

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
April 27, 2007 - Special Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:30 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Steve Shotwell called the April 27, 2007, Special Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:32 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

(11) Present. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way, and Shotwell.
(1) Absent. Cmr. Elwell

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADOPTION OF 2007 EQUALIZATION REPORT:

Moved by Mahoney, supported by Way to Adopt the Agenda. Cmr. Herl asked to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss the contract. Motion carried as amended.

JuliAnn Kolbe, Director CMAE IV, of the Jackson County Equalization Department, gave a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of the Equalization Department. She also reviewed the 2007 Equalization Report that was handed out to each commissioner prior to the start of the meeting, and discussed a few of the figures.

Cmr. Brittain thanked Ms. Kolbe for her report. He had a couple questions on some of the figures listed in the report and she was able to clarify them for him. He also commented about Wal-Mart being on the list of Jackson County's Top 20 Taxpayers. He wanted to make the other commissioners aware that Wal-Mart still owes money to some of the contractors that worked to develop that store. He knows one excavator that is still owed about \$30,000. He asked how they would go about getting that money. Ms. Kolbe said they could put a lien against the property.

Cmr. Duckham commented that Menards is on the list of the Top 20 Taxpayers. He thought that Lowe's and Home Depot would have also been on the list. Ms. Kolbe said that Lowe's does not own the land that they are on, they lease it.

Cmr. Smith questioned why Comcast was so far down the list. Ms. Kolbe said it is because there is also another cable company on the west side of town.

Cmr. Poleski asked if they would be getting a report on the incinerator and the landfills. He said he is curious to know the rationale for those evaluations and why the incinerator would be assessed. Ms. Kolbe said there will be a report on that next year. Since the incinerator is county owned, but is being operated by someone else, it causes it to be taxable. If the county was running it, it would still be exempt.

Cmr. Brittain said that is why he thinks the county should take over the operations of the incinerator. Not just for that, but for other reasons as well.

Cmr. Poleski would like to know the economic impact of that. It doesn't strike him as logical off the bat.

Moved by Lutchka, supported by Mahoney to Approve the Equalization Report. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

JuliAnn Kolbe reviewed the Taxable Valuations report so she wouldn't have to return at a later date. (Those reports were also handed out prior to the meeting with the Equalization Report.) *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Way to Approve the Taxable Valuation Report.* Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR/CONTROLLER SEARCH:

Cmr. Brittain stated that the County of Jackson is striving to avert a fiscal crisis. Positions remain unfilled, benefits have been reduced, and operating budgets decreased. Even with these cuts, we have not yet achieved fiscal stability. In an effort to continue to save money, *Cmr. Brittain moved, supported by Way, to postpone the search for Administrator/Controller until spring of 2008 and have Randy Treacher continue as the Acting*

Administrator/Controller until such time as a permanent Administrator/Controller is appointed and begins work.

Cmr. Brittain agrees with this motion as long as Mr. Treacher's wage remains the same. If it is going to be increased, he will oppose it.

Cmr. Mahoney certainly recognizes the fact that this county has spent a quarter of a million dollars, and she feels we could have done this a few years back. She thinks if Randy is willing and agreeable to stay on with the County, that the word "Acting" should be removed for this time period.

Cmr. Poleski agrees with Cmr. Brittain's motion, but he would like to know what the succession plan will be as to the Administrator/Controller given Randy's personal plans.

Cmr. Lutchka would also like to know the succession plan, but his concern is that any new person that we hire will need the support, and an education of what happens in Jackson County, as well as how things work. He believes the time that Randy is going to be here after that person is hired is very important for continuity and transfer of leadership. He doesn't know if he supports the motion until he knows how long Randy will be here to guide and pass on information to a new leader.

Mr. Treacher said that assuming that the board is agreeable to the motion; his intent would be to stay through calendar year of 2009. As of right now, he is scheduled to leave in January of 2009. If the search is postponed for one year, it would occur in 2008, and hopefully someone will be on board by the end of that year. He will be staying through the end of 2009.

Cmr. Videto said that in his opinion, the motion makes a lot of sense. The county as a whole is on the right path now. We have a board that is working well together. We also have county employees and department heads that have shown a willingness to work with our current Acting Administrator. He thinks that we will be in a better position by waiting a year.

Cmr. Herl supports the motion one hundred percent, and he takes his hat off to the people that came up with it. He said it has been a pleasure working with Randy. He thinks he can carry us on until we get a new administrator lined up in a year.

Cmr. Way said that in light of what is going on in Lansing and locally, it is in our best interest to keep Randy on board and postpone the search for another year. He appreciates what Randy is doing, and also takes his hat off to Cmr. Brittain for coming up with the motion. He feels it is in the best interest of the county and of this board. He supports the motion.

Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mahoney, supported by Duckham to Adjourn to Executive Session. Motion carried. *(The commissioners adjourned at 7:55 a.m.)*

Moved by Videto, supported by Lutchka to Return to Regular Session. Motion carried. *(Regular session resumed at 8:35 a.m.)*

Moved by Poleski, supported by Mahoney to Authorize the Chair to Execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement. Chairman Shotwell asked that it be duly noted in the minutes that Cmr. Elwell supports this motion wholeheartedly. Roll Call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

The April 27, 2007 Special Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:37 a.m.

James E. Shotwell – Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Sandra Crowley – Jackson County Clerk
Respectfully submitted by Amanda L. Riska – Chief Deputy County Clerk