

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**March 18, 2008 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Shotwell called the March 18, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** by Commissioner Phil Duckham

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** by Chairman Steve Shotwell

**ROLL CALL:** County Clerk Amanda L. Riska

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chairman Shotwell made the following changes to the agenda:

Item 12.A.1 (Grant Application for Cascades Park Urban Fishing Project) pulled from Consent Agenda and added to 10.A.2. Added a special standing committee of Personnel & Finance to deal with item 15.B. (Animal Shelter).

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Herl for the approval of the agenda as amended.* Motion carried.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:**

None

**SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Public Hearing – Next Gen Energy Brownfield Plan**

Amy Torres was present to answer questions on the public hearing. No comments from the public.

**B. Strategic Planning Presentations**

1. **Cooperation Between Governments** – Cliff Herl presented
2. **Economic Vision of Jackson County** - Karen Coffman presented
3. **Education** – Jan Seitz presented
4. **Vision of a Healthy Community** – Shelly Bullinger presented
5. **Improved Work Environment** – Brandon Ransom presented
6. **Quality of Life** – Kristy Smith and Brad Piros presented

Mr. Poleski observed that in almost all of the presentations, a public survey is called for and he hopes that they coordinate the process so it appears that they are well integrated. He also noticed that in several of the surveys there are some indications of a campaign of public awareness of some sort and he hopes that can be well integrated as well.

Mr. Herl stated that while working independently, they found that they are starting to cross paths. He said that as they get further into things, it looks like they may have to take the six different committees and form another subcommittee because there are many things that all of them are working on that are the same thing.

Mr. Mahoney hopes that the Chair or the Administrator will tell the commission how they can help the groups move forward so that their work can continue.

County Administrator/Controller, Randy Treacher, stated that the visions that they have been working with were those that were developed by the board and before they can go too much further, the groups need to know if the

direction they are taking is the direction the commission wanted when they came up with the vision. The commission should review the presentations and decide if it is in fact the direction they were wishing to take.

Cmr. Shotwell thanked all of the participants in the strategic plan for all of their hard work they have put into this.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Scott Vitale announced a professional golf tournament at Arbor Hills Golf Course July 9 – 12. Proceeds will benefit the YMCA.

Alan Mackey spoke regarding inappropriate actions of a commissioner.

Janet Rochefort stated that the Convention and Tourism Bureau made an offer to help with the strategic planning teams.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**A. County Affairs**

**1. Equipment Bid Summary – Reelmaster Transport Frame**

**2. Resolution (03-08.11) Approving a Grant Application to the Michigan Natural Resources – Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Cascades Park Urban Fishing Project.**

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

**B. Personnel and Finance**

**1. Animal Shelter**

The meeting was adjourned briefly to allow the commissioners who are members of the Personnel and Finance Committee to meet behind Cmr. Videto's desk.

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of the 2/19/08 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meeting minutes.

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Brown for approval of the meeting minutes from the 2/19/08 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.* Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Videto for approval of the consent agenda.* Roll call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**A. County Affairs**

**1. Resolution (03-08.11) Approving a Grant Application to the Michigan Natural Resources-Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Cascades Park Urban Fishing Project.**

**B. County Agencies**

**2. Cooperative Reimbursement Program (CRP) Contract Amendment**

**3. Resolution (03-08.12) Approving a Brownfield Plan by the County of Jackson Pursuant to and in Accordance with the Provisions of Act 381 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1996, as Amended.**

**C. Human Services**

**4. Health Department Management Reorganization**

**D. Personnel & Finance**

**5. Budget Adjustments**

- a. Medical Examiner
- b. Department on Aging
- c. Circuit Court
- d. District Court

E. Claims – 1/1/08 – 1/31/08

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**A. County Affairs – Commissioner Dave Lutchka**

**1. Resolution (03-08.11) Approving a Grant Application to the Michigan Natural Resources-Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Cascades Park Urban Fishing Project.**

*Moved by Cmr. Brittain, supported by Cmr. Duckham to approve Resolution (03-08.11) Approving a Grant Application to the Michigan Natural Resources–Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Cascades Park Urban Fishing Project. Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.*

**2. March 2008 Appointments**

**a. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority – three public members, terms to 3/31/2011**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Jim Dunn, Dan Greer, and Natalie Stopyak. No other nominations from the floor. *Jim Dunn, Dan Greer, and Natalie Stopyak appointed.*

**b. Jackson Transportation Authority – one public member, term to 3/31/2011**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Philip Moilanen. No other nominations from the floor. *Philip Moilanen appointed.*

**c. LifeWays – two public members, terms to 3/31/2011**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Jim Shotwell Sr. and Frank Weathers. No other nominations from the floor. *Jim Shotwell Sr., and Frank Weathers appointed.*

**d. Veterans Affairs – one WWII member, term to 4/1/2012**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Kenneth McGaugh. No other nominations from the floor. *Kenneth McGaugh appointed.*

**e. Parks Board – one Region 2 Planning Commission appointee, term to 12/31/2008**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Herb Howard. Cmr. Smith nominated Gail Mahoney. Roll Call: (8) Howard. Cms. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Videto, Way, Elwell, and Shotwell. (4) Mahoney. Cms. Poleski, Mahoney, Brown, and Smith. *Herb Howard appointed.*

**3. Equipment Bid Summary – Reelmaster Transport Frame**

*Moved by Cmr. Brittain, supported by Cmr. Duckham to accept the lowest bid from Spartan Distributors for the purchase of a Reelmaster transport frame. Motion carried.*

**B. County Agencies – Commissioner Gail W. Mahoney**

None.

**C. Human Services – Commissioner Mike Way**

None.

**D. Personnel and Finance – Commissioner James Videto**

1. The operation of Animal Control is to be placed under the temporary control of the Sheriff. The arrangements for said move shall be as determined between the Sheriff and the Administrator. The permanence of this arrangement shall be reviewed by the end of the year by the Ad Hoc Sheriff's committee that is currently in place.

*Moved by Videto, supported by Elwell to place the operation of Animal Control under the temporary control of the Sheriff. The arrangements for said move shall be as determined between the Sheriff and the Administrator. The permanence of this arrangement shall be reviewed by the end of the year by the Ad Hoc Sheriff's committee that is currently in place. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Cms. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, and Elwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried.*

Cmr. Brittain asked if anyone has spoken to the director at the Animal Shelter to discuss some of the problems and concerns. He just learned of some of the problems that are there, and he's not sure that the Sheriff's Department will have a huge impact. He feels that they should give the director at the Animal Shelter a chance to make the needed corrections. He also said that he has nothing against the Sheriff's Department, but he would personally like to see the Health Department take over the supervision.

Cmr. Elwell thinks that the Sheriff's Department is a perfect place for it. There are many times that the Animal Control Operation is not open and the Sheriff's Department is open 24 hours, with supervision. He does think there are issues at the shelter and believes that the Administrator has talked to the director at the Animal Shelter about them, and is confident that this is the best plan for now. He said that when the new building was purchased, they all said that they would do what it takes to make sure the operation is run properly and do their best to make it a shelter they would be proud of. He thinks this is a step in the right direction.

2. Bid Summary for Purchase of Two Plainclothes Police Vehicles - Sheriff

*Moved by Videto, supported by Elwell to approve the Bid Summary for the Purchase of of Two Plainclothes Police Vehicles for the Sheriff's Department.* Roll Call: (8) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Brown, Way, and Elwell. (4) Nays. Cmr. Brittain, Duckham, Mahoney, and Smith. Motion carried.

Moved by Mahoney, supported by Brittain to redirect this to committee. Roll Call: (6) Yeas. Cmr. Brittain, Duckham, Shotwell, Mahoney, Smith, and Way. (6) Nays. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Poleski, Videto, Brown, and Elwell. Tie – the motion remains on the floor.

Cmr. Mahoney stated that when they were in committee in the study session, it was her understanding that what was being requested was new-used cars at the price of \$17,000. She believed that new-used cars at \$17,000 and new cars at \$20,000 was the best thing to do for the County. She has now learned that what was originally requested were used cars at \$10,000 or less. She pointed out that the Sheriff's Department takes up more than 50% of the County's budget. She wonders why they had a discussion for new-used cars at \$17,000, if the surveillance vehicles only use between 8,500 and 9,000 miles per year and they originally requested \$10,000 or under. She will not be supporting brand new cars for this purpose.

Cmr. Elwell feels that it would be foolish to buy used vehicles for this purpose. He doesn't think they were listed as undercover cars, but as detective's cars. He thinks the plan set forth which was to buy new cars and not keep old cars around which can cause more problems and cost, is a wise plan. On State purchase, they get a great deal of \$17,000 and don't have to worry about buying someone else's problems. He stated that they need to remember that this money is coming from a drug fund, and it was supposed to be budgeted but was simply overlooked. He strongly supports the action of buying these new cars.

Cmr. Brown said that after some of their discussions, he looked out on his car lot to see what could be bought for \$10,000. He thinks that because the vehicles would be out of warranty, they would end up spending a lot of money on future repairs. He thinks that getting brand new vehicles for \$17,500 and no taxes is a much better deal. He would suggest that they pick up some kind of warranty on the vehicles that would go up to 100,000 miles.

Cmr. Duckham didn't think they even needed to have this discussion, since they just replaced five cars last month that were not fit for high speed chases. He doesn't think they need to buy cars because they already have them. He also thinks that they will end up in a situation with a car where they will only be able to use it for undercover work two or three times before criminals recognize it. They would then have to hand it off to someone else to drive because it would no longer be useful as an undercover car. He thinks they should paint the five that were retired last month so they wouldn't look undercover and use those. He thinks another option would be to lease vehicles from Budget Rent a Car, so every time they went out on another operation they would have a different car. He thinks they have to get their arms around the legal system budget sooner or later.

Cmr. Brittain echoed what Cmr. Duckham said. He said that he would like to use one of the vehicles that they already have. He also said that they could purchase a used car from a dealership that doesn't sell new cars and get a better price on them. He thinks there are a lot of very nice used cars out there that they could get for under \$10,000. He also said he has an issue with the five or six take-home vehicles that the Sheriff's Department has. He doesn't understand the need for those just in case there is an emergency, which doesn't happen that often. He thinks that the new vehicles would then just get passed down to be used as take-home vehicles. He doesn't see the need for new vehicles that will never be used for high-speed chases.

Cmr. Way agreed that they need some replacement cars, but with hearing the new information he would like to see this go back to the committee to talk about it more and explore their options.

Cmr. Videto stated that a few years ago there was a lot of time spent reviewing the vehicle policy, which was a big part of reducing the overall fleet. He said that when looking at purchasing new vehicles, he looks at it as being a part of the whole fleet. With the current program they do a lot of shifting of vehicles between departments after so many miles are put on the vehicle. When you do that and it makes it part of a rotation system with the vehicles, he

thinks that purchasing new makes total sense. He feels that buying used really limits the ability to manage the fleet properly. He is in support of this motion.

Cmr. Smith suggested that they check into purchasing a vehicle that has been previously leased since they are newer cars with low mileage.

Cmr. Poleski stated that the cost of the vehicles is not so significantly greater than used, the point being they will have new cars under appropriate warranty and police officers will be using safe vehicles. He said the use of the new vehicles would not be used by the Sheriff or the Under Sheriff, but they would be used by the detectives and that the vehicles that would be purchased would be sufficiently innocuous so they could be used for undercover or surveillance. He thinks those reasons are sufficient enough for him to vote in favor of the vehicles.

Cmr. Brown said that there are 100 used car dealers in town, but he can't guarantee what some of those used car dealers are selling on their lot. He said no used car dealer in the county is going to sell you a vehicle for the price that they paid for it, and not make a profit. He also stated that leased vehicles are purchased for around \$15,000 or \$16,000, so they would be losing money when they can get the bid from the state for \$17,000.

Cmr. Mahoney asked the Administrator to tell the board what the Sheriff's Department asked for in their request for the new detective undercover cars.

Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher explained that the original request from the Sheriff's Department was for two used vehicles for \$10,000 or less.

Cmr. Duckham referred to the study done several years ago that Cmr. Videto talked about. He said that may have been the finding several years ago, but with the times the way they are right now, they are required to do more for less. He believes it is his job to look out for the constituents of his district to hold down the costs of county government. He doesn't think today can be compared with what was five years ago when state revenue sharing was much greater than it is now.

Cmr. Elwell said that their job as commissioners is to make decisions that are in the best financial interest of the County and he thinks that buying the new cars is. He does not agree with Cmr. Mahoney that they should approve whatever the Sheriff gives them, because in this case it wouldn't be the right thing to do. He doesn't think they should be rubberstamping things.

Cmr. Way asked the Administrator how much these cars are typically driven.

Administrator/Controller Treacher stated that it is his understanding that the cars are driven around 10,000 miles per year on average.

### 3. Bid Summary for Purchase of New Vehicle – Friend of the Court

*Moved by Videto, supported by Elwell to approve the Bid Summary for the Purchase of a New Vehicle for the Friend of the Court.* Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, and Elwell. (2) Nays. Cmr. Brittain, and Duckham. Motion carried.

Cmr. Duckham asked what the Friend of the Court does with a car and why they need one.

Administrator/Controller Treacher explained that they use the vehicle to go and arrest people throughout the state.

### 4. Bid Summary for Purchase of Three New Vehicles – Department on Aging

*Moved by Videto, supported by Elwell to approve the Bid Summary for the Purchase of Three New Vehicles for the Department on Aging.* Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, and Elwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain Motion carried.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

### C. Animal Incinerator Recommendation

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Herl to approve the Animal Incineration Contract with Partridge Enterprises.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrator/Controller Treacher gave the commissioners an overview of the recommendation received from the Fleet Facilities Supervisor Ric Scheele. An analysis was done on the bids that were received and the recommendation is that they go with incineration through Partridge Enterprises. Randy explained that he doesn't

see any reason not to award this contract for a year, as it appears that there will be a direct hard cost savings of \$5,000 per year and will give the staff additional time to do more shelter work. He doesn't see any reason not to award this contract for a year.

Cmr. Elwell confirmed with Randy that it is a two-part bid, which would give them a couple of options, and also that they would be approving the \$19,800 yearly. Randy further answered Cmr. Elwell's questions that they did not discuss what specific days they would be doing pick ups but that it would be twice per week during business hours, that a freezer or two would be included, and the plan this spring/summer is to get into place an enclosed area for pick up and delivery of animals so people will not see it.

Cmr. Way stated that he thinks it is great that the County is getting out of the incinerator business, especially for the morale of the staff at the animal shelter. He also pointed out that this was a suggestion that was received in their communications with the neighbors.

Cmr. Duckham wondered if since the Sheriff's Department will be running the Animal Shelter, if it will be considered a 24 hour operation. He thinks it would be prudent to do something to limit the hours of picking the animals up to accommodate the neighborhood by saying 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. He doesn't want to get into a technicality type of thing because they could say that they are technically open 24 hours a day since they are under the Sheriff's Department.

Cmr. Mahoney hopes that they don't try to tie the hands of the people who work by not being open after hours. She thinks they should have more flexibility. She stated that no matter what time the animals get picked up they will be in an enclosed area, so the public will not see them.

Cmr. Brittain asked if Betzer Funeral Home was located in Jackson and what was considered a large animal according to their bid.

Administrator/Controller Treacher stated that the cost per month that was specified is for animals over 91 pounds, which makes that bid far in excess of what has been proposed. He further stated that they are not located in Jackson County, but he is not sure where they are.

#### D. Animal Shelter Landscape Update

Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher gave an oral presentation on the landscaping/soundproofing of the Animal Shelter. He stated that they have a meeting scheduled on Thursday with some of the neighbors and the landscaping architect. He will make a presentation on-site. The architect has stated that he will be able to start the project in the end of April or first part of May, depending on the weather. He also stated that they have one more bid to receive on acoustical soundproofing that they are looking at putting in on the walls and the ceiling of the building. They also need to send a make-up of that material to the state for approval prior to making the changes.

#### E. Deputy Administrator Search Recommendation

*Moved by Cmr. Herl, supported by Cmr. Elwell to approve the low bid from Michigan Education Association of Michigan to conduct the search for the new Deputy Administrator.* Roll Call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, and Elwell. (2) Nays. Cmr. Brittain and Duckham. Motion carried.

Cmr. Brittain expressed his concerns about hiring a full-time Deputy Administrator. He feels that by doing so, it will be that they are pushing Randy out. He thinks they should make this position part-time, to keep Randy on as long as he would like to stay.

Cmr. Mahoney stated that she would like to see Randy decide to stay longer, by taking some of the hats off his head by hiring a Deputy County Administrator. He hopes that the board will move forward with this so Randy can make a decision to know that they really do support him and are willing to get him some real help.

Cmr. Way asked what the firm is guaranteeing.

Cmr. Elwell asked if they know if they have any experience finding County Administrators and if so, how many they have found.

Administrator/Controller Treacher explained that the board requested in the RFP a guarantee that they would continue to work at the fee noted until a candidate approved by the board was in place. The company will find the first five candidates in 19 weeks and if the board is not satisfied, they will go back and do it again. The company has found two County Administrators specifically.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Revision to Purchasing Policy 2060 – Local Preference

*Moved by Cmr. Elwell, supported by Cmr. Brown to approve the Revision to Purchasing Policy 2060 - Local Preference.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Cmr. Brittain stated that he truly thinks that local preference is something they should enact to help protect local jobs. He also thinks it will save the residents of Jackson County because if they hire locally, the company will pay local taxes.

Cmr. Elwell stated that the policy has been in place since 2000 and this is only a modification. He stated that they are changing a couple of words to allow exactly what Cmr. Brittain is suggesting.

B. Animal Shelter

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comment

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Cmr. Videto stated that he was impressed with the tremendous buy-in by employees and commissioners on the strategic plan, and appreciates the commitment.

Cmr. Brittain wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Cmr. Lutchka introduced Steve Thelen, the new Fair Manager. He also reminded everyone about Project R.E.D.

Cmr. Brown commended all of the strategic planning teams and all of their hard work.

Cmr. Poleski spoke regarding the 911 surcharge.

Cmr. Duckham spoke regarding the 911 surcharge and stated that the average is about 13 calls per hour and it comes out to about \$18.00 per call.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the March 18, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 9:10 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