

# SOUTHWEST WASHTENAW COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

7:30 pm Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2011  
Manchester Public Schools Board Room

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Sign In – Introductions** - Gary Battens, Ron Ellison, Grant Howard, Sybil Kolon, Bill Lewis, Jolea Mull, Ron Raab, Karl Racenis, Pat Vaillencourt, Jeff Wallace, Dale Weidmayer.
4. **Public Comment** - none
5. **Approval of Agenda** - motion by Lewis to approve as amended, seconded by Daubner, approved by acclamation.
6. **Approval of Minutes – January Regular meeting** - motion by Lewis to approve as corrected, seconded by Weidmayer, approved by acclamation.
7. **Reports –**
  - a. **WATS** - no report
  - b. **Polices Services** -- Pat Vaillencourt no report
  - c. **WCRC** -- no report
  - d. **C.E.O.s** – no report
  - e. **Other** – none
8. **Roundtable Discussion –**

**Manchester Schools, Ellison** - looking at budget issues, met with insurance agent regarding appraised values which are basis for insurance premiums, will ask Shawn to come to meeting to discuss major donation to schools for technology.

**Freedom Township, Weidmayer** - Berg presented proposed April 16 Ragin' Raisin Dirt Classic bicycle race to Board, approved poverty guidelines for Board of Review. Planning Commission meeting cancelled due to snow storm.

**Bridgewater Township, Mull** - budget work, new Treasurer coming up to speed with help from CPA. Board items included Capital Improvement Plan for sewer and Town Hall, Public Hearing held for withdrawal from JPC was well attended, attended MTA Convention with Laurie Fromhart and will report significant observations at next meeting.

Planning Commission, Gary Battens new representative to SWWCOG, Commission currently evaluating conditional use for Church group proposal.

Grant Howard, Ecology Commissioner was concerned about proposed withdrawal from JPC and talked about importance of local control to Township residents. Expressed local control issues at JPC over last 9 months. Mull mentioned walking trail issue as significant factor in JPC withdrawal. Ellison stated that the trail would be only in the Village and was being done by a private citizen group with no Village government investment.

Vaillencourt reviewed the original basis for the creation of the JPC, the decision to proceed without County involvement, the State's emphasis on local government collaborations, and intent to continue JPC activities with Freedom Township, Manchester Township, and Village.

**Sharon Township, Lewis** - Board discussed Fire Run costs and finalizing Fire millage ballot language, 2-3 applicants have applied for Board position vacated by Bill Chizmar.

Planning Commission held public hearing on Master Plan, are looking at sign ordinances. In response to question about political signs, Wallace stated that Village ordinance was typical and permitted them from 45 days before to 5 days after election.

**Manchester Township, Kolon** - Board meeting passed property tax poverty exemption guidelines, want to transfer significant estate donations to Fire Department voted from equipment to operating fund. Discussed FDIC insurance concerns and Wallace talked about how municipalities can get all of their deposits insured. Recycling Authority discussion about expanding authority and the additional assessment for that expansion, including opportunities to increase recycled material sales proceeds and single stream recycling. Township formed Recycling Committee to evaluate alternatives, suggested Recycling as March meeting item.

Planning Commission, Daubner - medical marijuana conditional use proposal sent to Township attorney, wood burning stove ordinance sent to Board for approval.

**Manchester Village, Vaillencourt** - discussed concern about committing to 15 year Recycling Authority bond lacking financial information less than 2 months before deadline. Questioned competition by government with private industry on recycling. Village Council meeting topics included M-52 project, sandwich board sign ordinance enforcement, snow removal ordinance issue, upcoming Chili Cookoff, Kiwanis Crazy Cash Night, and Ragin' Raisin Bicycle Race events in Manchester. Downtown Enhancement Plans available for viewing at [www.dda-manchester.org](http://www.dda-manchester.org) (Downtown Development Authority website).

9. **Program –Discussion of Pros / Cons - Possible cooperation/collaboration in areas of - Police Services** - Vaillencourt discussed escalating cost of contracting with County and that the Village and Bridgewater Township are the only SWWCOG jurisdictions currently contracting.

Wallace presented comparative information about police services and discussed the contrast between support for Fire versus Police services.

Village	\$450,000 for police services (7 of 12 General Fund mils)
Columbia Twp.	\$420,000 (does not include facilities)
Napoleon Twp.	\$490,000 (does not include facilities)
Clinton	\$460,000 (does not include facilities)
Blissfield	\$550,000

Estimated cost of Village for its own police force is \$600,000-\$700,000.

Village and Bridgewater collaborate with Lodi Township to contract with County for 7/24 coverage.

Options for funding local police force include millage (based on SEV) or special assessment district (based on users or parcels).

Could consider Public Safety millage or special assessment of \$200/household for combined Police and Fire services.

Mull indicated that police response time is three times greater in Townships which do not contract with Sheriff's Department compared to Bridgewater.

Wallace asked representatives to take this information to their Township Boards to get indications of interest and desire to work on formulating specific proposals for March SWWCOG meeting, before spending additional time on this issue.

**10. Next Months Topic - Police Services and WW Recycling Authority as March meeting items.**

**11. Other Business, Kolon - Stream Monitoring Grant, State grant for \$50,000 to monitor stream, more appropriate for River Raisin Watershed Council to do, study microinvertebrates as measure of water quality,**

**12. Jan. Fire Runs – Bridgewater - 2, Freedom - 3, Manchester – Vil. 10, Twp. 2, Sharon – 4**

**13. Adjourn** motion by Lewis, seconded by Daubner, adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Karl Racenis

---

## **2011 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Jan. 12 – Manchester Vill. - <u>Assessing/Recycling</u>	July - <u>NO MEETING</u>
Feb. 9 – Man. Schools Admin - <u>Police Services</u>	Aug. 10 – Bridgewater Twp.- _____
Mar. 9 – Manchester Twp. - _____	Sept. 14 – Freedom Twp. - _____
April 13 – Bridgewater Twp. - _____	Oct. 12 – Sharon Twp. - _____
May 11 - Freedom Twp. - _____	Nov. 9 – Manchester Vill. - _____
June 8 – Sharon Twp. - _____	Dec. 14 –Manchester Twp.- _____