

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
July 9, 2002 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman James Rice called the July 9, 2002 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Comr. Beardslee

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL:

(14) Present: Comrs. Mahoney-Sherrod, McNitt, Baum, DeForest, Reynolds, Adams, Herl, Elwell, Pascal, Beardslee, Shotwell, Brittain, Day, & Rice. Absent: (1) Comr. Lacinski

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by McNitt supported by Shotwell to Approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

- A. The Employee of the Month of July Award to Tom Patton, Facilities Service Worker, Facilities Department will be presented in August.
- B. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod supported by DeForest to Adopt the Retirement Resolution Honoring Patricia J. Sager with 24 Years, 9 Months of Service with the Friend of the Court.* Motion carried. Presentation by Rice with comments by Andy Crisenberry and Larry Finton.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

None

SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2001 Audit Presentation given by David Fisher, CPA, Rehmann Robson and Julie Schweda.

Elwell asked what the suggested range is for the Unreserved Fund Balance. Mr. Fisher answered that it is usually between 5% and 10%.

Day asked how much the GASB 34 (**Governmental Accounting Standards Board**) would change the Fund Level Statements. Mr. Fisher answered that it will be a better, clearer report with all of the assets and debts in columns.

Herl asked if there was a Board Policy regarding the Unreserved Fund Balance. Chet replied that the policy states a balance of between 8% and 12%. Herl also asked what caused the General Government Fund to almost double over the last 10 years. Mr. Fisher answered that much of the cost is from the Prosecuting Attorneys services and costs. Mr. Fisher will put something in writing regarding this fund for the Commissioners to review.

Julie Schweda reviewed the highlights of the Management Letter. Among the recommendations she commented that the County Clerk Circuit Court Trust funds have been mostly reconciled since the 2001 report but to continue the efforts. She discussed the recommendations to reconcile 2 of the accounts from the Drain office. The suggestion was also made to have someone oversee the Grant & Project management. There should be a manual or policy implemented that can be followed and someone to review the Grants.

Reynolds thought she understood the County Clerk to say that some of the accounts can never be reconciled and that there would always be at least \$15,000 in some of the accounts. It was explained that these are revolving accounts and that bonds and restitution would always continuously be posted. If there were a variance, it would be tracked from month to month.

Reynolds expressed concern over the Drain office records differing from the General Ledger. How are these items tracked and who is responsible? Mr. Fisher explained that most of the departments do monthly reports to the State and should be reconciling at that time.

Elwell also expressed concern over the Drain office. He considers the accounting problem to be part of a larger, more time consuming problem of using manual spreadsheets as opposed to computers. It was explained that this is the office of an elected official. Elwell questioned the consequences that the departments receive for mention in the audit. Chet explained that the Department Heads and Elected Officials receive a letter requiring them to present a letter of explanation.

Chet asked if the County would be audited in the first year of GASB 34 implementation. Mr. Fisher answered that unless they did a test audit using GASB 34 that the next audit would not be included.

Shotwell asked if there would be an advantage in a test run. Mr. Fisher said that a test run would get the bugs out and provide better reporting.

Moved by Herl supported by Elwell to receive the 2001 Audit Presentation. Motion carried.

Mahoney-Sherrod left at 7:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jerry Emmons voiced his concern over longevity pay for the Elected Officials. He feels that it is very unreasonable to have retroactive pay back to 2000. He questions why the County Clerk would be receiving \$1,200 when she has only been Clerk for 3 years. By allowing the non-bargained for unit to buy seniority, they would only be taking their longevity to purchase seniority.

Janet Rochefort discussed the Tax Sale pursuant to P.A. 123. She also addressed the question regarding longevity for Elected Officials. In most cases the Elected Officials are lumped in with the Department Heads. The Register of Deeds and the County Clerk are being considered based on years of service to the County. The Elected Officials are only asking for equality.

SPECIAL MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Reynolds supported by Day to Approve the Consent Agenda items A through F as contained in the following Consent Agenda list:

Brittain requested that item D be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

A. Approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2002 Regular Board Meeting.

COUNTY AFFAIRS

B. Disband the Redistricting Ad Hoc Committee and the Jail Ad Hoc Committee upon completion of their work.

C. Approve revised Purchasing Policy No. 2090, Purchase of Vehicles

D. Approve the Chairman of the Board sending a letter to the Parks Commission Chair and Fair Board Chair requesting their Board/Commission to adopt resolutions authorizing the County Administrator/Controller to have supervisory duties over the Fair Manager and Parks Director.

COUNTY AGENCIES:

HUMAN SERVICES:

PERSONNEL & FINANCE:

E. Approve the Register of Deeds budget adjustment of \$100,600 to offset the health insurance increase.

F. Approve the Circuit Court Probation budget transfer to offset the health insurance increase (\$830) and to move \$800 from printing to employee training.

Motion carried.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. County Affairs:

1) *Moved by Day supported by Reynolds to Adopt a Resolution to Authorize Execution of Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Round/Farwell Lakes Section) Bond Contract and to Provide for Certain Other matters Pertaining Thereto.* Roll call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

2) *Moved by Day supported by Adams to Adopt a Resolution to Authorize Execution of Jackson County Water Supply Facilities (Grass Lake Area Section) Village Bond Contract and to Provide for Certain other Matters Pertaining Thereto.* Roll call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

3) *Moved by Day supported by Beardslee to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Jackson County Airport and the Blackman Charter Township LDFA to Jointly pursue the Establishment of a Business Park.* Roll call: (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

4) *Moved by Day supported by Baum to hold a public Hearing (as required by Public Act 40), at the regular August meeting, on the issue of establishing a combined Public Works Department and Drain Commission office. Moved by Elwell supported by DeForest to table this motion until June 2003.* Roll call: (9) Nays. Cmr. McNitt, Baum, Reynolds, Adams, Herl, Pascal, Beardslee, Day, & Rice. (4) Yeas. Cmr. DeForest, Elwell, Shotwell, & Brittain. Motion to table the issue until June 2003 failed.

Adams inquired why Elwell wanted to table this motion. Elwell responded that he feels the Commission has too many items on the table and should take this issue up when there is more time to make an informed decision. This is not a critical issue and can wait. Adams voiced his concern that the present Drain Commissioner has been not only going above and beyond in his duties, but also performing the duties of a Public Works department.

Day suggested setting up the public hearing and then withdrawing if necessary. Pascal warns that the Drain Commissioner has been doing the Public Works job for a couple of years and if there is not support, he may step back. *Moved by Reynolds supported by Elwell to table the Drain Commission office and Public Works issue until January 2003.* Shotwell called for Point of Order and asked for a roll call vote. Roll call: (8) Yeas. Cmr. DeForest, Reynolds, Herl, Elwell, Beardslee, Shotwell, Brittain, & Rice. (5) Nays. Cmr. McNitt, Baum, Adams, Pascal, & Day. Motion carried. The Drain Commission office and Public Works issue is tabled until January 2003.

5) Item D, pulled from the Consent Agenda. *Moved by Day supported by Herl to Approve the Chairman of the Board sending a letter to the Parks Commission Chair and Fair Board Chair requesting their Board/Commission to adopt resolutions authorizing the County Administrator/Controller to have supervisory duties over the Fair Manager and parks Director.* Motion carried with the record reflecting a Nay vote from Brittain.

B. County Agencies:

No report.

C. Human Services:

No report.

D. Personnel & Finance:

1) *Moved by Elwell supported by Day to Approve a lump sum payment to Elected Officials (Treasurer, County Clerk, Drain Commissioner, Register of Deeds, Sheriff and Prosecutor) the first pay in December of each year based on \$50 per year of Jackson County service to a maximum of \$1,200. Payments commence once an elected official has completed five (5) full years of service as a Jackson County employee of December 31st of the year in which the payment is issued. Longevity retroactive to 2000.* Elwell expressed that he is opposed to this motion. *Moved by Elwell supported by Pascal to table the matter of elected official longevity indefinitely.* Roll call: (9) Yeas. Cmr. McNitt, Baum, DeForest, Reynolds, Adams, Elwell, Pascal, Beardslee, & Shotwell. (4) Nays. Cmr. Herl, Brittain, Day, & Rice. Motion carried.

2) *Moved by Elwell supported by DeForest to Approve that non-bargained for employees including Elected Officials be provided the opportunity to purchase up to a maximum of four (4) years of universal service credit at no cost to the county in the retirement system; cost determined by the employee's multiplier election: 2.0%=11.0%; 2.25%=12.4%, 2.5%=13.8%. Purchase calculated on the employee's annual base salary at the time payments commence. Payment may be made as a lump*

sum cash payment or by pre-tax payroll deduction for a period not to exceed three (3) years with service credited upon receipt of payment in full. If an employee in the process of purchasing service credit terminates for any reason the employee is entitled to a refund of those contributions. Roll call requested by Herl. (13) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

CONSIDERATION & ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:

Moved by McNitt supported by Elwell to approve the Claims. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

ADJOURN TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR:

Moved by DeForest supported by Reynolds to adjourn to the call of the Chair. Motion carried. The July 9, 2002 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

James Rice, Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Sandy Crowley, Jackson County Clerk
Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk.