

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**June 19, 2001 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Robert Lacinski called the Jackson County Board of Commissioners June 19, 2001 meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Cmr. Pascal

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

(15) Present: Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Rice, Baum, DeForest, Reynolds, Adams, Herl, Elwell, Pascal, Beardslee, Thulin, Brittain, Day, & Lacinski.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Lacinski made several adjustments to the agenda, before requesting approval. Item D was added to the Awards and Recognitions regarding the All American City. An additional award will be presented to Warren Cook for his work with the BRA. Under Special Order/Public Hearings the addition of item C., a report from the Road Commission ad hoc committee. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Herl to approve the agenda.* Motion carried.

**SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARING:**

A. Public Hearing on the Project Plan and Issuance of Bonds for the American Tooling Center, Inc. Project. Dave Miller, Executive Director of the EDC, introduced John Basso, owner of American Tooling Center, Inc. Mr. Basso requested the support of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners for the Bonds for his company. He described the machinery and the building the Bonds would help provide.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

The Chair recognized Clark Thulin, who presented a tribute to Warren J. Cook, Jr. for his contributions to the BRA Board. Mr. Cook has been very active in the BRA since it's inception in 1988.

Representative Clark Bisbee presented a tribute signed by Sen. Hoffman, Governor Engler, Rep. Mortimer and himself for Mr. Cook's involvement in the BRA and the EDC. Mr. Cook thanked everyone for their kind words and indicated that he was pleased and proud to be part of the process.

Lacinski presented the Employee of the Month, June Award, to Jackie Morris, Court Officer for Judge Falahee, Jr. Remarks were made by Anethia Brewer.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by DeForest to adopt a Retirement Resolution honoring Judy Hemry who is retiring from the Health Department with 22 years, 6 months of service.* Roll call: (15) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

Lacinski presented the resolution to Judy Hemry, and remarks were made by Ted Westmeier.

*Moved by Day, supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to adopt a resolution supporting the Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce and all other units of local and State government in the quest to be named an "All American City".* Roll call: (15) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Lacinski wished luck to Thulin and Janet Rochefort, who were going to Atlanta on behalf of Jackson.

**COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

None

**SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARING:**

B. Jackson District Library's 2000 Audit/Annual Report. Bescye Burnett, Director, gave a very positive report. Brittain requested statistical figures for 1999. Reynolds asked about locks on the computers that children have access to in the library. Ms. Burnett responded that they are in the process of installing filters on the computers.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by DeForest to receive the Jackson District Library's 2000 Audit/Annual Report.* Motion carried.

C. Rice gave the ad hoc Road Commission report. Rice thanked Lacinski for appointing him as Chair, and also thanked Cliff Herl, David Elwell, Todd Brittain, Judy Reynolds, Karl Schmidt, Elwin Johnson, and Robert Zenz for their cooperation and participation.

Rice felt that the recommendations the ad hoc committee came up with should be sent to the committees that deal with them. The votes that were taken on June 14, 2001 were as follows

A. Maintain "full pay" Road Commission at current rate- 4/1

B. Continue to appoint the Road Commissioners-4/1

C. Move the appointment of Road Commissioners from December to January so that the incoming Board of Commissioners would have the vote-4/1

D. Request that the Road Commission marks their cars with permanent emblems so the community will know who they are on the job. Unanimous.

E. Request pension and health care benefits be eliminated for any new Road Commissioners. Current Commissioners would be Grand fathered. Unanimous.

F. Request the Road Commission give a monthly accounting for hours of work-3/2

G. Request the Road Commission establish the same of CQ1 initiative within the Road Commission. Unanimous.

*Moved by Rice, supported by Brittain that items A-G decisions by the ad hoc committee be adopted by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.*

Lacinski asked Elwell if he wanted to present his amendment to the pension and health care benefits as an amendment to the motion. Elwell replied that he supports the motion as written, but sensed that there was opposition, so he drafted a compromise. Elwell did not want to offer it at this time.

Baum was opposed to cutting the benefits. He feels it is a large draw item. Day also was also opposed. How do we attract good, qualified candidates for the positions without benefits?

Elwell felt that benefits are the one area that the Board of Commissioners can show savings in the limited areas that are in their control compensation, appointment and benefits. We should be looking at each opening and see how to best serve the issue.

Lacinski reminded the Board that D-G are requests only. Each one will not be arbitrarily denied.

Rice feels the Road Commission should be offered health care at a reasonable cost, the same as the Board of Commissioners.

Elwell wants to eliminate the word request. He feels that the benefits should be eliminated.

Reynolds indicated that she originally supported keeping the benefits. She could support it the way that Elwell's amendment reads. We have the need to attract quality people.

Pascal said that he feels it's time to change the status quo and go to a part-time Road Commission. He thinks we should combine the director and head engineer position and have this person with expertise run the daily operation. It would provide considerable savings, and would run more efficiently.

Thulin is also in support of a part-time Road Commission. Out of 83 counties, only 2 have full-time Road Commissions. He supports that the amendment that the word "request" be removed.

Lacinski felt that the Board had allowed ample latitude to the ad hoc committee. They were given the first quarter, and an extension into the second quarter, the report is concise, and all commissioners have had the opportunity to comment.

*Moved by Elwell, supported by Rice to remove the word "request" from item E.* Motion carried. The amendment passed.

Lacinski returned to the main motion. Day asked if the items all had to be considered together. There was discussion. *Moved by Thulin, supported by Brittain to call for the question.* Motion carried. Vote on the main motion as amended, Mahoney-Sherrod requested a roll call vote. Roll call: (8) Nays. Adams, Beardslee, Baum, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Reynolds, & Lacinski. (7) Yeas. DeForest, Rice, Herl, Pascal, Thulin, Brittain, & Elwell.

Mahoney-Sherrod felt it was a mistake to pass the whole package. Rice was reluctant to move on. He still felt they should go to the respective committees. The Chair will take it under advisement.

Rice left at 8:15.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Elwell requested that item O be removed and returned to Personnel & Finance. *Moved by McNitt, supported by Day to approve the Consent Agenda items A through S minus item O.* Motion carried.

**A. Approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2001 Regular Board Meeting.**

**B. Approve the Minutes of the May 30, 2001 Committee of the Whole.**

**County Affairs:**

**C. Establish a public hearing at the July 10, 2001 Board Meeting, 7:05 p.m., to review and consider the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan for RamaTech, L.L.C.**

**County Agencies:**

**D. Approve the Sheriff Department's application for FY 2002 Community Correction funds (\$197,821 for administration and \$282,510 for probation residential services)**

**Human Services:**

**E. Approve the new Agreement with Ingham County Health Department for Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Services for the Period of May 1, 2001 through September 30, 2001.**

**F. Approve the Agreement between the Department of Industry Services, the Department of Environmental Quality and the Jackson County Health Department for calendar year 2001, which will provide reimbursement for inspections of manufactured housing communities.**

**G. Allow the Jackson County Health Department to participate in the Ingham Health Plan/Capital Area Prescription Program, which Offers County residents who do not have prescription coverage an opportunity to apply for reduced cost prescription drugs.**

**H. Transfer the title of MSU-Jackson County's motor home/mobile classroom from Jackson County to Michigan State University to comply with an audit of the Family Nutrition Program in August of 2000**

**Personnel & Finance:**

**I. Approve the GIS Inter-Governmental Enhanced Access User Agreement**

**J. Approve the GIS Enhanced Access to Public Records Policy**

**K. Approve a \$200 raise in petty cash for the District Court's Traffic Department, bringing the total petty cash to \$500.**

L. Approve the line item transfer as requested by the Friend of the Court, which transfers \$39,000 from full-time wages to part-time wages.

M. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding Addendum Regarding MSU's Community Development Agent position, effective June 1, 2001, which says that the amount of position salary costs will be based on a total salary of \$35,000 annually.

N. Approve MSU's 4-H Enrichment budget adjustment.

O. Approve the revised Personnel Policies:

Policy No. 3200, Wages, Hours, and Working Conditions-Nonunion Employees

Policy No. 3210, Compensatory Time Policy for Nonunion, Non-Exempt Employees

Policy No. 3220, Nepotism

P. Approve a budget adjustment moving the wireless cell phone monies received from the State in the amount of \$82,746 from fund balance to a new fund to be used for E 9-1-1 recording equipment.

Q. Approve a Fee-for-Service Agreement with the Department of Resource Development Land and Water Systems Partnership, Michigan State University, for development of community-based decision support systems built around Smart Places and other information technology tools which requires payment of two installments of \$12,500 each for 2001.

R. Approve a \$5,000 County contribution for the All America City trip to Atlanta, sponsoring two County representatives to make the trip, and contributing the use of a van for transporting purposes, with funds to come from the Contingency Fund.

S. Authorize spending \$20,400 to hire the services of Veridian Systems Division, Inc. to update the County's land use information, with the funds to come from Fund Balance.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES REPORTS:

##### A. County Affairs

*Moved by Day, supported by Reynolds to concur with Chairman Lacinski's appointment of Facilities Manager Jerry Bethel for another 3-year term on the Jackson County Building Authority.* Motion carried.

*Moved by Day, supported by Elwell to approve the appointment of Janice Fairley to the vacant Citizen-at-Large seat on the Community Corrections Advisory Board for an indefinite term as recommended by Sheriff Zavislak.* Motion carried.

*Moved by Day, supported by Reynolds to adopt the Resolution Authorizing issuance of Bonds for the Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Napoleon Village Section).* Roll call: (14) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

*Moved by Day, supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to adopt a resolution requesting that the Road Commissioners submit the five bridge structures named in the resolution for replacement to the Federal and State Critical Bridge Program.* Roll call: (14) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

*Moved by Day, supported by Baum to adopt a resolution approving the project plan for the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Jackson American Tooling Center, Inc. project and issuance of bonds.* Roll call: (14) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

##### B. County Agencies:

Nothing to report.

##### C. Human Services:

Nothing to report.

**D. Personnel & Finance:**

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Herl to approve the revised Personnel Policies: Policy No. 3200, Wages, Hours and Working Conditions-Nonunion Employees; Policy No. 3210, Compensatory Time Policy for Nonunion, Non-Exempt Employees.; Policy No. 3220, Nepotism*

Elwell requested this be removed from the consent agenda because of the verbiage "In the event the transfer cannot be made within ninety (90) days, the employee with the most recent hire date shall be terminated". *Moved by Elwell, supported by Brittain to adopt Policy Nos. 3200 & 3210, and send 3220 back to committee.* Motion carried.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Herl to suspend the Administrative Policy requiring two readings of fee schedules when approving the GIS hard copy and digital fees.* Motion carried.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by McNitt to approve the GIS hard copy fees and digital fees.* Motion carried.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Brittain to approve the Board of Commissioners Goals/Priorities for 2001-2002 as follows:*

**A. Improve the Use of Technology**

**B. Improve Facilities Infrastructure**

**C. Enhance Customer Service with a Service Improvement Plan**

**D. Focus on Healthy Families**

**E. Promote Economic Development**

**Motion carried.**

Lacinski apologized for skipping public comment. He assured that ample time would be offered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> public comment.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Pascal wanted to go on the record changing his vote regarding the ad hoc committee's recommendations. He was confused during the vote. Baum added that the committee worked very hard. He does not like this conclusion. Lacinski reminded the Board that a motion was made with an amendment, and it was voted 8-7. Herl still feels it should be voted on separately. *Moved by Reynolds, supported by Thulin to reconsider items A-G individually.* Motion carried, Pascal on the record with a no vote.

A. *Moved by Baum, supported by Thulin to maintain "full pay" Road Commissioners at current rate.* Roll call: (9) Yeas. DeForest, Herl, Adams, Beardslee, Baum, Day, Elwell, Reynolds, & Lacinski. (5) Nays. Pascal, Thulin, Brittain, Mahoney-Sherrod, & McNitt. Motion carried.

B. *Moved by McNitt, supported by Elwell to continue appointing the Road Commissioners.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. DeForest, Herl, Thulin, Adams, Beardslee, Baum, Day, McNitt, Elwell, Reynolds, & Lacinski. (3) Nays. Pascal, Brittain, & Mahoney-Sherrod. Motion carried.

C. *Moved by Elwell, supported by Thulin to move the Road Commissioner appointments from December to January.* Roll call: (10) Yeas. DeForest, Herl, Pascal, Thulin, Beardslee, Baum, Brittain, Elwell, Reynolds, & Lacinski. (4) Nays. Adams, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, & McNitt. Motion carried.

D. *Moved by Elwell, supported by Thulin to request that the Road Commissioners cars be marked with permanent emblems.* Motion carried.

E. *Moved by Thulin, supported by Herl that pension and health care fringe benefits be eliminated for "new" Road Commissioners (current Commissioners would be Grand fathered).* Baum is not as concerned

with the pension, as with the health care benefits. *Moved by Elwell, supported by Baum that Elwell's printed compromise is added to the language of E.* Motion carried. Mahoney-Sherrod opposed to the elimination of health & pension benefits. The Grand fathered Commissioners working closely with any new Commissioners would have different moral. Thulin was assured that the present Road Commissioners would be Grand fathered, but if they left and came back, it would be under the new amendment. Elwell responded that this compromise does not eliminate benefits. If they don't have coverage from another source, it will be provided. ***Newly elected Road Commissioners shall be provided Health Insurance benefits only if they do not have no-cost Health Insurance available through another employer, spousal coverage, or as part of a retirement or disability benefit from a previous employer, and that Pension benefits be eliminated.*** Roll call: (7) Yeas. Pascal, Thulin, Beardslee, Baum, Brittain, Elwell, & Reynolds. (7) Nays. DeForest, Herl, Adams, Day, Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, & Lacinski. The motion does not pass.

***F. Moved by Elwell, supported by Pascal to request that the Road Commissioners give monthly accountings of hours worked.*** Motion carried.

Herl asked about requiring résumés. Day discussed résumés vs. applications. Lacinski suggested taking that issue up at a later time.

***G. Moved by Thulin, supported by Reynolds to request that the Road Commission establish some type of County Quality 1 initiative within the Road Commission.*** Motion carried.

Chet responded to Herl's inquiry about résumés. All of the recommendations are attached, but when it came to making decisions, the résumé issue was not brought up as a decision.

*Moved by Herl, supported by Elwell that before a Road Commissioner is appointed they must provide a résumé and be interviewed by the County Affairs Committee.* Mahoney-Sherrod feels that everyone that applies to be appointed should be interviewed. Baum thinks the current system is fine. People that are interested in being appointed go to the Commissioners. Brittain suggested that it be like the Administrator/Controller interview. The person would sit in front of the full Board. Pascal supports Herl's motion. He feels it would be appropriate for them to be interviewed by the County Affairs Committee. Motion carried.

Reynolds indicated that she was interested in resuming small group meetings. She feels they are extremely beneficial. *Moved by Reynolds, supported by Elwell to resume small meetings with no per diem.* Reynolds suggested that instead of offering several times there only be one time. Brittain said that it would have to be after 4:30. Lacinski indicated that there would have to be several times, or with a majority present, it would be a Committee of the Whole. Baum feels that with the availability of computers, all information should be available. He doesn't feel the need for the small group meetings. Reynolds reminded him that they are not mandatory. Roll call: (8) Yeas. DeForest, Herl, Thulin, Beardslee, Brittain, Elwell, Reynolds, & Lacinski. (5) Nays. Pascal, Adams, Baum, Day, & Mahoney-Sherrod. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chet asked to invite all of the past Commissioners to the 2nd Annual County Picnic. It would be an ideal opportunity for a reunion.

#### **CONSIDERATION & ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:**

*Moved by DeForest, supported by Elwell to allow the claims.* Motion carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Basso thanked the Commission for approving the bonds for American Tooling. He invited everyone to come see the new press room when it is completed in about 8 weeks.

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by Day to adjourn to the call of the chair.* Motion carried.

The June 19, 2001 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Robert Lacinski- Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Sandy Crowley-County Clerk

Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk.