

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
January 16, 2007 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shotwell called the January 16, 2007 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:01 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner David Lutchka

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL (12) Present. Cmrs. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, Elwell and Chairman Shotwell.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Videto, supported by Duckham for Approval of the Agenda. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

A. *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Brittain to Adopt Resolution (07-01.4) Honoring Commissioner Phil Berkemeier.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution read by Chairman Shotwell and presented to Phil Berkemeier.

B. *Moved by Elwell, supported by Videto to Adopt Resolution (07-01.5) Honoring Commissioner DeAnn Gumbert.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. DeAnn was unable to be present for the meeting.

C. *Moved by Poleski, supported by Mahoney to Adopt Resolution (07-01.6) Honoring Commissioner Judy Reynolds.* Roll Call: (11) Yeas. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried. Resolution read by Chairman Shotwell and presented to Judy Reynolds.

D. *Moved by Way, supported by Lutchka to Adopt Resolution (07-01.7) Honoring Commissioner Greg Wilson.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Resolution read by Chairman Shotwell and presented to Greg Wilson.

E. **Update on Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP) Presentation by Mike Score, Washtenaw MSU Extension Agriculture Educator.** *Moved by Lutchka, supported by Duckham to Accept the Handouts Provided by Mike Score.* Motion carried. Cmr. Lutchka introduced Mike Score. Mr. Score discussed two business ventures that are currently being developed. One is a Biodiesel Production Facility which would extract oil from oilseed crops and convert it into biodiesel and other associated byproducts. The other is a Food Distribution Business which would help to improve consumer access to local agricultural goods.

F. **10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Presentation by Regina Funkhouser.** *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Duckham to Receive Handout.* Motion carried. Ms. Funkhouser stated that last March, the Governor asked every county in Michigan to submit a plan by October to end homelessness in their county. She said that we are the first state in the country to accomplish this task. The plan that was presented to MISHDA and the Governor was accepted and they have begun implementation. Since Ms. Funkhouser had previously given a presentation of this plan to the commissioners last year, she only reviewed a few of the main points. She also answered questions that the commissioners had.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None.

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

SPECIAL MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None.

MINUTES

Moved by Herl, supported by Mahoney to Approve the Minutes of the 11/21/06 and 12/12/06 Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Mahoney, supported by Way to Allow the Consent Agenda as Published. Motion carried.

A. **County Affairs** – None.

B. **County Agencies** – None.

C. Human Services

1. Purchase of Five Health Department Environmental Vehicles

D. Personnel & Finance

1. Purchase of Five Patrol Vehicles – Sheriff's Office

E. Claims

Claims dated 12/1/06-12/31/06 as presented to and approved by the Standing Committees

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. County Affairs – Commissioner Dave Lutchka

1. County Affairs 1/8/07 Meeting Minutes - no action required.

2. Appointment of one public member to the Department on Aging Advisory Board, term to 12/31/08. Committee nominated Michael Baughman. No other nominations from the floor. Roll call: (12) Yeas. Michael Baughman is appointed.

3. Appointment of one public member to the Hospital Finance Authority, term to 12/31/07. Committee nominated Michael Stimpson. No other nominations from the floor. Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Michael Stimpson is appointed.

B. County Agencies – Commissioner Gail W. Mahoney

1. County Agencies 1/8/07 Meeting Minutes – no action required.

C. Human Services – Commissioner Mike Way

1. Human Services 1/8/07 Meeting Minutes – no action required.

D. Personnel and Finance – Commissioner James Videto

1. Personnel and Finance 1/9/07 Meeting Minutes – no action required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Revised Policy No. 4070 – Board Rules (2 nd Reading – Action Required). *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Elwell to Approve Revised Policy No. 4070 – Board Rules.* Roll Call: (11) Yeas. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried.

B. Appointment of Commissioner to Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission. Acting Administrator Treacher stated that the reason this item is listed under Unfinished Business is because it is left over from the Organizational Meeting. They believed at that time they had information that the reappointment would be contrary to an Attorney General's opinion. Upon further research, it was determined that is not accurate. There is no Attorney General's Opinion but there is a Board Rule in LifeWays that forbids a board member of LifeWays from serving on another board with whom they may have a contract. That rule however, is not binding on the commissioners in any way shape or form. There is nothing legally that prevents Cmr. Mahoney from being reappointed to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission. *Moved by Herl, supported by Duchkham to Appoint Gail Mahoney to Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission.* No other nominations from the floor. Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried. Gail Mahoney is appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Establish Ad Hoc Committee for JacksonCounty's 175 th Anniversary *Moved by Herl, supported by Mahoney to Establish Ad Hoc Committee for JacksonCounty's 175 th Anniversary.* Cmr. Brittain feels it unnecessary to have a committee where people will be paid to look into having a celebration. Cmr. Herl thinks it is a good idea to celebrate some of the anniversaries to show the rest of the state what we are all about, especially with all of the layoffs we've had recently. He feels it's possible that it may draw in some other industries. He will be supporting the motion. Cmr. Smith thinks it's a very good idea. Cmr. Duckham also thinks it is a good idea to hold a celebration of our community to help pull people together. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried. Chairman Shotwell recognized Cmr. Mike Brown to serve as Chairman of this committee; they have discussed this previously. Cmr. Brown has a list of other organizations that are celebrating important anniversaries this year that we can possibly tie into. He agrees that we have had a lot of disappointment in our community and it's time to smile and show what we can do. Chairman Shotwell asked if there are any additional commissioners that would like to serve on that committee to speak with either himself or Cmr. Brown.

B. JTA Millage – Discussion

Cmr. Mahoney asked that the commissioners be allowed to speak on the issue and if there are questions of Cameron, that he be allowed to answer them. Chairman Shotwell said that if everyone is comfortable with that, he will follow that protocol. Cmr. Elwell feels that there needs to be a Committee of the Whole meeting before the end of the month if this issue is going to be on the May ballot. Cmr. Brittain feels that the best chance of getting the millage passed would be in a May election because there is a very low voter turn out compared to August and November. He would still like to give the people a chance to vote yes or no on it no matter what election it is in. Cmr. Mahoney agrees with Cmr. Elwell that we do need to have some further in depth discussion, perhaps a Committee of the Whole Meeting followed by a Special Meeting. She is very concerned about whether or not there will be ballot language she can support. She does support the millage and believes that the people should have the opportunity to vote but there is also still a lot that she is not ready to sign on to yet. Cmr. Duckham expressed his disappointment that the only two options they had are going to a full blown countywide bus system with the only difference between the two being an additional fixed route. He thinks that there are other options somewhere that can be sold to the townships. He doesn't believe that the millage will pass and doesn't see the need at this time for a countywide bus system. Cmr. Lutchka thinks there are other options that need to be looked at first. He agrees that we do need to have a Committee of the Whole meeting followed by a Special Meeting. Cmr. Herl agrees with Cmr. Mahoney. He is also concerned about a statement that was received in one of his e-mails regarding not going with county authority. Chairman Shotwell's thought is that if there is a Committee of the Whole meeting that is immediately followed by a Special Meeting, there won't be enough time to craft the language that is needed. Acting Administrator Treacher said that ballot language is a very particular thing and until there is a better idea of what the commissioners want to see, he can't help with that. Ballot language must be voted on before the end of the month. His suggestion would be that if there is a Committee of the Whole meeting, that they don't have the Special Board Meeting immediately following because there won't be enough time to prepare the language. Cmr. Elwell questioned the urgency of a May ballot initiative since the millage wouldn't be collected until December anyway. He doesn't want to be rushed into making a rash decision. Cmr. Duckham agrees with Cmr. Elwell in that they need more time to review it. Cmr. Brittain would like to see townships have a millage individually to see if they would support it. Cmr. Videto doesn't agree with any of the commissioners so far. He doesn't think that there is enough time to get it on the May ballot and also believes there are more options than the ones that have been presented. Cmr. Brown feels there needs to be a timeline. He wants to do it right the first time not the second time. Cmr. Poleski would like to see an audit report for 2006. He'd also like to see the internal financial statements. He agrees that a COW meeting should be held. Cmr. Elwell suggested that there be a committee meeting next week and not schedule a special meeting at this time. Cmr. Way has spoken to all three of his townships and supports this millage. He thinks it is a needed thing but there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered before moving forward. Cmr. Smith agrees with Cmr. Lutchka and Cmr. Mahoney. Chairman Shotwell feels that the decision needs to be made at a county level, in a countywide millage. He does not support what is on the table right now as a commissioner but he does support the process to come out with a clean solution. The thought right now is to have a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers to get more questions answered. He also reminded the commissioners that they can set a time limit on this so it does not go on perpetually. *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Duckham to set a Committee of the Whole Meeting on 1/23/07 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers to Discuss the JTA Millage.* Motion carried.

C. Moved by Duckham, supported by Brittain to Reconsider the Appointments to the County Standing Committees. Cmr. Mahoney asked for clarification. Moved by Duckham to Reconsider the Appointment of a Democratic Commissioner, Gail Mahoney. Chairman Shotwell said that the motion is out of order. Cmr. Duckham can either turn down the recommendations or concur per Robert's Rules. Cmr. Brittain asked if the appointments were voted on. Chairman Shotwell said yes. Cmr. Brittain said that as far as he knows if he voted yes and he is on the winning side, he can bring up that he would like to reconsider. Chairman Shotwell said he has no problem with that but he is not going to do what Cmr. Duckham is asking. A vote can be taken on all appointments on the Standing Committees that were passed out or you can decline to vote. *Moved by Elwell, supported by Herl to table the motion to reconsider.* Roll Call: (9) Yeas. (3) Nays. Cmr. Duckham, Videto & Mahoney. Motion carried.

D. Cmr. Herl asked if the information provided by Treasurer Jan Rochefort regarding closing out bonds that are over three years old will be brought forward to vote on. Chairman Shotwell said it will come forward as appropriate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cameron McCollum, General Manager of the Jackson Transit Authority, thanked the Commissioners for their consideration tonight. He stated that their audit report has been completed and it will be going before their board on the 25 th. He believes it will be another clean audit. He asked the commissioners to get the questions that they'd like answers to and they will do their best to answer them. They will also attempt to do whatever they can to provide other options.

Estelle Graves, a resident of Leoni Township, has been before the board before to speak on issues of JTA. She thanked the commissioners for what they did tonight and is available to answer any questions they may have from a parent's perspective.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Brittain feels that if Cmr. Duckham would have been allowed to finish the discussion as to his motion, it would have given the rest of the commissioners a clearer idea of what it was about. He said it was a legitimate motion that was made and when it calls for discussion, he should be allowed to finish. Chairman could have provided his input after the discussion.

Cmr. Poleski likes the idea of a countywide transportation authority. He knows that there are a lot of people who desperately need it that don't have a lot of other options. Whether we are ready for that or not is another question. He is looking forward to talking about it next week.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The January 16, 2007 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. by Chairman Shotwell.

Steve Shotwell – Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Sandy Crowley – Jackson County Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Amanda L. Rutan – Chief Deputy County Clerk