

## MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2025 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

**Call to Order by Chair Forsyth at 10:02 a.m.**

**1. Attendance and Excused Absences**

See attached attendance roll call sheet.

**Motion** by Fisher/Kolb to approve excused absences; approved unanimously.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** by Bluhm/Joppich to approve; approved unanimously.

**3. Minutes of the March 8, 2025, Regular Meeting (Attachments A & B)**

**Motion** by McGee/Fisher to approve minutes; approved unanimously.

**4. Treasurer's Report: (Attachments C)**

Secretary-Treasurer King noted everything looks well. Dues look to be up from last year. Updated reports are expected from SBM.

**5. Amicus Committee:**

a. Quakenbush vs Brooks Township (Attachment D)

Committee Chair Williams noted that a letter has been received from Brooks Twp Supervisor requesting amicus support. Peculiar case as cemeteries were banned completely by Brooks Twp. MML/MTA were also invited to provide amicus support. Amicus Committee recommends GLS participate. Discussion on whether to participate jointly or independently was held.

**Motion** by Gibbs/King to authorize GLS to file an amicus brief in Quakenbush vs Brooks Township as follows: If the Michigan Municipal League (MML) participates, GLS will join the brief, with costs not to exceed \$10,000.00, prorated and based on the proportionate share of all participating entities; or If MML does not participate, GLS is authorized to file a separate brief, with Members Fisher and Williams authoring the brief, at a total cost not to exceed \$10,000.00. Motion adopted by 2/3 vote in compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 4 of the State Bar of Michigan Bylaws (11-0 with 3 abstentions):

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
1	Bluhm, Lori 2027	x			
2	Brady, Michael 2024				x
3	Chubb, Anthony 2026				x
4	Fisher, Jerry 2026			x (potential amicus author)	
5	Forbush, Audrey 2027	x			
6	Forsyth, Chris 2027 Chair	x			

7	Gibbs, Aimee 2025	x			
8	Joppich, Steve 2027	x			
9	Kim, William 202	x			
10	King, Dawn 2026 Secretary-Treasurer	x			
11	Kolb, Kristin 2026 Vice Chair	x			
12	McGee, Mike 2025	x			
13	Mills, Lizzie 2026				x
14	Mithani, Soni 2025				x
15	Nettleton, Mark 2025				x
16	Pastula, Julianne 2027 Deputy Secretary-Treasurer	x			
17	Sluggett, Jeff 2027			x (Def. is client)	
18	Thomas, Aaron 2025				x
19	Watza, Mike 2026	x			
20	White-McDonnell, Elizabeth 2025				x
21	Williams, Eric 2025			x (potential amicus author)	

**6. Zoning Land Use and Local Control Committee:** Update

Committee Chair Fisher announced that the committee will now meet every other month, a schedule that reflects the current volume of business before the Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for May.

**7. Briefly:** Update

No update.

**8. Old Business**

a. 2025 Joint Summer Educational Conference (June 27-28<sup>th</sup> Grand Traverse Resort) – Update

Vice Chair Kolb provided update. Registration is going out next week from Sarah Martin MML. Chair Forsyth and Member Pastula to assist. The following topics were discussed by the Council:

- Agenda. Being finalized now. Alternate topic planning discussion held. Need MEDC contact for Gotion project. Member Williams indicated he did not have an MEDC contact but can refer a local planner involved in the project. Opined that topic may be better suited for next year given its status.
- Green Energy. Solar siting and PA 233 were discussed.
- SCOTUS update. Professors Chen and Mortenson not available. Options identified were: 1) new Assistant AG taking over when Elworth retires or 2) Pete Buttigieg (was suggested by MML). Discussion followed.
- Cybersecurity. Sam Hammoud, Starr Kincaid, and IT individual participating on panel. Discussion will be led by MI Municipal Risk Mgmt Authority (MMRMA). The focus will be on risk management not litigation. Litigation may be touched on broadly, but the focus will be on front end preventative measures.

- Next year location: Perry Hotel in Petoskey (King room 380\$/night) or Treetops (rooms approx. 220\$/night). Discussion followed.

**Motion** by Fisher/Joppich to indicate GLS preference for Perry Hotel location subject to MML position; motion unanimously approved.

**9. New Business**

- a. Referral of ADM File No. 2019-40; Adoption of Administrative Order Regarding a Judicial Officer's Remote Appearance; Amendment to MCR.2407 (*Attachment E*)

No updates or comments.

**10. Council Comments**

- a. Discussion regarding topic raised at Michigan Association of Counties meeting regarding potential federal update that could change the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. GLS discussion included impact, potential offsets, historical context, and how the current situation differs from previous tax reform efforts. It was noted that national associations, investment bankers, and the broader municipal finance community are actively lobbying against the proposed change. This remains a highly active issue and is being closely monitored.

**Adjournment at 10:55 a.m.**

**Next Meeting: May 3, 2025, at 10:00 am via Zoom.**

**MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET**  
**Government Law Section**  
**State Bar of Michigan (2024-2025)**

**Meeting Date:** April 12, 2025, conducted via Zoom.

**Regular Monthly Meeting Begin:** 10:02 a.m.      **End/Adjourn:** 10:55 a.m.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Present On Call</u>	<u>Absent Excused</u>	<u>Absent Unexcused</u>
1	Bluhm, Lori 2027	x			
2	Brady, Michael 2024			x	
3	Chubb, Anthony 2026 (arrived late)	x			
4	Fisher, Jerry 2026	x			
5	Forbush, Audrey 2027	x			
6	Forsyth, Chris 2027 Chair	x			
7	Gibbs, Aimee 2025	x			
8	Joppich, Steve 2027	x			
9	Kim, William 202	x			
10	King, Dawn 2026 Secretary-Treasurer	x			
11	Kolb, Kristin 2026 Vice Chair	x			
12	McGee, Mike 2025	x			
13	Mills, Lizzie 2026			x	
14	Mithani, Soni 2025			x	
15	Nettleton, Mark 2025			x	
16	Pastula, Julianne 2027 Deputy Secretary-Treasurer	x			
17	Sluggett, Jeff 2027	x			
18	Thomas, Aaron 2025 (left early)	x			
19	Watza, Mike 2026	x			
20	White-McDonnell, Elizabeth 2025			x	
21	Williams, Eric 2025	x			

**Quorum (8)** Bylaws Section 5.5. (16 members present; 5 excused absences)

**Others Present:** N/A

**Attendance taken by:** Julianne Pastula