

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION**

**Minutes of November 4, 2017, Meeting
(via telephone conference)**

Host

**Touma, Watson, Whaling, Coury, Stremers & Thomas. PC
316 McMorrان Blvd
Port Huron, MI 48060
(810) 987-7700**

1. **Call to Order:** by Secretary/Treasurer Greg Stremers on November 4, 2017 at 10 a.m.

2. **Present:** Chair, Karrie A. Zeits, Chair; Vice Chair, Steven P. Joppich Secretary-Treasurer Gregory T. Stremers, Gerald A. Fisher, Michael Watza, Lori Grigg Bluhm, Mary J. Fales, Catherine A. Mullhaupt, Christopher Forsyth, , James E. Tamm, Debra A. Walling, Eric D. Williams; Carol Rosati,; Jeffrey V. H. Sluggett, Michael P. McGee, Kester K. So

Absent: Anita Hitchcock, Helen Lizzie Mills, Audrey J. Forbush, Ex Officio-Mark E. Nettleton; ~~Catherine M. Mish~~, (vacancy). **Motion:** Williams **Support:** Rosati.

Motion to excuse absences. Council approved unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Agenda: **Motion: Tamm Support: Mullhaupt Council approved unanimous vote.**

4. Approval of minutes Oct 7, 2017 Tab A of Agenda. **Motion: Rosati Support: Fales Council approved unanimous vote.**

5. **Treasurers Report:** SMB Unaudited financial through September 2017 (Tab B to Agenda). A discussion was held to review if dues increase supports more revenue. Revenue is up \$5000 over last year at this time. Treasurer to follow up in December. **Council reviewed and received the treasurer's report.**

6. **Old Business:**

a. Winter Seminar -2018-February 9, 2017; The Henry, Dearborn (Tab C)

Discussion was held on the winter seminar.

(1) The Henry is confirmed for Feb. 9th. Deb may need tax information for the Henry to waive sales tax.

Motion: Fisher Support: Rosati authorizing Debra Walling to sign the contract and authorize payment of deposit.

Motion: Fisher Support: Forsyth approving Mike and Lori to expend funds and prepare a save the date hard copy mailer and registration form.

(1) Lori will work with the State Bar assist with the registration table.

(2) Karrie to prepare a 75 word announcement for December Bar Journal

(3) Other issues for afternoon session or carry over to summer meeting

(1) **DRONES:** Chris Johnson – regulations and use of Drones Chris is on Governors Council- 30 minutes top for this subject.

(2) **ELECTION LAW:** Mary and Lori will explore U of M professors for election law issues, such as the abrogation of home rule through initiatory petitions, Chris Thomas, Former State Election Director, someone from AG's office were suggested

(3) **COUNCIL MEETING:** Council meeting likely to follow seminar about 4 pm and social hour at the hotel after the seminar.

b. Summer Seminar -2018

(1) June 22-24, 2017

(2) Crystal Mountain

(3) Justice Markman-confirmed. Gerry and Karrie to send confirmation letter with expense reimbursement guidance to Justice Markman. Gerry Fisher raised topics for the Justice:

a. Amicus without having to file a motion

b. Issues to assist with granting or deny leave to appeal (what to include in briefs so leave is more likely granted, triggers for the court)

c. Strategy in uninterrupted portion of oral argument

d. State of the courts and judgeships-attrition, cost funding

e. MOA: is MOA going to expand amicus use?

(4) Other possible topics for summer seminar:

- a. **Opiate Crisis:** Oakland County and Traverse City may be included in litigation. Local government response, governmental immunity for first responders; medical immunity v. governmental immunity.
- b. Public Works projects from A-Z. Condemnation issues: When counsel is involved after good faith offers before good faith letters, Federal and State funding coordination and payment issues, quick take issues, property owners and attorney's perspective, Road Commission and ROW issues; special assessment issues; after assessed with tax tribunal hearings.
- c. **Election issues:** new machines and process.
- d. FOIA.
- e. Cracker barrel: need a volunteer with handout of new legislation and cases.

7. **New Business**

(1) Letter head and other issued to be addressed for new government law section name. Karrie to take the lead.

a. **To fill Catherine Mish's Term.**

Motion by Stremers Support by Grigg-Bluhm to appoint Sonal Hope Mithani. Approved by unanimous vote. Karrie/Mike to contact and welcome to the Board.

Discussion was held to continue conversation with Ellen Ha and Detroit City Attorney Office with assistance of Lori.

8. **Council Comments:**

A discussion was held for future attendance, possible Justice Joan Larson and US Supreme Court Justices.

9. **Adjournment:** The Council by consensus adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15 a.m.