

## EXECUTIVE-PERSONNEL-FINANCE COMMITTEE

August 25, 2008 – 5:30 p.m.  
Lansing Sheraton Hotel  
925 S. Creyts Road  
Lansing, MI

### MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Showers; Joe Brehler, Jan Bunting; Brad Densmore; Deb DeLeon; Lisa McCafferty (for Lynn Mason); Earl Poleski

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ralph Tillotson, Bob VanBelzen

**STAFF:** Gary VanNorman, Gerrie Roeser, Lori Griffin, Mary Kronquist, Jeanne Diver; Joel Hoepfner

**GUESTS:** Carolyn Hilley, Gratiot County alternate member; Phyllis, McCrossin, editor, Gratiot County Herald

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Showers called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2008

**Ms. Carter moved approval of the minutes of June 23, 2008 as presented. Mr. Densmore supported the motion.**

Ms. McCafferty asked that comments made by Ms. Mason at the meeting specific to her opposition to movement of certain CDRS functions in-house be delineated in the minutes.

**Vote called on the motion. The motion carried with the correction to be made.**

#### ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Added under New Business was Item A, Proposed Changes to By-Laws

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Proposed Changes to By-Laws

The recommendation is to revise Mid-South's by-laws, Article IV, Section 3. Vacancies/Removal, paragraph 2. The proposed language is as follows:

*“Charges brought against any Commission member for non-performance of duty or misconduct will be reviewed by the Commission’s Executive Committee, which shall report the findings to the Commission. The Commission shall then report its recommendations to the Board of Commissioners which appointed the person in question for their action. If the Board of Commissioners which appointed the person in question does not follow the Commission’s*

*recommendations without compelling rationale and documentation, the Commission may, by a required 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote of members in attendance voting in the affirmative, vote to unseat the appointed person in question. Should the motion pass, notification of the action by the Commission shall be communicated within seven (7) days to the Board of Commissioners which appointed the person in question.”*

Mr. VanNorman stated he had, as requested by Mr. Showers, received information from other CAs on their procedures. Some have similar language, some have less, and some are more involved.

**Mr. Poleski moved to recommend to the Commission implementation of the by-law change. Mr. Densmore supported the motion.**

Mr. Poleski stated this is a coalition of counties and each county can appoint their representative and that is beyond this body's purview. For that reason he stated he would vote against the recommendation. Mr. Brehler stated the writing of the recommendation was bothersome to him, and felt it would not solve but may make problems worse. Ms. McCafferty, speaking for Ms. Mason, stated this feels like a knee jerk reaction and the need to put some space between the issues. Mr. Densmore noted there are 2 or 3 issues here: Gratiot County has not yet signed the Intercounty Agreement so they are "sort of" a member, and something needs to be done. There is a need to respond to what has happened. He added the greater issue is Gratiot and whether or not they are going to continue to be a part of this organization, and if they aren't, there is no issue.

**Mr. Brehler moved to table this issue until such time as the wording is reworked, and an addendum for a code of conduct is added for future use. Mr. Herl supported the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Poleski voting no.**

#### **B. Gratiot County Representative Misconduct**

Out of consideration for the member in question, Mr. Showers asked that all staff and guests leave the room. As people were departing, Mr. VanNorman raised a point of order regarding the matter could not be dealt with in closed session. Guests were brought back into the room immediately to continue the meeting.

Mr. VanNorman paraphrased the Fact Sheet charges of misconduct. Mr. Showers asked Ms. Bunting for any comments or statements. Ms. Bunting stated she had no comments but would instead ask if others had questions. Mr. Densmore asked what information would have prompted her to initiate an investigation and proceed outside of the Commission. At that point, Ms. Bunting stated she would make a statement. She stated that she would not resign and that she had the full support of her county Board. She added that further investigation(s) were still going on that that she was instructed to not comment on them, and would not provide any information when asked which bodies were carrying out such efforts. Ms. Bunting stated that Mr. VanNorman was taking the matter personally, and during the ensuing interaction stated that her interviews with investigators were not meant as an accusation against Mr. VanNorman but only as response to his potential motive. Mr. Brehler stated that it was a personal matter to be under investigation. He

further stated that trust had been damaged. Members from Ingham County brought up the fact that Ingham County was referenced in the report which could potentially have County implications, and character, through their involvement with Mid-South, could be called into question as well. Ms. Bunting stated that Mr. VanNorman had called and threatened the county with a lawsuit if they didn't remove her. Mr. VanNorman responded that he discussed the purpose of a meeting agenda when called by the County Administrator. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to dialog relative to the county's understanding/involvement of Ms. Bunting's actions and the potential of the county being named in a lawsuit.

Discussion concluded with no action being taken to allow further investigation(s) to conclude.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.