

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
January 15, 2008 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shotwell called the January 15, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:02 p.m.

INVOCATION:

by Commissioner David F. Lutchka

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

by Chairman Steve Shotwell

ROLL CALL:

County Clerk Amanda L. Riska

(11) Present: Commissioners Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Brown, Smith, Way, Elwell, and Shotwell. (1) Absent: Commissioner Mahoney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Videto, supported by Way for the approval of the agenda. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

A. Resolution (01-08.02) Honoring Beverly Walker Upon Her Retirement From District Court. Award Presented by Judge Joe Filip. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None.

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *Opened at 7:06 p.m.*

Dewey Graves spoke regarding the Animal Shelter and questioned where the money came from. He also stated that he would like to get back to the JTA issue.

Estelle Graves thanked Cmr. Way for attending the Victim's Impact Panel meeting.

Public Comment closed at 7:10 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. County Affairs

1. Appointments

a. Region 2 Planning Commission – two Commissioner members, terms to 1/2010.

The meeting was adjourned briefly at 7:10 p.m. to allow the commissioners who are members of the County Affairs Committee to meet behind Cmr. Lutchka's desk.

Meeting called back to order at 7:12 p.m.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the 11/20/07 and 12/11/07 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the 1/02/08 Organizational Meeting minutes.

Moved by Way, supported by Videto for approval of the 11/20/07 and 12/11/07 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and the 1/02/08 Organization Meeting.

Comr. Elwell commented that a vote was taken on the purchase of the Airport Property following closed session on 11/20/07 and the minutes reflected that it was an 11 to 1 vote, but did not state which commissioner voted against the purchase. Chairman Shotwell stated that he was the one who voted against the purchase, because he promised the audience that they would not come out of closed session and make a decision. The minutes from 11/20/07 will be corrected to reflect this vote.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Herl, supported by Brown for approval of the consent agenda. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

A. County Affairs:

None

B. County Agencies:

1. **Proposal for Computer Aided Dispatch/Records Management/Jail Management Upgrades**
2. **Bid Summary and Request for Proposals (RFP) for District Court – Court Appointed Attorney Services**
3. **Resolution (01-08.03) Supporting the Child Support Protection Act, Senate Bill 803 and House Bill 1386**

C. Human Services:

None

D. Personnel & Finance

4. **Proposal for Storage Area Network and Virtual Server Upgrade**
5. **Deletion of Vacant Full-Time Position – Deputy County Clerk**
6. **Budget Adjustments**
 - a. Parks – Public Improvement Fund Carryovers
 - b. Worker Comp Fund Cost Allocation
 - c. Child Care Reimbursement Cost Allocation
 - d. Fund 668 & 515 Cost Allocation
 - e. Remonumentation
 - f. Department on Aging

STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. County Affairs – Commissioner Dave Lutchka

1. January 2008 Appointments

a. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – one utility member, term to 3/31/08.

Comr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Natalie Stopyak. No other nominations from the floor. *Natalie Stopyak appointed.*

b. Region 2 Planning Commission – two Commissioner members, terms to 1/2010.

Comr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Earl Poleski and Steve Shotwell. No other nominations from the floor. *Comr. Poleski and Comr. Shotwell appointed.*

B. County Agencies – Commissioner Gail W. Mahoney (Absent) - Commissioner Herl

1. Resolution (01-08.04) to Amend the Jackson County Final 911 Service Plan

Moved by Herl, supported by Lutchka to Amend the Jackson County Final 911 Service Plan. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution (01-08.05) to Adopt Monthly 911 Surcharge Within Jackson County

Moved by Poleski, supported by Way to Amend the Surcharge in Resolution (01-08.05) from \$1.00 to \$.80, and that the anticipated annual revenues be adjusted in this resolution to reflect that change. Roll Call: (9) Yeas. Comrs. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Smith, Way, Elwell. (2) Nays. Comrs. Brittain and Brown. Motion carried.

Cmr. Brittain stated that changing the amount from \$1.00 to \$.80 is a good compromise, but that he will still be voting no. He feels that it is a double tax and he doesn't agree with any amount. He feels that they will get double the funding because of cell phones. He thinks too much money will be collected, and it's taking food off of taxpayer's tables.

Cmr. Poleski stated that the documentation that they have received shows that this would generate about \$430,000 annually, which is more than what is being collected under the current charge. It is true that it is an increase, and he would generally be opposed to an increase, but for the fact that the commission and sub-committee agreed to move forward with the improvements to the 911 system, he thinks it is appropriate to have the money come from this particular source. He's not sure that they would need the \$300,000 that would come from the additional \$.20. He hasn't heard a specific argument going for \$1.00, rather than \$.80, except for the fact that no one is really sure how much revenue that is really going to come from this whole thing. That would be a valid argument because this is a brand new charge and they are not sure what is going to happen, but feels that they should be acting upon the numbers that they have now.

Cmr. Brown stated that he will be voting no to the amendment. He believes that the additional \$.20 will be needed for one year. He thinks that one year would give enough money to put in an escrow account, but only be used for 911. He stated that it's a toss-up as to whether or not they will receive the cell phone money from the state. He wonders where that money will go if they do charge cell phones. He also wonders about On-Star and how they will know how to charge for that. He stated that he can't bank on money from the state because of the shape that it is in right now. He would rather protect the citizens of this community than the entire state. There is no guarantee how much money Jackson is going to get, and he's concerned that it could end up going to the bigger counties first, and Jackson getting what is left. With the city foreclosing on one thousand homes and the county foreclosing on two thousand homes this year, that makes it a possibility of losing three thousand land-line phones. He also stated that more and more people are going to cell phones. He agrees with his fellow commissioner that it is only an additional two pop cans to make up for this. He thinks they should do it, mark the money for 911, and put the money in an escrow account for one year only.

Cmr. Elwell echoed and agreed with Cmr. Poleski's comments. He clarifies that the \$.80 is what it is now and has been on the land-lines, but he thinks that it levels the playing field by assessing it onto cell phones that have not been there on that rate. He does not support increasing it by an unknown amount. He further stated that what will be generated is estimated because the money goes to the state first and then they send it back to us. He doesn't support increasing it, not knowing for sure what it is. It levels the playing field and he supports that, but he does not support increasing it. He stated that the finances for running 911 are still good without increasing this charge. As far as foreclosing on homes, he thinks that the economy has a lot to do with the foreclosures and taxes and fees are probably part of it, and he just doesn't support increasing it by an amount that they don't know what it will generate. He will be supporting the \$.80.

Moved by Herl, supported by Lutchka to Adopt Monthly 911 Surcharge Within Jackson County – as amended. Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Brown, Smith, Way, Elwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried.

C. Human Services – Commissioner Mike Way

None.

D. Personnel and Finance – Commissioner James Videto

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Report by Acting Administrator regarding the Animal Shelter Incinerator

Chairman Shotwell stated that the report has been distributed and it will follow through the committee process next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Amendment Number 2008-1 to the Jackson County Employees Retirement System Bylaws

Moved by Poleski, supported by Duckham for Amendment Number 2008-1 to the Jackson County Employees Retirement System Bylaws. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Cmr. Lutchka asked to resign from the Policy Committee. They currently meet on Wednesdays, which is also the day that he attends the Farmer's Market. He recommends that Cmr. Herl be his replacement.

Moved by Lutchka, supported by Brown to accept Cmr. Lutchka's resignation from the Policy Committee and appoint Cmr. Herl as his replacement. No other nominations from the floor. *Cmr. Herl appointed.*

Chairman Shotwell brought before the commission the issue of creating an Ad Hoc Committee to review the resources of the Sheriff's Department, which would be headed by Vice Chair Earl Poleski.

Cmr. Brittain asked what the purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee was, and how many members it will consist of.

Chairman Shotwell stated that the committee would consist of 5 members: 3 commissioners, 1 representative from the Sheriff's Department, and a representative from the township board of supervisors. He stated that the reason for the committee is to look at the possible consolidation of services under the Sheriff's Department and to look at all of the resources that department has at this time, as well as cutting costs.

Moved by Brown, supported by Elwell to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the resources of the Sheriff's Department. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – *No Public Comment.*

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Cmr. Elwell wanted to clarify some of the issues raised under public comment. Regarding the \$30,000 that was talked about to run an election for JTA, he stated that he was present for all of the meetings regarding that and he never heard any comments about having to lay people off and do other things to accomplish that. He further stated that the money to do the new animal shelter was taken from restricted funds from the public improvement building fund, which could not be used for a millage issue.

Cmr. Lutchka discussed the project RED (Rural Education Days), which is a program for 3rd graders to come to see how their food is produced and visit with the producers. It will be held on Tuesday, March 25th from about 8:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and they are in need of as many commissioners as possible to help guide kids around.

Cmr. Brown clarified that the City does in fact pay into the 911 system.

Cmr. Brittain asked that the Ad Hoc committee look into the take home vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. He stated that take home vehicles have been eliminated in every other department, and thinks they should be in the Sheriff's Department as well.

Cmr. Way thanked the Acting Administrator/Controller for his work on the incinerator study. He stated that it does look like it will be in the best interest for the county to contract that out. He feels that this study was a result of good communication between the commission and the neighbors on Ganton Drive, and that some of the research was even done by one of the residents. He thanked that resident as well.

CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the January 15, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 7:32 p.m.

James E. Shotwell – Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Amanda L. Riska – County Clerk
Respectfully submitted by Carrienne VanDusseldorp – Chief Deputy County Clerk