

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
December 18, 2001 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairman James Rice called the December 18, 2001 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 5:01 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Cmr. Mahoney-Sherrod

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: (13) Present.

Cmrs. Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Rice, Baum, DeForest, Reynolds, Adams, Herl, Elwell, Pascal, Beardslee, Brittain, & Day. (1) Absent. Chairman Lacinski.

There was a special Holiday presentation of the Northwest High School Vocal Dimension. Directed by Wendy Treacher, introduced by Randy Treacher.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by McNitt supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

Employee of the Month of December Award was presented to Mary Ricciardello, Clinical Services Manager, Health Department by Vice-Chair Jim Rice. Remarks by Ted Westmeier, Health Officer.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment began at 5:32 p.m. with the following people asking for consideration:

- Kathleen Mahoney-Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council
- Roger Gaede-Parks Commission
- Nancy Cross-Jackson District Library Board
- Sidonie Squier- Parks Commission & Jackson County Fair Board
- Jeff Peterson-District 13 Commission Seat
- Randi DeVries-Parks Commission
- Alan Miltich-District 13 Commission Seat
- David Irvine-Department on Aging & Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council
- Janet Berkemeier-Parks Commission

Ken Miller, Interim Director of the Jackson District Library, also spoke during Public Comment and told the Commission that the Library depends on them to choose good Board members.

Dan Burich, Supervisor of Columbia Township spoke in support of Roger Gaede for the Parks Commission.

At this point, Public Comment was interrupted in order to proceed to Special Order, which was scheduled at 5:45 p.m.

SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Public Hearing on the 9-1-1 Service Plan Amendment which Implements an Operational Surcharge.

This public hearing opened at 5:47 p.m. with Ron Addison voicing his disapproval of the 9-1-1 surcharge. He thinks there should be an alternative to making the citizens pay an additional surcharge. He also added that when he received his cell phone bill, there was a surcharge on it so he cancelled his service.

Alfred Warwick also voiced his opposition to the surcharge. He suggested allowing the voters to make the decision on the surcharge. He also wanted answers to the following questions:

1. What does updating mean?
2. How were funds obtained for the original 9-1-1?
3. Who is providing the equipment?
4. Are competitive bids being accepted?
5. Based on the expected amount, is the surcharge going to be removed after 1 year?

Lt. Kevin Stellingworth offered to provide some answers. Lt. Stellingworth first addressed the cell phone surcharge indicating that the State of Michigan, not Jackson County, imposes this surcharge. Jackson must be compliant or the money would go to other communities.

He indicated that the original 9-1-1 was paid for by a .50 surcharge that was dropped 5 years ago. It was unknown at that time how fast technology would progress and change. At that time the money was used to purchase the original 9-1-1 equipment. There were 138 Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) purchased to equip all of the police and fire agencies in Jackson County. This new surcharge is to update the outdated equipment.

A company has been hired to determine what updates are needed and assess what would be the best buy. Comparison tests will be run. Each unit will cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000.

Mr. Warwick had some additional comments about desktop computers at which time Rice indicated that this was not time for debate and that the Board was really extending this Public Comment by allowing Lt. Stellingworth to answer some questions.

Nancy Seydell, the Tompkins Township Supervisor spoke and indicated that everyone she has talked with wants 9-1-1 service and feels the surcharge is a small price to pay for the security of being able to pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment was resumed with the following people asking for consideration:

- Larry Gerth-Traffic Safety Commission
- Leslie Evans-Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council
- Kathryn Williams-Fair Board & Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council

Tom Davis, The Member at Large of the Jackson County Airport Board, gave a report of what he considers a great year. He reported that the ground lease had been agreed on. The lease was given strong approval by both legal teams.

A special meeting was held at the airport last month with Jim Downer, who is the Program Coordinator of Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics and Steve Vertelka, Aviation Specialist from the Bureau of Transportation and Planning. Mr. Davis felt that they presented very compelling information that General Aviation is going to be the mode of travel in the near future as Commercial Aviation becomes saturated. They felt that Jackson was going to be a very important part in that. Mr. Davis offered to set up a presentation for the Board by Mr. Downer and Mr. Vertelka.

To conclude his presentation Mr. Davis said that in the last year they have solved the ground lease dispute, been designated a tier one airport and that the economic impact generated will continue to grow.

Public Comment closed at 6:12 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by DeForest to Approve the consent Agenda items A through AC as contained in the following

Consent Agenda list:

- A. *Approve the Minutes of the November 5, 2001 Committee of the Whole*

- B. *Approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2001 Closed Session*
- C. *Approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2001 Regular Board Meeting*

COUNTY AFFAIRS:

- D. *Give second and final reading to an increase in the Fleet Garage hourly service rate from \$24 to \$28, plus 10% on parts, for Blackman Township Public Safety*

COUNTY AGENCIES:

- E. *Approve the Support Emergency Action Guidelines for Blackman Township*

HUMAN SERVICES:

- F. *Receive the FY 2000 Health Department Annual Report*
- G. *Allow the Health Officer to search for alternate funding – from the Department on Aging's Worksite Grant and/or from the Health Department Fund Balance (approx. \$20,000), in order to continue the Health Educator position at full-time through September 30, 2002*

- H. *Repair the Mobile Health Unit in the approximate amount of \$5,526, with the budget to be adjusted at the end of the year from the Health Department Fund Balance*

PERSONNEL & FINANCE

- I. *Approve the Facilities budget adjustments associated with rent payments and maintenance of building expenses*
- J. *Approve the Equalization budget adjustment of \$16,000 for payment on the Equalization Services Contract with Darling Appraisal Service with monies to come from Contingency*
- K. *Approve the Register of Deeds budget adjustments which will over the balance in the Register of Deed's Equipment Fund to be used for software upgrades in January, 2002*
- L. *Approve the Airport Budget adjustment in the amount of \$75,727*
- M. *Approve the Airport Public Improvement and Building Fund budget adjustment appropriating \$411,633 from Fund Balance to the 2001 Airport budget*
- N. *Approve the budget adjustments as submitted by Mark Baker of the Prosecutor's Office in the amount of \$26,114 that adjust accounts for the JNET position*
- O. *Approve the creation of a part-time Paralegal position for the Prosecutor's Office to perform forfeitures for the Court*
- P. *Approve the personnel expense adjustment of \$13,326 for the District Court Domestic Violence Grant from October 1 until December 31, 2001*
- Q. *Approve the transfer of 2001 Float Money to the District Court department budget*
- R. *Approve transferring \$18,500 from the Circuit Court main budget into their Capital/Equipment line account for the purchase of a digital audio recording system for their Family Court Referee and for replacement of their main court copier*
- S. *Approve the transfer of 2001 Float Money to the Circuit/Family Court department budget*
- T. *Approve the Animal Control year-end budget adjustments, leaving the net of the adjustment at \$4,273 and moving that amount to the Contingency Account*

U. Approve the Department on Aging budget adjustment in the amount of \$11,700 due to an revenue increase in USDA dollars

V. Approve the Health Department returning \$80,000 of the Healthy Families money, allocating \$55,000 of that money to the County's Contingency Fund and re-allocating \$25,000 back to the Health Department to continue with the abstinence program for 15-17 year olds in 2002

W. Implementation of the supplemental actuarial evaluation rates as determined by the December 6, 2001 Actuarial Report from Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company, effective December 31, 2001, as follows:

1. For those who selected the 2.25% multiplier, the additional cost of the increase is 2.83% for a total of 5.33%.

2. For those who selected the 2.50% multiplier, the additional cost of the increase is 5.35% for a total of 7.85%.

X. Amend the May 15, 2001 motion which required performance evaluation training on the new procedures be mandatory for all County employees who conduct performance evaluations by adding a request that, in the spirit of cooperation and accommodation, that the Courts adopt a similar policy of required training for Court employees who conduct performance evaluations

Y. Approve the budget adjustment which applies the Float Policy, Fiscal Policy 1040, to the 2002 budget

Z. Approve the budget adjustment which distributes the upgrade and new position funds in the amount of \$367,286 to the 2002 budget

AA. Transfer \$36,267 from Contingency to the Public Improvement and Building Fund to cover the difference between the approved budget and approved contract relative to Judge Lefere's courtroom renovation project

AB. Approve the miscellaneous December, 2001 budget adjustments as prepared by the Deputy County Administrator

AC. Receive the 2001 Annual Report of the Jackson County Hospital Finance Authority

Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. County Affairs:

1) December Board/Committee/Commission Appointments

Airport Board:

County Affairs recommends the appointments of Commissioners Jim Rice for 3 years and Ken Beardslee for 1 year to the Airport Board. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Brittain to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Department on Aging Advisory Council:

County Affairs recommends the appointments of Frank Weathers, Jr., David Irvine, Troy Ganton, Marjorie Stiles, Robert Laskovich, George Brannick and Joe Evans to the seven vacant seats on the Department on Aging Advisory Council for 2-year terms. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Reynolds to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

EMS Commission – Designated Seats:

County Affairs recommends the appointment of Dr. John Maino to the Medical Director of Jackson

County Medical Control Authority Board seat, Sheriff Zavislak to the Sheriff Department Seat, Phil Milhoan to the Foote Hospital seat, and Harold Hoaglin to the Michigan Township Association Seat for 3-year terms. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Herl to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot.* Motion carried.

Fair Board:

County Affairs recommends the re-appointment of Commissioner Cliff Herl to the Commissioner seat and DeAnn Gumbert or Kathryn Williams for the one public seat on the Fair Board for 3-year terms.

Moved by Brittain to nominate Sidonie Squier. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Pascal to close nominations for the Commission Seat and cast unanimous ballot. Motion carried. Herl was re-appointed to the Fair Board.

Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Elwell to close nominations for the Public Seat and proceed to ballot. Motion carried. Roll call: (10)Gumbert - Cmr. DeForest, Herl, Adams, Beardslee, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Elwell, Reynolds, & Rice. (2) Squiers - Cmr. Baum & Brittain. DeAnn Gumbert was appointed to the Fair Board.

Jackson District Library:

County Affairs recommends Henry Jenkins and Nancy S. Cross to the two vacant seats on the Library Board for 4-year terms. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Brittain to close nominations & cast unanimous ballot.* Motion carried.

Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission:

County Affairs recommends David Irvine to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission for a 2-year term. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod to nominate Leslie Evans. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Elwell to close nominations and proceed to ballot.* Motion carried. Roll call: (9) Irvine – Cmr. Herl, Adams, Beardslee, McNitt, Elwell, Reynolds, DeForest, Day, & Rice. (4) Evans-Cmr. Pascal, Baum, Brittain, Mahoney-Sherrod. David Irvine was appointed to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission.

Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council:

County Affairs recommends Kathryn Williams to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council for a 2-year term. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod to nominate Kathleen Mahoney. Moved by Brittain to nominate Alicia Huyghebart. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Pascal to close nominations and proceed to ballot.* Motion carried. (11) Mahoney – Cmr. Pascal, Adams, Baum, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Elwell, Reynolds, DeForest, Herl, & Rice. (1) Williams – Cmr. Beardslee. (1) Huyghebart – Cmr. Brittain. Kathleen Mahoney was appointed to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Advisory Council.

Parks Commission:

County Affairs recommends the re-appointment of Commissioner Betty Jo DeForest to the Commissioner seat and Randi DeVries, Janet Berkemeier, or Roger Gaede for the two public seats on the Parks Commission for 3-year terms. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Reynolds to close nominations and cast unanimous vote for DeForest.* Motion carried.

Moved by Day to nominate Gary Lamm. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Reynolds to close nominations and proceed to ballot. Motion carried. (8) DeVries – Cmr. Adams, Beardslee, Baum, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, DeForest, & Herl. (3) Gaede – Cmr. Elwell, Reynolds, & Rice. (2) Berkemeier – Cmr. Pascal & Brittain. Randi DeVries was appointed to the first public seat on the Parks Commission.

(7) Berkemeier – Cmr. Beardslee, Brittain, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, DeForest, Herl, & Pascal. (5) Gaede – Cmr. Adams, Baum, Elwell, Reynolds, & Rice. (1) Lamm – Cmr. Day. Janet Berkemeier was appointed to the second public seat on the Parks Commission.

Region 2 Planning Commission:

County Affairs recommends the re-appointment of Warren Renando and Chet Taraskiewicz to the Region 2 Planning Commission for 3-year terms. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Baum to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot.* Motion carried.

South Central MI Consortium Board:

County Affairs recommends the re-appointment of Commissioners Betty Jo DeForest, John Day, and Gail Mahoney-Sherrod to the regular seats and Commissioner Floyd Baum to the Alternate seat on the

South Central MI Consortium Board for 1-year terms. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Herl to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot.* Motion carried.

Traffic Safety Commission:

County Affairs recommends the appointment of either Robert L. Eby or Larry A. Gerth for the one Public Seat on the Traffic Safety Commission a 2-year term. *Moved by Baum supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to close nominations and proceed to ballot.* Motion carried. (13) Gerth. Larry A. Gerth was appointed unanimously to the Traffic Safety Commission.

2) *Moved by Day supported by Reynolds to adopt the Resolution pertaining to the modification of the former Concrete Tile Plant Renaissance Subzone in the County of Jackson.* Roll call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

B. County Agencies

Moved by McNitt supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to approve the Resolution Adopting the 9-1-1 Service Plan amendment that implements an operational surcharge. Beardslee had a telephone call from a 77-year old woman who was unable to attend the meeting. He told her that he would voice her concerns about another .70 coming out of her social security. He would be voting in favor however.

Elwell was concerned that the verbiage in the Public Notice included the words “technological upgrade” and wanted to know if that phrase was included in the amendment. Stellingworth answered that was the full intent of the plan. Chet read the Public Act that clarified that the money could be used for personnel costs, not restricted to equipment only. The City’s 9-1-1 surcharge will be used for the operation of the center, with another approximate amount of \$35,000 being used for equipment. All of the County’s \$400,000 would be set aside in a special fund, just as the cell phone surcharge is, to be used for equipment replacement.

Brittain agreed with the gentlemen that spoke during Public Comment. The taxpayers should be allowed to choose where their tax money goes.

Adams pointed out that if someone does not want to pay the additional \$8.40 a year, they are not obligated to have phone service. We had a surcharge once and it was a mistake to remove it. No one could predict at what a fast rate technology was going to progress. Roll call: (12) Yeas. Cmr.McNitt, Elwell, Reynolds, DeForest, Herl, Pascal, Adams, Beardslee, Baum, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, & Rice. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain.

McNitt concluded his report with the information that Jackson County has 21 inmates boarded out to 3 different counties. There is a growing concern that other counties will also be running out of room soon.

C. Human Services-

No report.

D. Personnel & Finance:

1) *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by DeForest to adopt the Resolution to Authorize Execution of Jackson County Water Supply Facilities (Village of Parma Section) Contract and to Provide for Certain*

Other Matters Pertaining Thereto Pursuant to the Provisions of Act 185.

Roll Call: (13) Yeas. Motion

carried unanimously.

2) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Elwell to adopt the Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Series 2002A Bonds (LDFAs) for Jackson County Water Supply Facilities (Village of Parma Section) Roll Call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Brittain to adopt the Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Series 2002B Bonds for Jackson County Water Supply Facilities (Village of Parma Section) Roll call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

4) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported Elwell to approve the Administrative Policies as revised, which includes:

A. Transferring Admin. Policy No. 5070 for Inclusion in Personnel Policy No. 3010 (New and Vacant Positions)

B. Eliminating Admin. Policy No. 5080 and Creating Personnel Policy No. 3190 (Job Descriptions)

C. Incorporating Admin. Policy No. 5100 into Board Rule No. 4120 (Requests for Copies – Commissioners)

D. Eliminating Admin. Policy No. 5180 and Creating Board Rule No. 4125 (Authorization for Approval or Disapproval of Tax Abatements)

Motion carried.

5) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Baum to temporarily hold off hiring for the Service Improvement Program position for 90 days after the first of the year, or until the March meeting, to provide more time for study and input. Motion carried.

6) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Herl to allocate \$100,000 from the Jackson County Child Care Fund budget (\$50,000 to be repaid), with no additional money from the General Fund, for the Opportunity School Treatment Program. Motion carried.

7) Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Baum to allocate the monetary requests of the Goals Teams in the amount of \$47,000, as follows, and carry over the balance of the goals money to the 2002 budget

1. Improve the Use of Technology—no request at this time

2. Improve Facilities Infrastructure \$ 2,000

3. Enhance Customer Service with a Service Improvement Plan \$ 0

4. Focus on Healthy Families \$35,000

5. Promote Economic Development \$10,000

Rice had been asked by the Facilities Infrastructure Team to amend their amount to \$25,000 in order to have a professional assessment. Mahoney-Sherrod accepted the amendment to her motion and it was supported by Herl. The amended motion was carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by DeForest to Schedule a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. to appoint an Interim Commissioner to Represent District 13.

Elwell suggested waiting until after the seating of the new Chair to do the appointment. Mahoney-Sherrod thought that the Interim Commissioner should be a part of the selection of the Chair. Rice indicated that by law nothing could be decided before the seating of the Chair. Mahoney-Sherrod suggested a special meeting to be held just before the organizational meeting. DeForest reminded the Board that they would also be doing the budget adjustments at the December 27, 2001 meeting that would have to take place before the end of the calendar year. Motion carried.

Chet clarified the filling of the vacancy. The appointment must be made within 30 days of the vacancy. Since the vacancy occurred in an odd numbered year, a special election must be held as soon as can be arranged. Then in the fall there will be an election for the new Commission Districts.

The question was called for. There was concern about attendance or lack thereof at the special meeting. After an informal poll it was determined

that the majority would be able to attend on December 27, 2001. Motion carried.

Chet reminded the Commissioners that there are 6 applications for review. Reynolds asked if those could be e-mailed to them.

CONSIDERATION & ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:

Moved by McNitt supported by Elwell to consider the claims. Motion carried.

Mahoney-Sherrod passed on her thanks to Chet and staff for arranging the special meeting, the singers, and the gifts.

Day passed on greetings from Vern Webster.

Rice wished everyone a good and safe holiday from all of the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Roger Gaede thanked the Commission for their consideration and also wished everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Edwina Divins, a perspective applicant for the Library Board asked for the support of the Board. She also asked for support on behalf of her husband, David Divins, as he is out of town. He is an applicant for the Parks Commission. She was informed that the positions had already been voted on.

Larry Gerth thanked the Board for his appointment to the Traffic Safety Commission.

Kathleen Mahoney also thanked the Board for her appointment to the Mid-South Substance abuse Commission.

Moved by DeForest supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried.

The December 18, 2001 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

James Rice – Vice Chairman; Sandy Crowley – County Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk.