

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**August 14, 2001 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Lacinski called the August 14, 2001 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Cmr. Thulin

**PLEDGE**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Before requesting a motion for Approval of Agenda, Lacinski moved item 12.3 from under Standing Committee Reports to item 8.E under special Order/Public Hearings. *Moved by McNitt, supported by Baum to Approve the Agenda as amended.* Motion carried.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:**

The Employee of the Month of August Award to Terry Crawford, Legal Secretary, Prosecutor's office is postponed until the September meeting, as Terry is on vacation.

**COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

None.

**SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

A. Public Hearing was scheduled at 7:05 p.m. on the EDC Project Plan for RamaTech, L.L.C. and Issuance of Bonds. There was no public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public Comment began at 7:07 p.m. with **Bill Snyder**, applicant for the vacant seat on the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging Board. He felt that there was some concern over his position with the Greenthumb Agency. He explained that this agency began in 1965 by Ladybird Johnson for the Highway Improvement Plan. It aids seniors in finding employment to help defer the cost of prescriptions and food.

Brad Schweda, also a candidate for the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging Board spoke next. He is a geriatric psychologist involved in many senior projects, and feels he understands the needs of the seniors.

**SPECIAL MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Moved by DeForest, supported by Reynolds to Approve the Consent Agenda items A through O as contained in the following Consent Agenda list:*

A. Approve the Minutes of the July 10, 2001 Regular Board Meeting

**COUNTY AFFAIRS:**

B. Approve the low bid from Prominent Design & Build, Inc. for the remodeling of Judge Lefere's courtroom in the amount of \$96,267, realizing that a budget adjustment will have to be made at the end of the project

C. Establish a public hearing for the September 18, 2001 Board Meeting, 7:15 p.m., on the EDC Project Plan and issuance of bonds for the Vista Grande Villa Project

**COUNTY AGENCIES:**

#### **HUMAN SERVICES:**

- D. Receive the LifeWays 2001 Planning Guidelines and Budget Submission, July 31,2001
- E. Approve the continuation of the LifeWays 423 account, which allows LifeWays to accept donations, collect private pay and insurance, and use these funds in their budget as local match
- F. Approve the budget adjustments for the Health Department as recommended by the Health Officer
- G. Accept the Indigent Health Care Planning Grant of \$35,000 from the Michigan Department of Community Health (with no local match required) and authorize its execution, with a budget adjustment to come after October 1<sup>st</sup>
- H. Approve the Health Department contracting with Health Management Associates to assist the Health Department with the Indigent Health Care Plan, for not more than the grant amount of \$35,000

#### **PERSONNEL & FINANCE**

- I. Approve of the final tax levy for Columbia Township for the years 1995 through 2000 and order that any and all additional taxes or credits be added to or subtracted from the next succeeding annual tax roll of Columbia Township
- J. Approve the request from Parks to utilize \$38,500 in Public Improvement revenues for special projects
- K. Approve the Sheriff Department purchasing a Ford Police Interceptor patrol vehicle from Vollman Ford of Portland, MI for \$20,978 with funds left over from the Secondary Road Patrol Grant (\$22,000), which will be transferred from Secondary Road Patrol salaries to automotive
- L. Accept the Anti-Domestic Violence Program Grant for District Court in the amount of \$52,451 (\$31,471 in Federal funding and \$20,980 in local match)
- M. Approve the creation and filling of a full-time Quality Improvement Coordinator position at Pay Grade 12 to administer and facilitate the County's Service Improvement process, requiring \$11,075 from this year's budget.
- N. Award the bid to fit base parcel maps to digital aerial photos for the GIS project to Woolpert LLP for \$45,000, which includes all the work that needs to be done and which is within budget
- O. Receive the 2000 Medical Care Facility audit  
Motion carried.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **A. County Affairs:**

- 1. *Moved by Day, supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to Adopt the Resolution to Amend the Resolution to Authorize Issuance of Bonds for Jackson County Wastewater Disposal Facility (Napoleon Village Section)* Roll call: (15) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.
- 2. *Moved by Day, supported by Mahoney-Sherrod to accept the recommendation of County Affairs for the full slate of candidates, William Snyder, Monica Salgat, and Bradley Schweda for the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging to Assume the Seat of John Kowalski, who resigned, until 4/30/03. Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Brittain to close nominations and proceed to roll call vote.* Motion carried. Roll call: Snyder (13), DeForest, Rice, Herl, Pascal, Thulin, Adams, Bearslee, Baum, Brittain, Day, Elwell, Reynolds, & Lacinski. Schweda (2), Mahoney-Sherrod & McNitt. William Snyder was appointed to the Region 2 Area Agency on Aging.

#### **SPECIAL ORDER/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- B. Public Hearing was scheduled at 7:15 p.m. on an Amendment to the County's Brownfield Redevelopment Plan to Include Therein Portions of the Former Kurpinski Iron & Metal Property Site. David Miller of the Economic Development Corporation introduced Mel Patton of RamaTech. Mr. Patton described his company, Precision Machine Co. of Bellville, and also a site in Jackson on Carol St. He indicated that they were looking to expand into a 70,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility.

A woman in the audience asked what would the ramifications be on this property if it is declared a brownfield, and the deal with RamaTech does not go through? Mr. Miller assured her that the brownfield designation only pertained to this specific sale.

Brittain wanted to know if it was the former owner's responsibility to clean up the site. Mr. Patten assured Brittain that his company is going to clean the site up using public money that will be repaid back to the BRA.

C. Public Hearing was scheduled at 7:20 p.m. on a Plan Amendment to the Jackson County 911 Service Plan (which will allow part of the State surcharge placed on cell phones to come back to Jackson County for 911 upgrades). There was no public comment.

D. The Audit Presentation was given by David Fisher, CPA, and Julie Schweda, both of Rehmann Robson. They touched on the highlights of the Audit.

Reynolds was concerned, and referred to the Administrative letter where it indicated that there were no difficulties with Management, but later in the letter referred to things being returned in a piecemeal fashion. Fisher indicated that meant there were no disagreements over internal control items. Due to the new financial software, the Audit took longer this year, and different reports were required.

Reynolds also inquired about the unauthorized borrowing from other funds that was occurring. Mr. Fisher assured her that is common with Counties the size of Jackson. There are timing challenges with the money. Friend of the Court is an example; their funds that come from the State of Michigan are extremely slow.

Reynolds also expressed concern about the Circuit Court Trust & Agency accounts. Mr. Fisher indicated that those accounts are a team effort between the Treasurer's office and the various departments. Progress should be forthcoming. During the last couple of years there have been some staffing issues as well as the new software implementations, on top of regular job expectations.

Adams asked Mr. Fisher how our county compared with other counties our size on our special accounts. Mr. Fisher indicated that we are very average. He did suggest that Jackson fortify their finance staff.

Chet indicated that he, Randy & Tony review the Audit and sent an Administrative letter to the necessary departments. He also

indicated that repairs had been ongoing throughout the year, and these results were based on December 2000 numbers.

*Moved by DeForest, supported by Herl to receive the 2000 Annual Audit.* Motion carried.

1. The Presentation of the 1999 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) from the Government Finance Officers Association to Finance Officer Anthony Samon, CPA, was given by County Administrator Chet Taraskiewicz for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Tony indicated that he was very honored by the award, and that only 15% of the counties in the nation are recipients.

E. Stephanie Ward, of Mead & Hunt gave the Presentation of the Airport Development Plan. She reviewed the highlights of the plan. Reynolds asked if this plan goes through, how long would it take to make the planned corrections? Ms. Ward indicated that 90% of the funding is Federal funds, and if those funds remain on schedule, they are anticipating completion around 2006/2007. Ms. Ward also indicated that they would be phasing the development so that the airport would remain useful. *Moved by Day, supported by Reynolds to adopt the Airport Development Plan as prepared by Mead & Hunt.* Motion carried.

#### **County Affairs:**

4. *Moved by Day, supported by Baum to Adopt the Resolution as submitted by the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Jackson approving the Project Plan and issuance of bonds for the RamaTech, L.L.C. project.* Roll call: (15) Yeas. The motion carried unanimously.

5. *Moved by Day, supported by Elwell To Adopt the Resolution Certifying Approval of Project Area Designation, Establishing Project District Area Boundaries and Appointing Becky Dykstra and Radcliff*

**North as Additional Directors for the Vista Grande Villa Project.** Roll call: (15) Yeas. The motion carried unanimously.

6. *Moved by Day, supported by Brittain to adopt the resolution amending the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan of the County of Jackson to include the former Kurpinski Iron & Metal property located at 2737 Page Ave., which has been sold to RamaTech, L.L.C.* Roll call: (15) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **County Agencies:**

McNitt had no motions to bring to the floor, but did want to pass on the Sheriff's report that as of July 31, the County had incurred \$71,658 in costs of boarding out prisoners.

#### **Human Services:**

DeForest had no motions to bring to the floor, but did want to remind people to attend the Health Fair on August 15, 2001 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

#### **Personnel & Finance:**

1. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Reynolds to Initiate the Process of Amending the E 9-1-1 Service Plan by Establishing a Public Hearing at the November 20, 2001 Board Meeting for the intention of Authorizing the Emergency Telephone Operational Charge, Equal to 4% of the Highest Monthly Flat Rate Charged by a Telephone Company within the County's E 9-1-1 Service District for a one-party access line, upon all Service Users within the Jackson County Service District for the Purpose of Developing a Sound Financing Structure for future E 9-1-1 technological upgrades.* DeForest asked if this was going to place a .70 charge on every phone. She was informed that it would be .70 for each designated line. Business and Government with multiple lines would be a different formula.

Elwell commented that cell phones have the surcharge and are bringing in \$120,000 - \$130,000 annually. This is an enjoinment; these funds can only be used for 911 technology.

Brittain indicated that he is against this, he will be voting in opposition.

Rice asked if, at a later date, the Commissioners could re-appropriate the funds? Lacinski did not feel that he could answer that definitively, but he did not think so. Lacinski believes those funds are exclusively for 911 technology.

Adams pointed out that when the Commission removed the fee 4 or 5 years ago, there was in excess of \$400,000 in the fund. It does not take long to use.

Mahoney-Sherrod concurred that in this time of changing technology, it is very expensive to remain current. When someone calls 911, they should receive service.

Thulin asked if the motion could be amended to designate the funds strictly to 911, Lacinski believes that the law states that.

Elwell reminded the Board that this was not the final vote, only establishing a public hearing in November.

Chet will check the law, but stated that out of the 55 counties that have chosen to implement the 4% rate, 32 of those have chosen to take it to a vote, and in that case, they can levy up to 16%.

Brittain stated that since this is the chance for the public to speak, he would be voting in favor after all. Motion carried.

2. *Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by Thulin To Approve the Revised Nepotism Policy, Personnel Policy No. 3220.* Rice commented that per a discussion with Ruth Pozner, there has never been an employee terminated under this policy. If it's not broken, don't fix it. Elwell commented that he was uncomfortable with the word "terminated" and was glad that they could come to an agreeable compromise. Motion carried.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Rice commented that he missed a portion of a meeting where there was a roll call vote split 7/7 and would like to

have the issue pertaining to medical benefits for the Road Commission reconsidered. Lacinski thought that it took someone from the affirmative side to revisit, but Chet will check with Parliamentary Procedure.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

McNitt informed the Commissioners that they would be receiving an invitation to an open house at the Airport on August 28, 2001, from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Pascal passed on good news about the Sister City Project with Varel, Germany. He indicated that there would be a delegation here from Germany from September 15 - October 5. There would be dinner and a ceremony to formalize the agreement. Pascal feels that there will be social and cultural benefits from the project. A delegation from Jackson will be travelling to Varel in October. Lacinski suggested that Pascal be designated. It was *moved by Mahoney-Sherrod to delegate Pascal as a representative on the Varel, Germany Sister City Project.* Motion carried.

Rice indicated that Elwell had located the language of the Road Commission motion that he was concerned with. Lacinski asked to hold off until the September meeting. Rice agreed to.

Herl brought up concerns about the Medical Care Facility and that he would like to see some things straightened out. Lacinski concurred and indicated that it was being worked on.

Elwell informed the Commissioners that he was in the process of trying to get a light at the junction of Rives Junction Rd., and M-50 and would appreciate the support of the Commission in the form of a resolution. Day interjected that he had attended a Road Commission meeting, and the Road Commission concurs.

**CONSIDERATION & ALLOWANCE OF CLAIMS:**

*Moved by Mahoney-Sherrod, supported by DeForest to allow the Claims.* Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment began at 8:22 p.m. with Mel Patton of RamaTech thanking his expanded home.

*Moved by McNitt, supported by Elwell to Adjourn to the Call of the Chair.* Motion carried.

The August 14, 2001 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioner was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. Robert Lacinski-Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners; Sandy Crowley-Jackson

County Clerk Respectfully submitted by Erin Foster, Chief Deputy County Clerk.