

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**July 18, 2006 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Steve Shotwell called the July 18, 2006 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Cmr. Reynolds

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

(11) Present. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Reynolds, Videto, Berkemeier, Smith, Wilson, Gumbert, & Shotwell (1) Absent. Cmr. Mahoney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Shotwell ordered a Special Public Comment pertaining to 13 B3, the Discussion on Discontinuing the Sale of Live Animals for Research to be held under Unfinished Business.

*Moved by Shotwell s supported by Videto to Approve the Agenda as Amended.* Motion carried.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:**

A. **Employee of the Month for July 2006**-Lisa Rudolph, Social Worker, Department on Aging. Presented by Chairman Shotwell, remarks by Kristi Smith, Director, Department on Aging, and a video.

B. **Presentation by Executive Director Tim McGuire of the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)**. Mr. McGuire was unable to be present this evening.

**COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

None.

**SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2005 for the County of Jackson**-Presentation by Mr. David Fisher from Rehmann Robson, CPAs. Wilson referred to the revenue sharing issue and asked if the money that was still outstanding from the state was taken into account? Mr. Fisher answered that there was no money outstanding from the state. Wilson then inquired about the Resource Recovery Facility plans. Bob answered that there are many changes for 2006 that will remedy the cash flow problems of 2005.

Mr. Fisher reviewed the Management Letter. Reynolds asked about the 5 issues that are repeat comments from the previous year. Bob responded that attention has been focused on all of the comments, but none of them are a "quick fix". The Administration responds to all in writing within 2-weeks of the Management Letter.

*Moved by Herl supported by Reynolds to Receive the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2005.* Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment began at 7:38 p.m. with Estelle Graves and her daughter Jennifer urging the Board to help the Jackson Transportation Authority.

Public comment concluded at 7:40 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

A. **CountyAffairs:**

1) **Resolution (07-06.39) to Establish and Provide for the Us-127 Extension as an Extension of the Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Southern Regional Interceptor Section) and to Authorize**

**Execution of Agreement for the Construction and Conveyance of Public Sanitary Sewer Improvements (US-127 Extension)**

**2) Easement for Overhead Electric Lines – Consumer’s Energy (Southern Regional Interceptor Section)**

**MINUTES:**

- A. Minutes of the 06/12/06 Special Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners
- B. Minutes of the 06/20/06 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Moved by Reynolds Supported by Gumbert to Approve the Consent Agenda Items A through E as follows:*

**A. County Affairs:**

Consolidation of the Communitywide GIS and the County GIS within the Equalization Department of the County of Jackson Commencing with the 2007 Budget.

**B. County Agencies:**

- 1) Comprehensive Community Corrections Plan and Grant Application-Fiscal Year 2007
- 2) Livestock Loss Claim

**C. Human Services:**

Region 2 Area Agency on Aging Multi-Year Annual Implementation Plan for Fiscal Years 2007-2009

**D. Personnel & Finance:**

Adoption of Administrative Policy No. 5270-Workplace Enhancement Teams

**E. Claims:**

- 1) Claims dated 06/01/06 – 06/30/06 as presented to and approved by the Standing Committees:
  - County Affairs \$ 428,425.66
  - County Agencies 542,295.72
  - Human Services 135,649.57
  - Personnel & Finance 162,935.27

Motion carried.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**A. County Affairs-Commissioner Dave Lutchka**

- 1. County Affairs 07/10/06 Meeting Minutes-no action required
- 2. Review of Board Rules – Policy No. 4090 Pertaining to Appointments to Boards/Commissions. Presentation by Randy Treacher-Deputy Administrator/Controller. No action required
- 3. *Moved by Lutchka supported by Wilson to Adopt the Street Naming and Addressing Ordinance.* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. *Moved by Lutchka supported by Berkemeier to Adopt Resolution (07-06.39) to Establish and Provide for the US-127 Extension as an Extension of the Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Southern Regional Interceptor Section) and to Authorize Execution of Agreement for the Construction and Conveyance of Public Sanitary Sewer Improvements (US-127 Extension).* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. *Moved by Lutchka supported by Herl to Approve the Easement for Overhead Electric Lines-Consumer’s Energy (southern Regional Interceptor Section).* Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. County Agencies- Commissioner Judy Reynolds**

- 1. County Agencies 7/10/06 Meeting Minutes-no action required

2. Moved by Reynolds supported by Brittain **to Approve Resolution (07-06.35) Adopting the Regionalization of Homeland Security**. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion on Discontinuing the Sale of Live Animals for Research. This item has been rescheduled under Unfinished Business.

#### C. Human Services – Commissioner Phil Berkemeier

1. Human Services 7/10/06 Meeting Minutes-no action required

2. Moved by Berkemeier supported by Wilson **to Adopt Resolution (07-06.37) Opposing Senate Bill 1198 Requiring All Children in the Special Supplemental Food Program (WIC) to Receive Lead Testing**. Moved by Lutchka supported by Gumbert **to Table the Motion**. Motion carried.

#### D. Personnel and Finance- Commissioner James Videto

1. Personnel & Finance 7/11/06 Meeting Minutes-no action required

2. Moved by Videto supported by Duckham **to Adopt Resolution (07-06.33) Approving the 2006 Goals & Objectives for the County of Jackson**. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Moved by Videto supported by Berkemeier **to Adopt Resolution (07-06.34) Approving the Intergovernmental Agreement Establishing the Jackson County Land Bank Authority**. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Moved by Videto supported by Reynolds **to Approve the Friend of the Court Reorganization**. Wilson said that the \$75,000 they are going to save with the reorganization will not cover their deficit and he wants to know what their plans are. Shotwell answered that they will be bringing a letter of explanation before Agencies. Brittain clarified that the 3 positions that are changing names will be the same people, with the exception of one that is retiring. Bob said that they are shifting supervisory duties. Gumbert interjected that they are still top heavy and she will be looking forward to next month's report. Wilson asked if it was necessary to pass this tonight, or if they could wait for the full report. Shotwell replied that this is a show of support for management. They are making progress but are taking small steps. Berkemeier added that the County is trying to trim through attrition, and this seems to be a perfect case.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. **Public Comment:** Public comment began at 8:08 p.m. with Judy Dynnik, Executive Director of the Jackson County Volunteers Against Pound Seizure. Ms. Dynnik expressed her dismay with Commissioner Wilson and his comments on his radio show. She urged the Board to ban the sale of animals to Class B Dealers.

Nancy Camden also spoke on the sale of pound seizures for research. She thanked the Board for reconsidering this issue. She recently lost her mother, and while she was in a hospice home, they brought in dogs for the calming and healing benefits.

Clarice Caltinik stated that she is uncomfortable using pet dogs for research. She was in New York during 9/11 and they used mixed breed dogs in the recovery effort.

Dan Todd thanked the audience for keeping the issue of pound seizure alive. He related that the staff at the shelter is being harassed and stalked by out of town people pertaining to the sale of animals for research.

Dr. Bob Walsh again discussed how the use of random source animals for research is dangerous for humans and can produce false negative results.

Kristen Reagan was uncertain about Dan Todd's position, but stated that no one in her group was in favor of seeing more dogs die.

Connie Crandall thanked the Board for revisiting the pound seizure issue and assured the Board that the volunteers won't go away if this issue does. Selling animals for research is bad for our community image.

Sally Dawson posed the question on how we would like our bodies used for research while we are still using them?

Kathy Johnson said that her family has owned property here for over 100-years. They hunt their land, but are against pound seizure.

Vern Webster said that he has been an advocate against pound seizure for 26-years and congratulates the audience for remaining steadfast.

Reynolds, as the Chair of Agencies has been listening and learning. *Moved by Reynolds supported by Smith to Discontinue the Selling of Live Animals for Research.* Gumbert stated that she was willing to change her vote, but not her position. She is representing her constituents. Lutchka pointed out that this is a very emotional issue, not a common sense one. He will be changing his vote, but feels that it is wrong. These are animals that no one wants. In his district he is receiving 4 calls to 1 in favor of continuing research. Duckham feels this practice is no longer useful; it's time to end live research. Berkemeier has been campaigning door-to-door and is amazed at the number of people who bring up the subject, then introduce him to their pets and tell stories about them. Berkemeier has had a change in position; his position before was more utilitarian. Videto said that there have been many good comments, and while he doesn't buy into all of them, they have been a passionate group and very gracious.

Wilson responded to Ms. Dynnik's comments concerning him. He stated that he never called her group "cowards" and fought for the right to call on members of the audience for their expertise. He also said that he was not at fault for the missing tapes from the radio station. He feels that we are being selfish by denying humans this type of research. He named several things that are directly attributed to animal research such as the heart/lung machine, insulin, & colonoscopies. We need to look ahead at possibilities for other diseases such as juvenile diabetes and juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. The doctor's overseas stitching our brave soldiers back together didn't learn on resusca-Anne. Smith interjected that mental health issues are tested on rats. Berkemeier appreciates Wilson's passion, but it's not about being against research, but against random source research. He received a letter from a doctor at MSU stating that banning the use of random source animals may increase the quality of research. The vast majority of animal testing used to be on Class B animals, but the social tolerance is more toward Class A animals, those specifically bred for research.

*Moved by Gumbert supported by Videto to Call for the Question.* Roll call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Reynolds, Videto, Berkemeier, Smith, Wilson, Gumbert, & Shotwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion carried. Roll call on main motion to abolish the sale of pound seizures to Class B dealers: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Reynolds, Videto, Berkemeier, Smith, Gumbert, & Shotwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Wilson. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment began at 8:57 p.m. with Vern Webster commending the commissioners for listening.

Nancy Camden thanked the commissioners for considering the human element. The Primary Election is coming up on August 8 and they will be remembered.

Judy Dynnik thanked the Board from the bottom of her heart.

Connie Crandall spoke of the President vetoing stem cell research. She appreciated Wilson's comments and states that he has a point too.

Dr. Walsh thanked all for changing their minds and said that he would be willing to meet with Wilson to help him with his misinformation and to improve the quality of research.

Sally Dawson also thanked the Board.

Bob McNitt said that they did the right thing.

Public comment closed at 9:03 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Reynolds relayed a story about a dog urinating in her shoe while she was campaigning.

Brittain asked how many will still volunteer at the shelter now that the question of pound seizure is over. He received an affirmative answer from the audience.

Berkemeier stated that this is a good day for the county. Judy Dynnik deserves credit as the godmother and Vern Webster as the godfather of this issue. They kept people coming back month after month keeping the Board focused. Berkemeier also challenged them to continue the efforts adopting dogs.

Herl thanked the Board for passing the addressing issue. He realizes that it is an emotional issue, but it's important for emergencies.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 9:08 p.m.

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