

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
May 26, 2006 - Special Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 8:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Steve Shotwell called the May 26, 2006 Special meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

(10) Present. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Videto, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Smith, Gumbert, & Shotwell.
(2) Absent. Cmr. Reynolds and Wilson

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment began at 8:05 a.m. with Travis Fojtasek. Mr. Fojtasek feels that it is a waste to go outside of the county to hire a specialized law firm to defend contested petitions when the county already retains an attorney for such matters. He feels that it smells like partisan politics.

John Hardman mirrors Mr. Fojtasek's comments. He has seen the rules pertaining to the petitions and feels that it is obvious that they are not good petitions and this is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Robert Gache, the attorney for Diane Rappleye would like to hear discussion from the Board before he makes any comments, but at this point, he supports the comments of Mr. Fojtasek and Mr. Hardman.

Judy DuPuis asked that the Board not spend taxpayer's money on hiring a specialized attorney when they have an in-house attorney that is qualified to handle this situation.

Public comment closed at 8:07 a.m.

CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF FOSTER, SWIFT, COLLINS, & SMITH, P.C., TO THE APPROVED COUNTY ATTORNEY LIST:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Duckham to Appoint Foster, Swift, Collins, & Smith, P.C. to the Approved County Attorney List.

Duckham feels that the public has a right to vote for who they want for judge, and should not be deprived because of a technicality.

Gumbert does not feel that the funds are being spent frivolously. One way or another the funds are going to be spent, and this way we will know for certain, not just this time, but if this ever comes up in the future.

Mahoney said that attorneys study different types of law. If she had a civil or criminal case, she would retain a civil or criminal attorney. We don't retain an attorney on a yearly basis; we pay them based on what they do for us. It is important to represent any County employee with the proper type of attorney.

Videto feels that we need an attorney with the proper expertise, and our dollar will go further. This is also the most non-partisan way to do this.

Herl added that we have a number of out-of-county attorneys on the list.

Lutchka feels the same as Gumbert, Mahoney, and Videto. If his wife is sick, he doesn't call a veterinarian.

Shotwell reiterated that we don't have an on-staff attorney. We have a list and we contact them on an as-needed basis.

Brittain states that Berkemeier could be elected as a write in candidate. He would not be in favor of these attorneys unless Sandy agrees to pay for them out of her budget if she loses. If she wins, we need to go after the accuser.

Bob Elliott responded that all litigation is paid for out of the Human Services account, it is not based on the department line items.

Duckham added that we need a specialized attorney. The people that signed the petitions have rights. If they were not registered voters, that would be one thing; but they want to see this candidate run.

Roll call: (9) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Videto, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Smith, Gumbert, & Shotwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Gumbert supported by Videto to Adjourn to the Call of the Chair. The May 26, 2006 Special Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

Steve Shotwell-Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Sandy Crowley-Jackson County Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster-Chief Deputy County Clerk