

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
May 18, 2004 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jim Rice called the May 18, 2004 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Comr. Lacinski

PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

(12) Present. Comrs. Herl, Adams, Brittain, Day, Baxter, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Lacinski, Wilson, Elwell, & Rice

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Baxter to Approve the Agenda as Written. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

A. Employee of the Month of May – Rex Pierce, Health Department Financial Services Manager. Presented by Rice with remarks by Health Officer Ron Grimes.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Joe Evans of Summit Township presented the Clerk with 22 pages containing 323 signatures collected by Friends of Jackson Seniors in support of placing a .30 mill proposal for a senior millage on the August Primary ballot.

Moved by Mahoney supported by Brittain to Accept the Petitions. Motion carried.

SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Road Commission 2004 Audit Report- Doug Atkins, CPA and Laure Fiero.

Moved by Mahoney supported by Brittain to Accept the Road Commission 2004 Audit Report. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment began at 7:14 p.m. with Kenneth Hickey.

Mr. Hickey voiced his support of the Senior Millage and the home delivered meals. Mr. Hickey stated that he was the caregiver for his wife of 57 years as she struggled with Alzheimer and Parkinson's diseases and really appreciated the support that he received and continues to receive since her death. Angie Godek spoke of being a health care worker for 20-years, and seeing many changes in the field. The quality of service has vastly improved, and people are able to remain at home longer with help from the services from the Department on Aging. Custodial care, light housekeeping, shopping, & changing linens are some of the services that allow seniors to remain in their homes.

Ms. Godek urged the Board to consider putting a request for .35 mills on the ballot.

At 7:20 p.m. Lisa Tinsley, retired Department Head of Department on Aging spoke. She stated that surrounding counties such as Hillsdale and Lenewee passed senior millages long ago and renewed them easily. State cuts are eroding senior services. Many of these people are homebound with no friends or family to check up on them. The people who deliver home delivered meals are the only people they see each day.

Nancy Harris said that she has lived in Jackson all of her life and now delivers meals to seniors. Her husband volunteers do many things for these people such as installing grab bars, patching holes, and changing light bulbs. Volunteers are frequently the ones who find seniors who have fallen and are in need of assistance.

Margaret Rhode spoke and stated that she is 98 years old and helped start the Department on Aging. Back then; it was a small, dingy little place. Today, the seniors have a nice place to go, and can go home satisfied after spending a day doing things that interest seniors.

James Kulas is in favor of the millage. His father became ill 3 years ago. Someone suggested checking with the Department on Aging for a wheelchair. They provided the wheelchair, meals, and legal services.

Judy Wright works for the Department on Aging. Her 90-year-old mother just passed away 2 weeks ago, and she was the caretaker for her. She herself is a senior, so often when you are helping seniors; you are helping more than one.

William S. Brown feels the Department on Aging offers outstanding service. He supports .30 millage. If we don't get that in August, try for the .25 millage in November.

Betty Wozniak is an employee with the Department on Aging and adds that they also provide respite care to enable the caregivers to take time away.

Public Comment concluded at 7:33 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A. County Affairs
- 1) Six Appointments to the Upper Grand River Watershed Council

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Elwell to Approve the Consent Agenda items A through H as contained in the following Const Agenda List:

- A. Approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2004 Committee of the Whole
- B. Approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2004 Board Meeting
- C. Approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2004 Special Meeting
- D. Approve the Minutes of the May 4, 2004 Committee of the Whole

COUNTY AFFAIRS:

- E. Approve first reading of new Board Rule No. 4045, Proclamations, which gives the Board Chairperson the authority to issue and sign County Proclamations and Special Tributes without Board Action
- F. Disband the Joint Facilities Task Force as it is not needed at the current time

COUNTY AGENCIES:

HUMAN SERVICES:

- G. Receive the Health Department Annual Report and file same with the County Clerk

PERSONNEL & FINANCE:

- H. Establish Fund 575 as the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Fund

Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. County Affairs

- 1) *Moved by Day supported by Mahoney to Make Six Appointments to the Upper Grand River Watershed Council.*

Point of order called by Shotwell. He indicated that the Board should endorse the Watershed Council first.

Moved by Day supported by Mahoney to Adopt Resolution (05-04.25) Endorsing Participation in the Upper Grand River Watershed Council.

Roll call: (12) Yeas.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) *Moved by Day supported by Baxter to Appoint the following 6 people to the Upper Grand River Watershed Council: John E. Sadowski Todd A. Zeller Scott Ambs James Tallman Karl Schmidt Geoffrey Snyder*

Moved by Mahoney supported by Brittain to Close Nominations and cast unanimous ballot.
Motion carried.

3) *Moved by Day supported by Brittain to Appoint Cmr. Shotwell to fill the Commissioners position on the Retirement Board.* Motion carried.

4) *Moved by Day supported by Mahoney to Approve a Revision to the Septage Waste Disposal Ordinance, Ordinance No. 10.*

Roll call: (12) Yeas.
Motion carried unanimously.

5) *Moved by Day supported by Herl to Adopt Resolution (05-04.26) Accepting Terms of a DNR Agreement for Improvements to the Lime Lake and Grass Lake Boat Access Sites.*

Roll call: (12) Yeas.
Motion carried unanimously.

6) *Moved by Day supported by Mahoney to Establish an Ad Hoc Committee, Appointed by Chairman Rice, to Study Term Limits on Appointments to County Boards and Committees.* Motion carried.

B. County Agencies:
No report.

C. Human Services:
No report

D. Personnel & Finance:

1) *Moved by Elwell supported by Wilson to Adopt Resolution (05-04.27) Approving Senior Millage Proposal and Ballot Language (.25 mills, August 3rd primary election, for an 8-year period).*

Moved by Lacinski supported by Mahoney to make a friendly amendment changing the dates on the Resolution in the Board packet to 2004 –2011.

Motion on the amendment carried. Mahoney indicated that she would be abstaining from the vote for .25 mills.

Moved by Mahoney supported by Lacinski to Increase the Mills on the Ballot from .25 to .30.

Rice interjected that the Board received 323 signatures on petitions requesting the .30 mills. Elwell stated that he is in favor of the millage, but he does not want to set it up to fail. A second request would definitely not pass. By requesting .25 mills, and if need be, renewing it and raising in the future would be showing fiscal responsibility.

Day agreed with Elwell, .25 is better than nothing.

Mahoney pointed out that seniors always vote and this is what they want. .30 insures that regardless of state and federal cuts, seniors will be able to stay in their homes with dignity and respect. The Board can always lower the millage, but cannot raise it without going back to the voters.

Brittain said that he would support the .35 in November, as there are more voters.

Lacinski concurred. He pointed out that every 5 years the Medical Care Facility passes their .15 millage, and in the past have lowered the levy to .1477. We can always go lower.

Videto supports the .25 as the need now. We can always request a modest increase in 4 years.

Roll call on the .30 amendment:

(9) Nays. Cmr. Herl, Adams, Brittain, Day, Baxter, Videto, Shotwell, Wilson, & Elwell.
(3) Yeas. Cmr. Mahoney, Lacinski, & Rice.

Motion to amend from .25 to .30 failed.

Roll call on the main motion of .25 mills on the August 3 ballot:

(9) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Day, Baxter, Videto, Mahoney, Lacinski, Wilson, Elwell, & Rice.

(3) Nays. Cmr. Adams, Brittain, & Shotwell.

Main motion carried.

2) Moved by Elwell supported by Lacinski **to Approve Establishing a Deputy IT Director Position.**

Brittain indicated that he would be opposing it. The position should go through the budget process like everything else. Why bend the rules.

Elwell is in support of the position as IT has many huge ongoing projects and a Director that can retire at any time.

Wilson said that he understands the need for the position at this time, but would we have to maintain the Deputy Director position after a transition? Also, are we offering enough at a grade 15 to attract good people?

Chet answered that the job description factors at a 15. Also, it would be at the Board's discretion to eliminate the position if it outlives its purpose.

Day asked if there was anyone in the department currently that might be considered for the position.

Chet answered that there is not. Those positions are Network Administrators and not Department Administrators. It's a highly technical position.

Mahoney stated that she would be supporting the position. We have established Deputies in many departments to step up or be interim in the event of a retirement, IT was simply an oversight.

Roll call:

(10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Adams, Day, Baxter, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Lacinski, Elwell, & Rice.

(2) Nays. Cmr. Brittain and Wilson.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Moved by Wilson supported by Brittain to ask Personnel & Finance to put off hiring a new Administrator/Controller until the new Board is seated next year.

Mahoney said that there is a committee in place working on hiring a new Administrator/Controller. This Board has vision and leadership to make the selection.

Elwell indicated that he felt comfortable with the committee making the selection.

Shotwell reminded the Board that this had been discussed and decided in February to have an Administrator/Controller in place so that they would have 60 to 90 days to learn from Chet.

Wilson stated that he was not trying to minimize the committee. Should they consider a 1-year contract?

Elwell said that the committee should recommend the length of the contract.

Moved by Adams supported by Lacinski to Call For the Question. Motion carried.

Roll call on main motion:

(11) Nays. Cmr. Herl, Adams, Day, Baxter, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Lacinski, Wilson, Elwell, & Rice.

(1) Yea. Cmr. Brittain.

Motion to send the hiring of a new Administrator/Controller to Personnel and Finance failed.

Elwell thanked the seniors for all of their help and input.

CONSIDERATION & ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:

Moved by Lacinski supported by Elwell to Pay the Claims. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment began at 8:33 p.m. with Lisa Tinsley thanking the Board for putting the senior millage out to the voters.

Betty Wozniak also thanked the Board for their support of the senior millage. Public comment ended at 8:34 p.m.

ADJOURN:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Day to Adjourn to the Call of the Chair. Motion carried.

The May 18, 2004 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Jim Rice-Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Sandy Crowley, Jackson County Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk.