



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)

Minutes Proposed for Approval on August 3, 2010

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

- A. Call to order by Chair Knowles.
 - B. Roll call of commissioners. Present: Commissioners Bunting, Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Knowles, Lambrecht, and Merignac. Absent: None. Also present: Administrator Nicole Frost and County Clerk Carol A. Vernon.
 - C. Invocation by Eldridge.
 - D. Pledge of Allegiance.
 - E. Additions/deletions to tentative agenda & approval of the agenda
 - 1. Commissioner Gillis requested an addition to K as a Resolution in Support of Gratiot County Wind LLC Project.
- Board Action:** Motion by Dilts, second by Eldridge to adopt the agenda with changes. Motion carried 7-0.
- F. Brief public comment. *The Board welcomes all public input and appreciates adherence to the time limits established. Each period shall be limited to one 3 minute comment per period. A group representative shall be limited to one 5 minute comment period.*

Representative Paul Opsommer provided an update on the current State budget for this fiscal year and the next fiscal year, covering deficit in the general fund and surplus in the school aid fund, and discussed revenue sharing figures. Several questions were asked by various commissioners and answers were provided.

Angelina Ballard, District Court Administrator, provided information on their request for the 65th District Court to hire a part-time employee, 20 hours a week at \$8 an hour, money to come from the jury fees/mileage line item that will have a surplus. Commissioners will discuss it as it comes up on the agenda later.

- G.** Removal of consent calendar item(s), if requested, and consideration on the consent calendar (Board Minutes, correspondence and communications)
1. Gratiot County Board of Commissioners Minutes:
 - [a.](#) Full Board Minutes of July , 2010
 2. Correspondence and Communications:
 - [a.](#) Mid-Michigan District Board of Health Action Items for June 2010
 - [b.](#) Michigan Northern Counties Association Agenda for July 19, 2010
 - [c.](#) Gratiot County Substance Abuse Coalition Agenda for July 12, 2010

Knowles requested 2.b. be added to new business for comments from Merignac.

Board Action: Motion by Dilts, second by Lambrecht to receive the communications and approve the minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

- H.** Report on appropriations, reports from department heads and agencies with consideration to receive
- [1.](#) Equalization Dept Quarterly Report by Rex Smith.
 - [2.](#) Mid-Michigan District Health Department Quarterly Report by Kim Singh.
- I.** Reports/Minutes of boards and consideration to receive
- [1.](#) Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission Minutes of May 24, 2010.
 - [2.](#) Mid-Michigan District Health Department Board Minutes of June 23, 2010.
 - [3.](#) Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes of June 16, 2010.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Eldridge to receive the minutes. Motion carried 7-0.

- J.** Reports of special committees and consideration to receive. None.

- K.** Consideration of Gratiot County Resolutions by roll call vote.

1. Resolution in Support of Gratiot County Wind LLC Project.

Board Action: Motion by Gillis, second by Dilts to approve the resolution as amended. Yes: Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: Bunting. Motion carried 6-1.

Board Action: Motion by Dilts, second by Lambrecht to create similar resolutions for Lafayette and Emerson Townships. Yes: Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: Bunting. Motion carried 6-1.

- L.** Consideration of unfinished business, general orders and all standing committee recommendations.

1. Regular Meeting Items:

a. Fair Lease Signing

Board Action: Motion by Gillis, second by Merignac to allow Commissioner Dilts to sign the fair lease in the Chair's absence on July 29, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Motion carried 4-2, one abstention.

b. Establishment of Animal Shelter Advisory Board

Board Action: Motion by Gillis, second by Lambrecht to establish an Animal Shelter Advisory Board. Motion withdrawn by Gillis.

c. FY 2010/11 Budget

Board Action: Motion by Merignac, second by Lambrecht to set Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. as a Committee of the Whole Meeting to discuss the budget. Motion carried 6-1.

2. Criminal Justice & Intergovernmental. Affairs Meeting of July 6, 2010:

a. Minutes of Criminal Justice & Intergovernmental Affairs Meeting of July 6, 2010.

b. Quarter #3 Animal Shelter Report

Recommendation: Interest in setting up a Gratiot County Animal Control Advisory Board to help with some issues discussed (see above item M-1b). No formal recommendation for full board.

c. Future Animal Shelter Needs

Board Action: None.

3. Finance & Administration Meeting of July 8, 2010:

a. Treasurer's Monthly Report

b. General Fund Financial Report

Funds Report 215- Friend of the Court
 245 – Permits
 542 – Soil Erosion

c. Request for Additional Funding for Probate Court-Legal Advice Line Item #101-148-810.00 for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Recommendation: Increase line item #101-148-810.00 Legal Advice for Probate Court by \$2,800.00 with funds to come from a transfer from the Contingency Fund.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Eldridge to approve the increase in line item #101-148-810.00 Legal Advice for Probate Court by \$2,800.00 with funds to come from a transfer from the Contingency Fund.

Motion carried 7-0.

- d. Request for BoardBook Subscription Agreement to process Board of Commissioners Packets and Committee Meetings.
Recommendation : Purchasing the agreement with BoardBook, authorizing Chairman Knowles to sign, and funds to come from line item #101-215-727.05 Software & Updates in the amount of \$3,000 as budgeted.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Dilts to purchase the agreement with BoardBook, authorizing Chairman Knowles to sign, and funds to come from line item #101-215-727.05 Software & Updates in the amount of \$3,000 as budgeted. Yes: Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: Bunting. Motion carried 6-1.

- e. Approval of Claims, General Fund check #62441 to #62987 totaling \$93,759.55. Recommendation: Approve General Fund check #62441 to #62987 totaling \$903,759.55.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Eldridge to approve General Fund check #62441 to #62987 totaling \$93,759.55. Yes: Bunting, Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- f. Hire Part Time Employee for 65B District Court
Recommendation: Approve the request for a 20 hour position at \$8.00 per hour with funding to come from Jury Fees/Mileage line item #101-136-825.00 for the remainder of the 2009/10 fiscal year.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Eldridge to approve the request for a 20 hour position at \$8.00 per hour with funding to come from Jury Fees/Mileage line item #101-136-825.00 for the remainder of the 2009/10 fiscal year. Yes: Bunting, Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: None. Motion carried 7-0.

- g. Non-Union Employee Benefits
Recommendation: Discuss the issue at full board without a recommendation.

Board Action: To be discussed at budget meetings.

- h. FY2010/11 Budget Projections.

Board Action: Motion by Dilts, second by Merignac to conduct a public forum at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse on Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Motion carried 7-0.

- i. Consideration to purchase user fee of \$8,250 on 1/1/2010 to continue

programming elections.

Recommendation: Purchase user fee of \$8,250 for programming elections line item #101-191-717.00 for FY10/11 Budget.

Board Action: Motion by Lambrecht, second by Dilts to purchase user fee of \$8,250 for programming elections line item #101-191-717.00 for FY10/11 Budget. Yes: Dilts, Eldridge, Gillis, Lambrecht, Knowles and Merignac. No: Bunting. Motion carried 6-1.

j. Chair voting for Finance Committee

Recommendation: Moved to name chairman Knowles as the third member of the Finance Committee to be a voting member.

Board Action: None.

k. Committee of the whole Finance Meeting rescheduled.

Recommendation: Discuss rescheduling August Committee of the Whole Finance Meeting due to chairman and treasurer's absence on August 10, 2010.

Board Action: Motion by Eldridge, second by Lambrecht to reschedule the Finance Meeting of August 10th, 2010 to August 12th at 3:30 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

M. Consideration of new business added at the meeting

1. Michigan Northern Counties Association Agenda for July 19, 2010.

Board Action: Report by Merignac on last meeting.

N. Extended public comment and board comments

Gretchen Harrison provided a packet of information from Help Furry Friends regarding the Spay Neuter Express.

County Clerk Vernon shared with the Board her Experienced Works participant Lester VanHorn's last day in her office is tomorrow. He has been with the county for four years, including work in building and grounds, parks and recreation and the Clerk's Office for the last two years. He was instrumental in imaging thousands of documents that are waiting to be made available on the county website for genealogy research and she wanted the Board to be aware of his outstanding support and dedication to our county.

Chairman Knowles expressed his thanks and appreciation of Lester VanHorn on behalf of the Board.

Eldridge spoke to the budget process and Animal Control, suggesting maybe Furry Friends take over the Animal Shelter as a private sector.

Commissioner Lambrecht commented on areas where we are spending money

because times have changed, new positions and technology, for example, and how much we are getting out of it. Using the Veteran's Affairs Director as an example, he noted their discussions on budgetary items will be how much are things worth, apply that to what you get for the services and then you know there is no question you want to continue with them. Those are the discussions that will take place next week. We need to look at what good comes out of it and what it is worth to us to have it.

Chair Knowles noted that a nearby county is approximately \$1.5 million short in next year's budget and they are expending to cutting all non-mandated services.

Adjournment at 8:24 p.m.



Carol A. Vernon, Gratiot County Clerk
Approved:

Mark Knowles, Chair
Gratiot County Board of Commissioners