

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**June 27, 2006 - Committee of the Whole Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 4:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Steve Shotwell called the June 27, 2006 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**SPECIAL ORDER:**

A. **Pre-Budget Meeting with the Board of Commissioners for the 2007 Annual Budget for the County of Jackson.**

- 1) **Continue the 4-year budget plan projected into FY 2009 based upon current revenue and expenditure forecasts.**
- 2) **Continued implementation of budget initiatives as outlined in the budget reduction resolution.**
- 3) **Personal service cost to reflect wage adjustments for personnel will be budgeted at the level of 2.0% accepting those employees for which executed collective bargaining agreements would require otherwise. As in the previous year, the personnel section of the budget will be provided to departments in a completed format except the Overtime (Form 5) and Casual/Seasonal/Temporary (Form 4b). The departments will complete these forms.** During Bob's presentation of the packet, Shotwell expressed concerns over the public discussion of the 2% personnel costs. Herl stated that in the past, they had put it in a reserve account to preserve the collective bargaining process.
- 4) **A budget allocation of an additional 0 amount will be applied to non-personnel related object codes except grant and other fixed cost codes.**
- 5) **Capital outlay requests will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. Projected revenues for the fund must support all funding for these types of expenses.** Shotwell inquired about the departments without revenue; Bob explained that they receive few requests from those departments. Reynolds asked where Capital Outlay began and Bob answered that it began at \$7,500, otherwise it is absorbed into the operating expenses.
- 6) **Creation of a compensation plan reserve account.**
- 7) **The Board of Commissioners will be requested to identify any additional budget issues at the pre-budget meeting.** Videto is concerned about the 2% personnel issue. Also, each department needs to be equal as far as the 0% allocation. Commissioners need to look at and prioritize the services of Jackson County. Smith shared her concerns regarding teen smoking. If the Health Department can give out birth control, there should be a way to reduce the cost of the patch for smoking cessation. Randy clarified that the Health Department has not provided birth control for the past four-years, since the Family Planning Clinic closed. In order to distribute the patch, there must be a doctor's physical and a prescription.

Bob responded to Videto's concerns pertaining to the 0% allocation. He indicated that departments could work within their allocation. If there is a new demand, or deficiency, it can be addressed within their allocation. It empowers the department to use their money for the highest priority needs.

Duckham had spoken with a number of officers and suggested roadside bonding and taking credit cards for child support warrants. This would help the Friend of the Court with their collections and the crowding issue at the jail.

Referring to item 15, Shotwell asked why departments couldn't come back to the Board for appeals. Shotwell said that in the past, the Board has had the "right of refusal". Bob answered that since everyone is staying within the same parameters, there should be no need for appeal.

After discussion it was determined that the Board would like to add, "After the Administrator finalizes the recommended budget, departments could make a formal appeal to the Board". Bob does not expect many appeals, as we are not growing the budget. Herl would like to see the appeals process left in place.

Duckham expanded on the child support collection issue. He feels that renting out jail space that could be used for people who are not paying child support is wrong. He feels that we are trying to balance the county budget on the backs of children who are not receiving child support. Bob suggests that it is researched and brought back with recommendations.

Gumbert referred to "item 19 Funding for other Organizations- any adjustments to prior year allocations shall be at the discretion of the Administrator/Controller". Gumbert just wanted to be certain that they are not losing control as a Board. She feels that there should be a disclaimer, either at the beginning or end of the document that reads, "Any other recommendation the Commissioners have would be welcome".

Videto does not want to be a part of the day-to-day operations, but these items all refer to the discretion of the Administrator/Controller. One of the most important duties of the Board is to set a budget and to give direction. Most of these items should be an Administrator/Controller recommendation back to the Commissioners. Mahoney interjected that the Board needs to know of requests from organizations and be aware so that they are not blindsided, whether to say that we can't afford it or the law doesn't allow it. Bob responded that normally funding of other organizations would be a standard budget issue.

#### **B. Presentation on the 2006 Goals and Objectives for the County of Jackson:**

##### **1) Economy-Jackson County strives to have a highly competitive, vibrant and diverse regional economy that provides economic opportunity for everyone close to home and results in both individual and regional prosperity.**

Lutchka asked what would happen if a townships goal were counter-productive? Bob answered that none have been detected. Wilson asked how we could begin collaboration without having everyone in the same room? Bob answered that we are supporting goals that they already have. Herl feels that goals and objectives must be attainable. He wants to know who is going to be on the committees? These goals are very broad. Bob responded that these are not specific strategic planning objectives or an implementation mode; these are broader value statements. Videto discussed the feasibility of sitting down with all of the municipalities. It is difficult to deal with a project that crosses lines because they all have different rules. Reynolds asked what Bob's thoughts and plans were? Bob said they brought the County departments together without a script, without focus on the budget, to see what they would come up with. Mahoney interjected that our County employees cannot bring townships together. If this plan is not to bring the Board together with the other elected officials, it's not going to happen. Township boards are not going to sit down with our employees to discuss strategies. Gumbert pointed out that this resolution is just a vehicle and we are going to have to have committees to achieve these goals. Duckham feels that this resolution is too broad, and that the Board needs to pick out 2 or 3 "doable" goals. Lutchka also thinks that we need to pick out things that can be attained, such as combining everyone on the second floor for customer service. He said that the person that put this resolution together was there to facilitate; he was not really aware of the needs of the Commission. Mahoney would like to leave the Commission knowing that they accomplished one or two goals, and pass the rest on to the new commission. Gumbert pointed out that if you look at the bottom of page 8, two of these have already been accomplished. Duckham thinks that working on online services would be the direction to head.

Bob said that the strategies that came out of these planning sessions reflect the values of this Board. Videto said that there are many doable things here; we just need to develop a mechanism to make them happen. Adopting and making things happen are two different things. Herl suggests that the Chair choose a few people that can sit down and pick out a few goals that we can accomplish.

Bob feels that there is a limited set of strategies contained in the resolution. Mahoney is concerned because if Bob doesn't buy into the resolution, things will not be accomplished. Gumbert stated that this resolution is no different than has been done in the past; it just needs to be adopted and the most important goals identified. Reynolds interjected that the Commissioners all have different priorities; and she feels that the entire Board needs to work together to determine the priorities.

Berkemeier feels that the two days spent planning was helpful and contributed to the thought process. This information is a useful guide to work with although we do need more specifics to work on. Gumbert recommends that the Commissioners take this home and write down their 2 main goals. Shotwell summarized that the Board

would like to see these goals and objectives ranked and then relay them to a sub-committee; the sub-committee will then recommend to the Full Board what those priorities are. Mahoney feels that rather than a sub-committee; the Full Board should meet and discuss the priorities. Shotwell will put together a package in the Commissioner's boxes that will help guide them through their choices; after that, they will meet and discuss them. Mahoney said that the CQ1 Teams used to do this effectively.

Wilson feels that this Commission has had some major accomplishments. We have viewed the budget in a tough way, reduced staff and vehicles, and consolidated some departments. Internally we are leaving this County in a much stronger financial position than it's ever been. We shouldn't try to rush through anything from these pages in our last six months. Wilson doesn't have any problem looking at these goals, but wonders if we should only choose goals that involve only the County, or should we try to involve townships as well? Shotwell answered that whatever we think is important as a Board.

Lutchka is curious why we are using General Fund dollars for senior programs when we passed a millage for them? Randy answered that there was a commitment from the Board not to reduce the financial commitment and to expand services.

Berkemeier asked if the recent financial recognition had anything to do with the County's fund balance. Randy answered that it did not, but the bond rating does. Randy added that the Board's policy for the Unreserved Fund Balance is between 8 and 12 % of the prior year's expenditures. Berkemeier inquired where it was right now. The auditor's reported that it is at 13% for the current year. The auditor's and rating agencies would rather see 25%. Berkemeier asked if we had been stable in the balance and Randy answered that we have been staying between 10 and 13% for several years.

It was determined that the goals would be ranked 1-5. Shotwell will see that the Commissioners have a worksheet before the weekend.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners June 27, 2006 Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Steve Shotwell-Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners  
Sandy Crowley-Jackson County Clerk  
Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster-Chief Deputy County Clerk