

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**April 15, 2008 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Shotwell called the April 15, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** by Commissioner Earl Poleski

**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:**

Cmr. Poleski added under New Business Item D to determine a special meeting date to consider the Medical Care Facility's request to borrow \$500,000.

Cmr. Brittain asked to add to the agenda for next month's meeting or send to committee that elected officials no longer be able to collect lifetime health insurance benefits, effective the date of the meeting.

Administrator/Controller Treacher advised that it would be best to take that through personnel and finance, and that he would add it to their agenda.

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

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS**

None.

**SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Robert Inman introduced himself as a candidate for the Board of Education for Jackson Public Schools.

**SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**A. County Affairs**

**1. 2008 Equalization Report**

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

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of the 3/18/08 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meeting minutes.

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Videto for approval of the meeting minutes from the 3/18/08 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.* Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Cmr. Poleski asked for Item C4 Medical Care Facility 2009 Audit Report to be pulled from the Consent Agenda and added under New Business Item 15D.

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

**A. County Affairs**

**1. Register of Deeds 2007 Audit Annual Report**

**B. County Agencies**

None

**C. Human Services**

**2. Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission Inter-County Agreement**

**3. Resolution (04-08.13) to Revise the Inter-County Agreement for Creation of the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission**

**4. Medical Care Facility 2007 Audit**

**5. Department on Aging 2007 Annual Report**

**6. Health Department 2007 Annual Report**

**D. Personnel & Finance**

**7. Request for Imprest Cash – Parks**

**8. Public Health Nurse – Change from Full Time Position to Part Time Position**

**9. Budget Adjustments**

**a. Wage Float Budget Adjustment (per Policy 1040)**

**b. Carryover for Circuit Court**

**E. Claims - 2/1/08 – 2/29/08**

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

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

**1. April 2008 Appointments**

**a. Hospital Finance Authority – one public member, term to 12/31/2008**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Karen Coffman. No other nominations from the floor. *Karen Coffman appointed.*

**b. Region 2 Area Agency on Aging – three public members, terms to 4/31/2010**

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee recommended Howard Griffis and Lisa Pinkerman. No other nominations from the floor. *Howard Griffis and Lisa Pinkerman appointed.*

**2. Equalization Report**

*Moved by Lutchka, supported by Mahoney to accept the Equalization Report.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

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

None.

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

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Strategic Action Plans**
1. **Cooperation Between Governments**
  2. **Economic Vision of Jackson County**
  3. **Education**
  4. **Vision of a Healthy Community**
  5. **Improved Work Environment**
  6. **Quality of Life**

**Administrator/Controller Comment:**

**The Action Plans were presented at the March Board of Commissioners meeting. Before the teams can proceed further on the plans, the Board needs to adopt them.**

Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher stated that in order for the teams to proceed, the Board will need to adopt them. He also explained that it doesn't commit the Board to any money or any kind of action until the teams go back to them asking for such. This would give them the authority to go ahead with the Board's plans.

Cmr. Brittain said he wasn't sure what the comprehensive plan was and wondered if that could be explained. He was thinking that it was to make Jackson County smoke free or something similar to that.

Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher stated that the Vision of a Healthy Community is that Jackson County residents enjoy phenomenal health through affordable, accessible health care; a community commitment to wellness; and increased public recreation.

Cmr. Duckham asked that if approving the plans would obligate them to funding their projects at a later date.

Administrator/Controller Randy Treacher said that the teams would not be coming back next month for money. He stated that the intent for the approval is for the teams to continue with the action steps. If they required funding, which some of them will, they would have to come back to the board in the future for funding. He further stated that he would anticipate that any funding requests would go through the regular funding process.

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Poleski to adopt all Strategic Action Plans.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Policy Revisions**

1. Fiscal Policy 1030 – Capital Budget Policy
2. Fiscal Policy 1050 – Budgetary Adjustment Policy
3. Fiscal Policy 1100 – Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Policy
4. Vehicles Policy 7010 – Acquisition of Vehicles
5. Board Rules Policy 4120 – Relationship Between the County Administrator/Controller, the Board, and the County Departments
6. Board Rules Policy 4170 – Eliminated because it has been combined with Policy 4120

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Elwell to approve Policy 1030, 1050, 1100, 7010, 4120, and 4170.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution (04-08.14) Urging Ratification of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact**

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Brown to approve Resolution (04-08.14) Urging Ratification of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Cmr. Lutchka stated that he would like to see something in the resolution that refers to the ecological balance of nature, along with what is already there. He thinks that anytime you start drawing massive amounts of things from one particular geographical area, it has an adverse affect on many things similar to the destruction of the rain forest.

Cmr. Mahoney reminded the Board that the resolution is simply an encouragement to the State Legislators to work with the other states that are involved in the compact to try to get it passed. She stated that she agrees with Cmr. Lutchka and thinks that there will be many changes at the state level as they work to get the compact passed. She

further stated that her major concern is that they get a compact passed, because if one is not passed before the next census they will lose congressional seats. She feels that they need to get this done, so the southern states do not gain control over the Great Lakes water. She believes that by passing the resolution, it will send a message to State Representatives and MACC to work with them to get it passed. She said that they could tweak it to what Cmr. Lutchka mentioned, but she really thinks it is fine the way it is.

Cmr. Elwell pointed out that the resolution does what Cmr. Lutchka wants, which gives the control to the states that are impacted, rather than leaving it up to the federal body.

**C. Sale of Property to John R. and Mary Jo Van Pernis – Lots #369 and #370 of Southlands Subdivision**  
*Moved by Herl, supported by Brown to approve the Sale of Property to John R. and Mary Jo Van Pernis – Lots #369 and #370 of Southlands Subdivision.* Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Cmr. Herl asked where the property was located.

Administrator/Controller Treacher explained that the property is located on Stanford Lane, which is off of Francis Street.

Cmr. Duckham asked for a brief explanation of what would be taking place.

Chairman Shotwell explained that when sewer projects are done, the property is deeded to the County. He said that normally the land would be given back to the township, but the township does not want this land because it is not big enough to build on or do anything with. He stated that this offer was made so the property can be attached to John and Mary Jo Pernis' property.

Cmr. Poleski asked for confirmation that the property was not build-able by itself and has no value, except to the property owners making the purchase.

Chairman Shotwell confirmed that to be true.

**D. Medical Care Facility 2007 Audit - Determine a Special Meeting Date to Consider the Medical Care Facility's Request to Borrow \$500,000.**  
*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Duckham to Determine a Special Meeting Date to Consider the Medical Care Facility's Request to Borrow \$500,000.*

Motion carried 11 to 1, with Cmr. Brittain opposing.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No public comment

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chairman Shotwell reminded the policy committee that their next meeting would be April 16th at 7:00 a.m. on the 6th floor. He also stated that all commissioners were welcome and that it is a public meeting.

Cmr. Brittain stated that he would like to see lifetime health insurance for elected officials come to an end. He doesn't think that the taxpayers should have to pay for them, especially with the current economy. He said that he really hoped that when it goes to Personnel and Finance that they will consider it and move it to the full board, to give everyone an opportunity to vote on it. He would like to see it ended because he thinks people will be more dedicated to the job and not the money. He thinks that is a big reason why some people join government. He further announced that he whole-heartedly endorses Amanda Riska for County Clerk. He said that she has worked her way up in the system, is committed to the County, doesn't have an agenda to run for a higher office, and he thinks that she well deserves to stay in the position.

Cmr. Videto invited everyone to the Falling Water Trail grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. He stated that there has been a lot of community support and effort, and feels that it will be a real trademark of success and will bring people to Jackson County.

Cmr. Poleski stated that he attended a meeting in Spring Arbor Township and the Falling Water Trail was discussed. He said that there are some parking issues that are occurring in several of the cross roads, which in his view, is an excellent problem to have because it means it is being used a great deal. He thinks that the trail is

going to be a jewel in the community. He doesn't think that the township can handle the parking issues alone, so he suggested that they have a discussion with the Road Commission and County Parks to deal with that issue and any other operational issues that the trail may have.

Cmr. Duckham asked if there was any news on possible legal action against former Road Commissioner Zenz.

Chairman Shotwell stated that they responded to an e-mail that the Prosecutor and the State are still working on it. He said that the MDOT auditor was there recently, and that it is still proceeding forward and is still under investigation.

Cmr. Brown stated that it was nice to see the orange trucks repairing the roads.

Cmr. Herl stated that he was glad to see the \$60 refund to the motorist whose vehicle was towed after assisting another motorist.

Chairman Shotwell extended an invitation to everyone to go to Camp Tetonka on Wolf Lake on April 26th for the Boy Scout event.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the April 15, 2008 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 7:34 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