 2010
  - 2. General Fund Financial Report July 2010
  - 3. Fund Reports - 215 Friend of the Court and 249 Permits

## G. Agenda Items

1. Amend 2009-10 Parks and Recreation Budget Revenue Line Item 208.751.587.00 Parks Grants.

**Board Action:** Motion by Dilts, second by Knowles to recommend the full board approve. Motion carried 7-0.

2. Resolution to Set Annual Meeting Date and Public Hearing for Proposed 2010-2011 Budget – rescheduled to the last agenda item.
3. Approval of July 2010 Claims - General Fund Check #62988 to #63492 totaling \$1,142,958.52.

**Board Action:** Motion by Merignac, second by Dilts to recommend the full board approve the claims. Motion carried 7-0.

4. Consideration of "temporary employee wages" within the Equalization budget.

Clarification of part-time employee and temporary employee status discussed and information provided for several departments.

5. Continuation of FY10/11 Budget discussions on how to balance the shortfall of \$266,866.

Discussion held on clarification of part-time versus temporary wages, renaissance zone dollars, IMCA/MERS, law library fund, DHS contributions, indirect costs, soil erosion, Veteran's Affairs Director's offer to take a 2% decrease in salary, Register of Deed's technology fund, go back to department heads to come up with the balance of \$52,396 while waiting to hear from Circuit Court on the possible law library fund dollar amount.

Suggestions:

Take \$45,000 out of ICMA/MERS  
Reduce DHS contribution by \$50,000  
Use Renaissance Zone \$120,000  
Possible Law Library fund amount to be determined

Discussion to continue on August 17, 2010 full board meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEMS ADDED OR CHANGED AT THE MEETING:**

6. PA88 Resolution language

**Board Action:** Motion by Eldridge, second by Dilts to recommend the full board include "all taxable value" language to the Resolution previously approved. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Update on Walmart, windmills & MAC Conference.

Update on Walmart provided by Terry Ball. Update on windmills provided by Administrator Frost, expecting ground breaking November 1<sup>st</sup>. Bill Dilts stated he is going to the MAC conference on Tuesday only and paying his own way.

8. Telephone bids information by Aaron Hubbard.

**Board Action:** Motion by Merignac, second by Dilts to recommend the full board enter into a three year agreement with current provider WinTelecom for a \$600 a month savings and authorize chair to sign. Motion carried 6-0. (Gillis absent)

9. Finance Meeting times for August, September 14 and October 12.

**Board Action:** Leave the August 24, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole meeting on at this time.

**Board Action:** Motion by Knowles, second by Dilts to reschedule September 14 Finance Committee of the Whole to September 15 at 5:00 p.m. and review at that meeting if there is a need to have the October 12 finance meeting.

10. Setting meeting time and date for public hearing.

**Board Action:** Motion by Dilts, second by Knowles to recommend the full board set September 21, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. as the Annual Meeting and Public Hearing on the FY2010-2011 Proposed Budget.

## H. Public Comments

Gretchen Harrison thanked the Board for the purchase of BoardBook and believes the public will use it often when they are made aware of it. She also suggested after budget reconciliation takes place the Gratiot County website be updated. She suggested looking at Barry County as a very good site for review. Several Commissioners noted it has been talked about for about three years and realize it needs attention.

## I. Board Comments

Commissioner Eldridge addressed the economy and stated we've got a long way to go yet and we should be prepared to work more on the budget next year. He stated the last time his house was appraised it was \$85,000 and now it is \$35,000.

Bunting adds to Eldridge's comments that after listening to the TV and radio that at the end of the year we're going to be hit with a lot of taxes, and stimulus monies payback and we will see it is harder and harder to pay bills. She also noted that a major business closed in St. Louis, the St. Louis Marathon.

Commissioner Knowles congratulated the commissioners on the work they've done so far on the budget and finding areas that needed to be looked at and take action on. Further noting that while he's not very optimistic with regards to the economy at this point, if all you listen to is TV and radio they paint a pretty bad picture and we can do more to help take care of things locally.

Commissioner Eldridge asked if he could get his \$85,000 back on his house then.

J. Chairman's Comments:

Chair Lambrecht thanked the entire staff and Nicole for work on the budget. Noting the bottom line is we can control our little piece of the world as best we can. Businesses start and businesses fail. But there is some positives. He stated every time he drives by the ice cream shop, people are lined up out the door and that is good to see.

K. Adjournment at 6:35 p.m.

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**Carol A. Vernon, County Clerk**  
**Approved:**

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**Tim Lambrecht, Finance Chair**  
**Gratiot County Board of Commissioners**