

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
February 20, 2007 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steve Shotwell, at 7:00 p.m.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

A. A presentation by the Black History Tour Group from Jackson High School performed under the direction of Mrs. Shirley Pitts. (7:01 - 7:19 p.m.)

INVOCATION

Commissioner Duckham

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Sandra L. Crowley, County Clerk

Roll Call: (10) Present: Cmr. Herl, Brittain, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Brown, Smith, Way, Elwell & Shotwell. (2)
Absent: Cmr. Lutchka & Mahoney.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS

- None (Taken out of order)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Herl, supported by Duckham to approve the Agenda as Published. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS, continued:

B. Heroes to Hometown Presentation - American Legion Post 29 Commander, Christopher R. Backus, Sr., and Dave Welihan, Veterans Affairs.

Both Dave Welihan and Commander Backus spoke about the program (from hospital to home) and asked Commissioners for their support and to adopt a Resolution in support of the same.

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of Jackson County Regarding the Applications for U.S. EPA Environmental Assessment and Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grants in the County of Jackson, Michigan

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:37 p.m. Debbie Kelly spoke on behalf of the Enterprise Group. Hearing no questions or public comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:39 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Reynolds commented on Phil Berkemeier 's surgery; requested appointment to the Community Corrections Advisory Board and advised that SPSM will be closing part of the prison.

Nelson Taylor spoke regarding the problems with opening his restaurant in Leoni Township.

John Wilson spoke regarding the airport property sale and the use of taxpayers' money.

Ray Snell, Blackman Township Supervisor, asked for help from DDA, spoke regarding the airport property sale and the help his family has received from the Veterans Affairs Office.

Public Comment was closed at 7:51 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

MINUTES:

- A. Minutes of the 2/07 Organizational Meeting
- Minutes of the 1/16/07 Regular Board Meeting
- Minutes of the 1/19/07 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Commissioner Poleski requested that a correction be made on page 5 of the Organizational Meeting Minutes to reflect that Mike Brown and Mike Way were appointed to the Cascades Renovation Project Commission. (Original Minutes listed Mike Brown twice.) Commissioner Poleski also requested that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes reflect the names of the Ad Hoc Committee appointed regarding the JTA millage. After checking into this, it was discovered that the Ad Hoc Committee was formed at the Study Session Meeting held on February 2, 2007, not at the Committee of the Whole Meeting. The Minutes of the Study Session have been revised to include the Ad Hoc Committee members which are Cmr. Poleski and Elwell and acting County Administrator, Randy Treacher as the main members and Cmr. Brown as an alternate.

Moved by Brittain, supported by Brown to receive the Minutes of the Meetings listed above of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Videto, supported by Elwell to Accept the Consent Agenda Items A through E as follows:

A. County Affairs:

1. County Planning Services Agreement between the County of Jackson and Region 2 Planning Commission

B. County Agencies:

None

C. Human Services:

None

D. Personnel & Finance:

1. Revised Non-Union Handbook
2. Authorization for Bidding of Masonry Repairs for the Courthouse
3. Authorization for Bidding of Masonry Repairs for the Northlawn Building
4. Elimination of a Full Time position and creation of a Part Time position at the Youth Center
5. Purchase of Vehicles for Department on Aging
6. Adoption of an Early Retirement Option for the Jackson County Medical Care Facility regarding Section 8 "Normal Retirement Conditions" of the Jackson County Employee's Retirement System By-Laws
7. Budget Adjustments - MSU Extension and Parks

E. Claims:

1. Claims dated 1/1/07 - 1/31/07 as presented to and approved by the Standing Committees

Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEES:**A. County Affairs - Commissioner Philip Duckham, Vice-Chair**

1. County Affairs 2/5/07 Meeting Minutes. (No action required.)
2. Appointment to Jackson County Land Bank Authority (new position) - one real estate member with term expiring 10/31/2009.
Committee recommends DeAnn Gumbert be appointed. No other nominations from the floor were received. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Appointment to Community Corrections Advisory Board - one public member with an indefinite term.

Committee recommends Judy Reynolds be appointed. No other nominations from the floor were received. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Appointment to Supervisors' = Meetings - Commissioner appointment with term expiring 2009.

Committee recommends Commission Poleski. No other nominations from the floor were received. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution (02-07.9) Authorizing Negotiation with Ramco-Gershenson for Purchase of Approximately 68 Acres of Jackson County Property Located near I-94 and Doney Road.

Moved by Duckham; supported by Elwell to adopt Resolution (02-07.9)
Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Resolution (02-07.11) to Authorize Partial Redemption of Series 1994 Clark Lake Bonds.

Moved by Duckham; supported by Brittain to adopt Resolution (02-07.11)
Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

B. County Agencies - Commissioner Earl Poleski, Vice-Chair

1. County Agencies 2/5/07 Meeting Minutes. (No action required.)

B. County Agencies, cont'd. - Commissioner Poleski

2. Resolution (02-07.8) Supporting the Grant Applications from the Jackson County

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to the United States Environmental Protection Agency to Secure Assessment Funds and Brownfield Cleanup Revolving Loan Funds Necessary to Protect the Health of Jackson County Residents and Encourage Reuse of Contaminated Properties within Jackson County.

Moved by Poleski; supported by Herl to adopt Resolution (02-07.8)
Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3. 1 st Reading: County Fee of \$20 for a Same Day Marriage License (excluding military personnel) payable to the General Fund. (No action required.)

C. Human Services - Commissioner Mike Way

1. Human Services 2/5/07 Meeting Minutes. (No action required.)

D. Personnel and Finance - Commissioner James Videto

1. Personnel & Finance 2/6/07 Meeting Minutes. (No action required.)

2. Resolution (02-07.10) Authorizing Borrowing from the Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund.

Moved by Videto; supported by Brittain to adopt Resolution (02-07.10)
Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Road Commission

1. Investigation Update

2. Road Commissioner Salaries

Randy Treacher updated the Commissioners with regards to the investigation of the Road Commission. He advised he has received more information and a number of calls and he has a number of things now that he didn't have before to look into. Randy is attending their union meeting next Wednesday at their request and will report back to the Commissioners next month.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 175 th Anniversary Proposal

Moved by Brown; supported by Herl to approve the Proposal in the packet. (Page 73)

Commissioner Brittain is concerned about the \$10,000 we're going to spend on it. Is that coming out of the General Fund or are we going to have a fund raiser to try and come up with money? If it's coming out of the General Fund, Brittain will be opposing it. Treacher advises it will be coming out of the General Fund. Elwell is supporting this, but will have to contract for the services for a lot of these things. Brittain is concerned about costume rentals and the birthday balloon costs. Brown responded that he is already out there knocking on doors trying to raise some money to help off-set these costs. The reenactment is strictly on their own with no costs to the County.

Roll Call: (9) Yeas; (1) Nay - Brittain

AFSCME Contract Agreements

1. AFSCME - 2007-2009

2. COAM - 2007

3. Jackson County Deputy Sheriff's Association - 2006

4. Michigan Nurses Association - 2007-2009

Moved by Elwell; supported by Brittain to approve all 4 contracts. No discussion. Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously

C. Strategic Planning Proposals (Pages 80 thru 109 in packet)

Randy reviewed the memo included in the packet regarding the 3 proposals.

Proposal 1 is from MSU Extension and has some validity and they have some experience, but being that we don't pay them, they don't have a firm commitment to us. They are not our agent. They are Kalamazoo's agent who gets lent to us.

Proposal 3 is from a firm called Organizational Development Solutions and this is the best proposal, but it's prohibitively expensive which leaves us to Proposal 2.

Proposal 2 is from an organization called The Fulcrum Group. The real advantage to this one, in particular, is that Baker College has used this group consistently and they stand behind them and they highly recommend them.

Randy's recommendation would be Proposal 2.

Moved by Herl; supported by Brown to accept Proposal 2.

Duckham asked why this couldn't be done in-house. Videto is concerned that similar activities have been done in the past and that nothing was completed after it was done. It shows that there needs to be a lot of involvement from community members and Videto wonders if we'll get that kind of participation to make this worthwhile. Shotwell feels we have the commitment of the community, the private sector, and different groups within our organization to do this if the Commissioners are willing to commit the time and actually do a 5-year plan. He feels the Courts, the Sheriff Department, along with the Health Department are willing to step forward and help with this. Poleski asked if the proposal is within what we had planned to spend for this study and Shotwell confirmed that it is. Brown supports this 100% and feels that we, as a county, must step forward and set something for our county and the people we represent. Way echoes all of the comments and agrees that in order to be successful in anything, you need to have goals, plans, and a road map. He doesn't think it can be done internally as we don't have the time or energies. This plan stands out to him because it does get everybody involved in the community and the townships and that way everybody has buy-in and everybody's successful. Brittain feels this will be an extension from the Strategic Plans that we've had in the past. He thinks we've paid for these in the past and we're still going into Strategic Planning because we do them about every 2-3 years it seems like. Why not just have a 2-year or a 3-year plan. Why have a 5-year plan if you're going to change it 2 years down the road.

Randy Treacher noted that we have never done a Strategic Plan - ever. We have on many occasions adopted goals and objectives. We've never had an on-going 5-year Strategic Plan that we updated every 2 or 3 years. It's never

been done here. That's one of the reasons this is more costly than what we've ever spent on developing goals, because goals and Strategic Plans are 2 different things. The only thing we've done that comes close to a Strategic Plan is the 5-year financial plan. That has been very successful and we're on schedule with that. We have never involved community groups and other stakeholders before. In order to make this a dynamic organization, we need to do something like this.

Cmr. Way thinks this shouldn't be looked at as an expense, but as an investment in our community. Brittain asked what the difference is between goals and objectives and a strategic plan.

Randy explained that goals and objectives are very specific. That is, they are specific in terms of we are going to do this and how are we going to do it. A Strategic Plan will be a general direction for the organization. We have already begun to do research on our community. We have data on the state of our community. Where we go with that over a long period of time is what we'll decide together.

Cmr. Brittain asked how much we spent and Randy noted that it was \$2,000 a couple of years ago and reminded everyone that nothing was done with it. In the past when we have done more extensive development of goals and objectives, we've spent between \$6,000 and \$10,000.

Duckham doesn't understand why we need an outsider to come into our community and tell us what we want and what we need. We ought to be able to decide that on our own. Elwell responded that they are here so we can tell them what we think should happen and where things should go. Poleski feels the reason you bring someone in from the outside is so they don't have any preconceived notions of how things should go. Poleski calls for the question.

Shotwell restates that we're voting on Proposal 2 to not exceed \$35,000 at this time.
Roll Call: (8) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Brown, Smith, Way and Elwell.
(2) Nays. Cmr. Brittain and Duckham. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

NEW BUSINESS, cont'd.

Moved by Duckham, supported by Brittain to suspend the rules and go to an appointment of Kip Cunningham to the Jackson Land Bank Authority. Mr. Cunningham had e-mailed his application in and we think it might be at the Treasurer's Office. It's a non-voting member to lend us some expertise and we would like to have him on the board at the next meeting.

Elwell asked if there was an open slot to which Shotwell responded that there is. The slot was supposed to be dedicated to a contractor.

Motion to suspend the rules carried unanimously.

Moved by Duckham to appoint Kip Cunningham from Cunningham Construction Company to the Land Bank Authority. No other nominations from the floor were received. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Cmr. Poleski responded to John Wilson's comments concerning the airport land sale. We should make sure that everyone knows that the property in question is completely land-locked. The proposal from Ramco-Gershenson is to give us \$5.8 million dollars if we provide the infra-structure to make it less land-locked and only in that way would the kind of development they suggest be possible for them.

Cmr. Elwell commented on the MPRI initiative and the plans to start releasing inmates sooner. He doesn't think anyone would be opposed to releasing bed-ridden prisoners or those that could be deported. There are many things that the State is doing that are being driven by budget and not by reason. We all need to watch the current legislation and don't be afraid to contact your legislators.

Cmr. Herl commented on the MAC Legislative Conference they attended last week. It was very beneficial and well-received. Herl also commented on what a productive meeting that was held tonight. Brittain spoke on the City's Youth Program that meets every other Saturday in the City Council Chambers. Smith asked who would pay for the sick, old prisoners released to our community and Elwell responded that Federal tax dollars by way of Medicaid or

Medicare. Videto feels the Road Commission process should continue and thanked Shotwell and Treacher for going out and getting the pulse from the community regarding the planning session.

CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the February 20, 2007 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 8:38 p.m.

Steve Shotwell – Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Sandy Crowley – Jackson County Clerk