

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
November 21, 2006 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Steve Shotwell called the November 21, 2006 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Mahoney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

(10) Present. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Reynolds, Videto, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Gumbert, & Shotwell. (2) Absent. Cmr. Smith & Wilson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Gumbert supported by Duckham to Approve the Agenda. Chairman Shotwell asked if there are any corrections or deletions. Cmr. Herl stated that item 13A3 should be removed at this time. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

A. **Employee of the Month for November 2006** – Billie Leutz, Deputy District Court Clerk. She was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

Moved by Videto supported by Gumbert to receive communication from David Emmons, President of Emmons Service. Motion carried. The Clerk handed out to each commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At 7:05 p.m. the agenda moved forward to number 9 to allow for public comment. Chairman Shotwell advised that he would be stopping at 7:15 p.m. for the Public Hearing.

Steve Czarnecki, President and CEO of The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc. wished everyone a happy and safe holiday. He introduced Amy Torres, the new director of Economic Development, who is replacing Dave Miller. She will be working on behalf of the county as the staff person to the county Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and the County Economic Development Corporation. She will also be their lead person on their retention program. Amy spoke and said she is really excited to be part of the Enterprise Group Team and also working with the county and various municipalities. She looks forward to making some good progress and a bright future.

Judy Dynnik, Volunteer Executive Director for the Jackson County Volunteers Against Pound Seizure spoke. She congratulated all of the commissioners who won re-election and gave her best wishes to the ones outgoing in their future endeavors. Ms. Dynnik announced that the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan presented her with a Sadie Award on behalf of the volunteers work to stop pound seizure in Jackson County. She also spoke about the increase of pets at the shelter due to the end of pound seizure. She is hoping that this commission and the new commission will look into having the shelter open for a few hours on the weekend. This would allow working people time to locate lost pets and also allow more time for pet adoptions.

Mike Trudell introduced himself. He has applied for the appointment of the County Road Commission. He said has been instrumental as a Summit Township Board Member for 16 years in road construction. He feels that he is capable and ready to work with the county and all of its residence for the safety and well being of our roads. He would greatly appreciate the commissioner's support.

Public comment concluded at 7:12 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None.

MINUTES:

Moved by Reynolds supported by Mahoney to Approve Minutes of the 9/19/06 and 10/17/06 Regular Meetings of the JacksonCounty Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Herl supported by Mahoney to approve the consent agenda. Brittain would like to move item 12A2 to CountyAffairs. Motion carried.

A. County Affairs

1. Enterprise Fund 2007 Budget

2. Jackson County Resource Recovery Facility Revised Depreciation Schedules

3. Drain Commissioner 2005 Annual Report

4. Sparks Foundation County Park/Cascades Falls Master Plan

B. County Agencies

5. JacksonCountyContract for Provision of PA 511 Services

6. Livestock Loss Claim

7. Agreement Between Contractor Agency and Region 2 Area Agency on Aging for Provision of Services to Older Adults

D. Personnel & Finance

8. Budget Adjustments:
 - a. Parks Golf Course Funds

 - b. JacksonCounty Animal Control Shelter

 - c. Jackson County Fair

 - d. Sheriff Department – Marine Law Enforcement

 - e. Department on Aging

 - f. General Fund Wage/Float Adjustment

 - g. General Fund Miscellaneous

 - h. Miscellaneous Funds Year End Adjustments

E. Claims dated 10/01/06-10/31/06 as presented to and approved by the Standing Committees:

County Affairs	\$408,474.48
County Agencies	714,353.97
Human Services	119,447.60
Personnel & Finance	174,108.15

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. Public hearing on the 2007 General Fund Budget.

Randy Treacher stated that the law requires a public hearing to be held. Notice of the hearing has been published in the newspaper under Public Acts. The purpose for the hearing tonight is to hear comments from members of the public. No one came forward to speak on this issue.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. County Affairs – Commissioner Dave Lutchka

1. County Affairs 11/13/06 Meeting Minutes – No action required.

2. *Moved by Lutchka to Appoint One Township Representative, Raymond Snell to the Land Bank Authority.* No other nominations from the floor. Roll call: (9) Yeas. (1) Nay – Gumbert. Motion carried.

3. Removal of Appointee from County Building Authority.

Item 12A2-Consent Agenda. *Moved by Lutchka supported by Mahoney to Approve the Jackson County Resource Recovery Facility Revised Depreciation Schedules.* Cmr. Brittain said that he did vote in favor of it in committee but he has since discussed issues with Cmr. Herl. He feels that the county needs to take over the Resource Recovery Facility to run themselves because it will save a considerable amount of money. He stated that Cmr. Herl led him to believe at the Board of Public Works Meeting that it has already been part of the discussion or is an intention to look into it to bring the costs back down on the tipping fees. Chairman Shotwell said that last month the Board of Public Works directed the ARI Group to begin discussions with the possibility of opening that contract for renegotiation or a discussion of the alternatives on it. Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

B. County Agencies – Commissioner Judy Reynolds

1. County Agencies 11/13/06 Meeting Minutes - No action required.

2. *Moved by Reynolds supported by Berkemeier to Approve the Purchase of a Digital Recording System for the Circuit Court.* Cmr. Brittain stated that he would be voting against it and he also voted against it in committee. He thinks that just because they have the money in the budget now doesn't mean that it needs to be spent, especially due to losing state revenue sharing. He'd like to see it wait one more year and believes that spending \$10,000-\$15,000 on the needed repairs is more feasible than spending over \$100,000 to upgrade the system. Cmr. Reynolds said that as a representative with the judges, she meets with them and she knows the problems that they've had. If one of the systems goes down they have to move all of the people and the judge to another courtroom. She knows they have had to do this before so she knows there is a problem. She would like all commissioners to vote for this. Cmr. Gumbert thinks that more than the inconveniences of having everybody move to another courtroom, there are a lot more expenses incurred with having to pay attorney fees while trials are delayed. Cmr. Brittain asked how many times in the last five years have we had to move a trial. Charles Adkins approached the podium to answer. He said doesn't know the exact number but believes its around two to three times a year maybe even more. Roll call: (9) Yeas. (1) Nay – Brittain. Motion carried.

3. *Moved by Reynolds supported by Mahoney to Approve the County Clerk to Charge a \$25 fee to Solemnize a Marriage.* Roll call: (9) Yeas. (1) Nay – Brittain.

4. At this time, Chairman Shotwell asked Cmr. Reynolds to postpone Item 4 to wait for the public hearing that will occur at 7:30 p.m.

C. Human Services – Commissioner Phil Berkemeier

1. Human Services 11/13/06 Meeting Minutes – No action required.

D. Personnel and Finance – Commissioner James Videto

1. Personnel & Finance 11/13/06 Meeting Minutes – No action required.

2. *Moved by Videto supported by Reynolds to Adopt Resolution (11-06.61) Authorizing Funding for the Jackson County Land Bank Authority as Amended.* Cmr. Mahoney said that she certainly supports the Land Bank Authority and she is a member of it but she would ask the Chair to ask the Policy Committee to consider a policy on the people who we give the advances to. There is no policy at this time for reviewing them and currently there are several advances out. Chairman Shotwell said that the Administration will move it to the committee. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3. *Moved by Videto supported by Berkemeier to Adopt Resolution (11-06.55) for the Adoption of Amendment No. 4 for the County of Jackson Amended and Restated Section 125 Cafeteria Plan.* Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

4. *Moved by Videto supported by Reynolds to Adopt Resolution (11-06.56) to Establish the 2007 Budget for Special Revenue Enterprise, Capital Project, and Internal Services Funds for the County of Jackson.* Cmr. Mahoney offered an amendment to this resolution because of some budget overages from the Sheriff's Department. *Mahoney moved supported by Brittain for the Commission to Consider Removing the Allowance*

of the Sheriff to Have a New Car. Roll Call on the amendment: (5) Yeas. (5) Nays – Herl, Lutchka, Reynolds, Berkemeier and Gumbert. Motion to amend fails due to a tie.

Cmr. Mahoney stated that she will not be able to support this entire resolution because she does not feel she can support the Sheriff to receive a brand new car when his budget is \$126,000 over, especially when every other department head in this county tries to come in at or below budget. His car is only two years old and it is not a road car, it is his personal car. She will be voting against this entire resolution.

Cmr. Brittain would like to echo what Cmr. Mahoney said and also would like to bring to everyone's attention that there are either five or six vehicles that are take home vehicles in that department; the cost ranges approximately \$7000 to \$7500 additional per vehicle, per year. He can't understand why anyone would want to pass this resolution, especially if they can't come in under or at their budget,

Gumbert moved supported by Mahoney to separate the question.

Cmr. Mahoney clarified the separation by saying if we separate this motion we will have an opportunity to reconsider and vote. She said we need to establish our budget and special revenue fund but it may be delayed because people now understand it and may vote against it. She is not trying to stop this part of the budget, she simply wants to pull the item out separate and revote on everything else in the budget other than the Sheriff's budget under the equipment fund.

Chairman Shotwell said that the separation to Resolution (11-06.56) to Establish the 2007 Budget for Special Revenue Enterprise, Capital Project, and Internal Services Funds for the County of Jackson, shall be the equipment fund, Item 402. Cmr. Gumbert added that if somebody had made a phone call that would have passed the first time but not all commissioners were aware of what was going on. Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. (Skipped back to 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing)

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

B. Public Hearing on a Brownfield Plan for 325 Watts Road (former Yo Manufacturing Site) 7:30 p.m.

Debbie Kelly from the Enterprise Group of Jackson stated the purpose of the proposed Brownfield Plan is to reimburse the County B.R.A. for all of their grant expenditures and also for doing an environmental assessment for the former Yo Manufacturing Site. The site was purchased by PT&T Machining this past summer. They will be investing almost a half million dollars into the building and new equipment and machinery. They are planning to create 15 new jobs in the next three to five years. The plan will also give them an opportunity to pursue a single business tax credit if they so choose. PT&T is a small machine shop that does some CNC machining work and she believes they currently employ seven employees. She said it is definitely a benefit to the community. No questions or comments from the public. Public hearing closed at 7:33 p.m.

Moved by Reynolds supported by Mahoney to Adopt Resolution (11-06.53) Approving a Brownfield Plan for 325 Watts Road (former Yo Manufacturing Site). Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

D. Personnel and Finance – Commissioner James Videto (Videto's committee resumed on Item 4)

4. Moved by Videto supported by Reynoldsto Adopt Resolution (11-06.56) to Establish the 2007 Budget for Special Revenue Enterprise, Capital Project, and Internal Services Funds for the County of Jackson with the separation of the equipment fund, Item 402.

Discussion was held and comments were made on this issue by several commissioners. Chairman Shotwell clarified the vote by referencing the budget page and the new equipment fund summary, line 301. He said the five patrol cars will be left in and only the plain patrol unit car will be removed. If you are voting for removal, you will be voting yes, if you are voting to keep it, you will be voting no. Roll call: (9) Yeas. (1) Nay – Reynolds. Motion carried.

5. Moved by Videto supported by Mahoney to Adopt Resolution (11-06.57) Jackson County 2007 General Appropriations Act. Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Moved by Videto to Adopt Resolution (11-06.58) to Provide a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Jackson County Road Commissioners for Fiscal Year 2007. Motion died for lack of support.

7. Moved by Videto supported by Brittain **to Adopt Resolution (11-06.59) to Amend the Compensation Plan for the County of Jackson to Add a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Step Adjustments for Non-Union County Employees for Fiscal Years 2007-2009.** Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Moved by Videto supported by Mahoney **to Adopt Resolution (11-06.60) to Amend the Compensation Plan for the County of Jackson to Add a 2% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and Step Adjustments for County-Wide Elected Officials for Fiscal Years 2007-2009.** Cmr. Brittain stated that he will not support this resolution. He thinks that if he is going to increase their own salaries or any other elected officials, it should be up to the people to vote that in for them. He knows that may never happen. Cmr. Lutchka just wanted to point out that the resolution pertains only to elected officials, not county commissioners. Cmr. Mahoney stated that she will be supporting this resolution and she will also be supporting it when it comes up next month for the county commissioners. She said that if you don't support it, you are in fact giving them a decrease in pay. Roll call: (7) Yeas. (3) Nays – Lutchka, Brittain and Duckham. Motion carried.

9. Moved by Videto supported by Herl **to Adopt Resolution (11-06.62) Supporting Senate Bill 1360 Regarding Borrowing for Post Employee Benefits.** Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Moved by Videto supported by Reynoldsto **Approve the 402 Fund (minus the car).** Roll call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Legislation Regarding Size of Road Commission

Acting Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher stated that he was asked by Committee to look into whether or not this board had the authority to change the size of the Road Commission. They did that and found that legislation has not been passed nor is it anticipated to pass in this legislative session according to MAC and the legislators. There is no action that this board can take at this time.

Cmr. Brittain said that the reason he brought it up in committee was because if it did pass, he'd like to look at appointing two commissioners instead of one. Then they could reduce the salaries of the commissioners all together. If the amount will be kept at three he'd like to recommend that all the salaries be reduced to at least an amount that is similar to what they currently make. Right now there is no accountability with the Road Commission. They have been asked in the past to mark their vehicles with a Road Commission emblem so someone could tell that the vehicles they drive around are for work and not personal use. They have snubbed the commission on that. He hopes that his recommendation is taken seriously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Cmr. Mahoney feels it's important to say she is going to support the increase for the County Commission next month due to it being eight years since they've had one. The only reason she didn't support the increase for the Road Commission is because they didn't ask for one. Because this commission saw fit not to give the Acting Administrator one because he didn't ask for one, she will be supporting that. She feels it's important to say because she doesn't want anyone to think she is inconsistent.

Cmr. Brittain would like to commend everyone for voting against the vehicle for the Sheriff's Department. He has the utmost respect for each individual who voted for it.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The November 21, 2006 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned by Chairman Shotwell at 7:55 p.m.

Steve Shotwell – Chair, Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Sandy Crowley – Jackson County Clerk

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