

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
June 21, 2005 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Herl called the June 21, 2005 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Comr. Shotwell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Presentation of the Colors by Boy Scout Troup 309, introduced by Shotwell

ROLL CALL:

(11) Present: Comrs. Lutchka, Brittain, Day, Reynolds, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Smith, Gumbert, & Herl. (1) Absent: Comr. Wilson

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Reynolds to Approve the Agenda as Published. Shotwell requested to have some changes made to the agenda. Shotwell asked to have County Agencies Standing Report before County Affairs; and that there is a hand out provided adding items 12 G, the appointment of the Administrator/Controller as the Rezonement Grant County Administrator and item 12 H, the Authorization for Chairman to sign 2005 Taxable Valuations Report L-4046. Roll call on amended agenda: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

A. Resolution of Support for Michigan State University Extension-Jackson County:

Jan Seitz, County Extension Director introduced the following staff:

Renee Applegate- 4-H Educator
Mike Metzger-Sorrel Crops Educator
Phil Tocco- Ag and Natural Resource Educator
Tom Guthrie- Swine Educator
Ralph Heiden- Horticulturist

Ms. Seitz presented Ralph Heiden who offered a Power Point presentation of MSU Extension in Jackson County.

Moved by Mahoney supported by Berkemeier to Adopt Resolution 06-05.34 of Support for Michigan State University Extension-Jackson County.

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

B. Proclamation (06-05.04) Saluting Scouting in Jackson County:

Shotwell introduced Vic Pooler, Director of the Great Sauk Trail, which is the Boy Scout Council of Jackson County and six other counties. *Moved by Shotwell supported by Mahoney to Approve the Proclamation Saluting Scouting in Jackson.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Pooler thanked the Board for this honor.

C. Presentation on Private Fundraising for Cascades Falls Improvements, Lagoons Restoration, and Park Beautification within Sparks County Park-Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce.

Herl introduced Susan Milhoan, President of the Greater Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Milhoan gave the history of Sparks Park and introduced John Cryst to give his vision of the Sparks Park return to grandeur. Mr. Cryst expressed the need to revitalize the park. Mr. Dave Hayes, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Chamber spoke next. During the year 2005 they have selected eleven different initiatives to pursue. One of them being investigating funding and partnering within the community to accelerate the good work that's already been going on there. Recently a potential large donor came forward. This businessman pointed out that there are many people around here who have a passion for this, and we need to unite. What needs to be done is to form a non-profit organization. Susan Milhoan expressed the desire to work with the County Park's Department and create an endowment within the Community Foundation to receive funds, raise 2.5 million dollars to revive the ecosystem of the lagoons, to refurbish Cascade Falls, and to return Cascades Falls Park to the grandeur of the 1930's. *Moved by Reynolds supported by Mahoney that the Jackson County Commission put it's full blessing on the creation of a donor advised fund through the Jackson County Community Foundation for the purposes of conducting fund raising and dedicating financial resources to the lagoon restoration, the Cascade Park beautification, and Cascade Falls improvement.* Reynolds also asked the Administrator to prepare a resolution

containing the pertinent facts. Gumbert expressed confusion over this issue coming before the Board tonight; she doesn't have any information to review before she votes. Brittain said that he had seen it in the packet, but there was not attachment, so she could have called someone before the meeting. Mahoney clarified that we are only giving our blessing to something that the people of Jackson County want; the beautification of their park. Reynolds stated that she was just asking for their blessing, they don't need it, but would like it to begin the process. Lutchka asked if this is what the resolution that was passed by the Park's Department stated? Gumbert stated that her problem is that it was to be a presentation, not a request for an endorsement. Day pointed out that a resolution was discussed in County Affairs, and that was in the packet. Roll call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Lutchka, Brittain, Day, Reynolds, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Smith, & Herl. (1) Nay. Cmr. Gumbert. Motion carried.

D. Moved by Mahoney supported by Brittain to Adopt Resolution (06-05.31) Honoring Suzanne Rose Upon Her Retirement. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously. Presented by Herl with remarks by Sheriff Dan Heyns.

E. Employee of the Month:

1) May 2005, Phil Konieczki, Facilities Maintenance Technician, Facilities Department. Presented by Herl with remarks by Randy Treacher, Deputy County Administrator/Human Resources Director.

2) June 2005, Jason Yoakam, Mapping Specialist, Equalization Department. Presented by Herl with remarks by Juli Kolbe, Equalization Director.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None

SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment began at 7:52 p.m. with Phil Rosenberger commenting on the plan to merge the Veteran's Affairs Department with the Department on Aging. He feels that both departments are unique in their own responsibilities. The Department on Aging serves the aging. The Veteran's Affairs Department is currently serving veterans from approximately five wars, their spouses, and their children. They assist in finding employment, coordinating claims, transportation to the vet hospital, grave markers, and any of their needs. One of the most important reasons not to merge these departments is that the young veterans seeking help will not go to the Department on Aging. There are many that are not old enough to buy a beer, but they need direction.

Ron Grimes, Director of the Health Department spoke on the elimination of the Deputy positions. He encouraged the Board not to take that action. The Deputy is not merely an assistant to fill in when the Director is not there. Almost 60% of our budget is funded by grants. The Deputy oversees some of those grants. If we lose that position, for every dollar saved in salary, we would lose an additional 44 cents. Ron encourages the Board not to eliminate the Deputy position.

Darren Binkley spoke regarding the FOC Advisory Committee. Mr. Binkley said that last week at the County Agencies Committee, Andy Crisenbery, Director of the FOC, was there and went on record to say that he is neutral on the dissolution of the committee. Mr. Binkley read an e-mail authored by Andy Crisenbery, submitted to the Board on May 9 that stated "dissolving the committee would be practical and logical at this time". Mr. Binkley also referenced what he considered a slanderous e-mail from one of the judge's that he feels cast him out of the running for this position. Mr. Binkley suggested replacing the members on the committee that aren't meeting.

Public comment concluded at 8:02 p.m.

SPECIAL MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. County Affairs: Resolution (06-05.34) to Authorize Issuance of Bonds for Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Southern Regional Interceptor Section)

MINUTES:

Moved by Reynolds supported by Lutchka to Approve the Minutes as published. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Reynolds to Approve Consent Agenda Items A through H as follows:

- A. *Claims dated 05/17/05 – 05/31/05 as presented to and approved by the Standing Committees.*
- B. *JacksonCountyParks and Recreation Commission Request for Imprest Cash in the Amount of \$1,450.*
- C. *12 th District Court Budget Adjustment of \$48,201 – Drunk Driving Assistance Funds*
- D. *12 th District Court Annual Report*
- E. *Budget Adjustment for Drug Court Grant Funds within the Circuit/Family/Probate Court*
- F. *Amendment #1 to the Agreement between State of Michigan Department of Human Services and the County of Jackson for Medical Enforcement Reimbursement Reduction*
- G. *Appointment of Administrator/Controller as RemonumentationGrantCounty Administrator*
- H. *Authorization for Chairman to sign 2005 Taxable Valuations Report L-4046*

Roll call (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. County Agencies (Order changed under "Approval of the Agenda")

1) *Moved by Reynolds supported by Gumbert to Repeal the Friend of the Court Advisory Board.* Brittain agreed with Mr. Binkley that the committee should remain intact and that they should choose members who are willing to meet. Day also agreed and he will be voting against the motion. Berkemeier believes that there is a role for the committee in giving feedback to the FOC and to this Board as well. Gumbert feels there was a breakdown in the committee not meeting. Most people that go before this committee leave more upset then when they came because the committee can't do anything for them. Mahoney believes that is no practical reason to continue with this committee. Lutchka believes that the committee cannot solve the problems at the FOC because they have no authority. Roll call: (6) Nays. Cmr. Brittain, Day, Videto, Berkemeier, Smith, & Shotwell. (5) Yeas. Cmr. Herl Lutchka, Reynolds, Mahoney, & Gumbert. Motion failed.

B. County Affairs:

1. June 2005 Appointments:

a. *Moved by Day supported by Reynolds to Recommend to the Full Board the Appointment of Shirley Johnson to the Friend of the Court Advisory Board, Public Member, Term to March 2008.* Moved by Gumbert to nominate Darren Binkley. Roll call: Johnson (8). Cmr. Lutchka, Day, Reynolds, Videto, Shotwell, Berkemeier, Smith, and Herl. Binkley (3). Cmr. Brittain, Mahoney, & Gumbert. Shirley Johnson was appointed to the Friend of the Court Advisory Committee.

b. *Moved by Day supported by Mahoney to Recommend to the Full Board the Appointment of Janet Rochefort to the County Building Authority, Term to June 2008.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

2. *Moved by Day supported by Reynolds to Adopt Resolution (06-05.30) Authorizing the Jackson County Board of Commissioners Chairman, Clifford E. Herl, to Sign MDOT Contract No. 2005-0243 Federal Project No. B-26-0051-1303. Project Title: Installation of a Beacon at the JacksonCountyAirport.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3. *Moved by Day supported by Reynolds to Adopt Resolution (06-05.30) Rescinding Prior Actions in Support of a 4-Lane Bridge Design on Denton Road in the SparksPark and Supporting the Construction of a 2-Lane Bridge at the same location.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolution (06-05.33) Supporting in Concept the Creation of a Private Foundation for Restoration of the Lagoons in the Sparks Park, Park Beautification, and Cascades Falls Improvements. There was discussion over the way that a motion was presented immediately following that Cascades presentation, instead of being handled under Affairs. Gumbert expressed concern that they didn't have the Resolution that was passed to look at. Brittain said that he thought it would have passed unanimously if it had been presented at the appropriate time. No action is necessary on this Resolution.

C. Human Services:

No report.

D. Personnel & Finance:

Moved by Videto supported by Shotwell to Approve Resolution (06-05.34) to Authorize Issuance of Bonds for JacksonCounty Wastewater Disposal Facility (Southern Regional Interceptor Section). Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Gumbert to Remove the issue of the Deputy/Assistant Budget Initiative-County Affairs Committee. Roll call: (8) Yeas. Cmr. Lutchka, Reynolds, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Gumbert, & Herl. (3) Nays. Cmr. Brittain, Day, & Smith. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appointments to the Ad Hoc Committee on CountyPolicies:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Reynolds to Concur with the Chair's appointments of Todd Brittain, Phil Berkemeier, and DeAnn Gumbert to the Ad Hoc Committee on CountyPolicies. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment began at 8:27 p.m. with Darren Binkley. He thanked the Board for not dissolving the FOC Advisory Committee. Mr. Binkley suggested that someone contact the remaining members to see if they are interested in remaining on the committee. If they are not ask for their resignation, advertise in the paper and fill the positions with people who are interested.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Reynolds announced that she would be hosting a Commissioner's picnic on August 20, 2005.

Lutchka stated that several months ago he was appointed to an Ag Committee, and they have settled on a name-Food System Economic Partnership (FSEP). The committee is in line to receive a \$200,000 grant to fund it. They are studying whether they need a slaughter facility in Clinton, MI. One group wants to build a milk processing facility in Saline. Since the formation of this group, there have been three others formed; one in the Traverse City area, St. Joe area, and the Ottawa County area.

Smith feels that the person in charge of the FOC Advisory Committee should be checked out, and if they are not interested put someone in there who can do something for the FOC.

Brittain suggested having motions pertaining to presentations appear on the agenda at the same time. Brittain also expressed again that he felt the agenda's are still too confusing.

Videto expressed that there have been many changes, and the agenda has been one of the more difficult ones to adjust to. This packet is cumbersome. We do have to be patient with the process.

Day interjected that he liked it when Affairs had one page with all of the motions listed.

Lutchka stated that he is the "new guy" and can follow the agenda, because it's the only one he's ever seen. He asked if anyone had a copy of an old one, he could make a comparison. Herl said that there were books full of them upstairs.

Gumbert said that we used to have different colored pages separating the sections that made it easier to follow.

Mahoney said that she was not in favor of a motion to change the agenda, she would prefer to simply ask the Administrator to put the agenda into an format to follow.

CLOSED SESSION:

None

ADJOURN TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR:

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

The June 21, 2005 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Cliff Herl-Chair, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Sandy Crowley, Jackson County Clerk
Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk