

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes**  
**August 15, 2006 - Regular Meeting**  
**Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Steve Shotwell, at 7:00 p.m.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Berkemeier

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

County Clerk Sandy Crowley

Roll Call: (12) Present: Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Reynolds, Videto, Mahoney, Berkemeier, Smith, Wilson, Gumbert, & Shotwell

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Herl* to approve the Agenda as Published. Motion carried. (This was done after Employees of the Month Award and before Jackson County Senior Citizens of the Year Awards.)

**AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:**

**A. Employees of the Month Award for August, 2006:**

Alicia Schoun and James Breedon, Juvenile Probation Officers, Circuit Court. Awards presented by Chairman Shotwell. Video shown and remarks by Charles Adkins, Circuit Court Administrator, and Teresa Hawkins, Caseworker Supervisor-Family Court.

**B. Jackson County Senior Citizens of the Year for Volunteer Service and Leadership.**

**1. *Moved by Mahoney; supported by Berkemeier* to Adopt Resolution (08-06.41) Honoring Frances Hartmann as Senior Citizen of the Year for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Smith* to Adopt Resolution (08-06.43) Honoring William Stoewer as Senior Citizen of the Year Award for Volunteer Service.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. *Moved by Mahoney; supported by Reynolds* to Adopt Resolution (08-06.42) Honoring Karen Lux as Senior Citizen of the Year Award for Volunteer Service.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Presentation of the Quarterly Report of the Enterprise Group (EG) by CEO, Steve Czarnecki.**

Presentation began about 7:18 p.m. and completed at 7:42 p.m. *Moved by Mahoney, supported by Reynolds* to Receive the Quarterly Report of the Enterprise Group. Motion carried.

**D. Recognition from Health Officer, Ron Grimes.**

Ron Grimes, President of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) this last year spoke and presented a Presidential Citation to Jackson County for assistance during his term.

**COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:**

None

**SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public Comment began at 7:46 p.m. with Cameron McCullom, Manager of JTA who spoke regarding the JTA millage and additional funding needs. Also speaking in support of JTA were the following persons: Estelle Graves, Kenneth Briggs, Dennis Campbell, Lockety Carrier, Kathy Thomas (JTA bus driver), Parish Stahl, Marna Emmons, Robert Filmore, John Wilson, Kim Nichols (JTA bus driver), Larry Menting, James Cyphers, Martha Nebonzy, Brenda Bowman, Ken Nilson, Barb McCuras, Debi Campbell, Mark Konkel, Raymond Sarri, Jen Allen, Cindy Osborne

(Dispatcher at JTA), Vince Trudell, Darlene Saley and others whose names were either not given or understood from the record.

Ray Snell, Supervisor of Blackman Township, presented a Resolution passed by the Blackman Township Board supporting the millage. *Moved by Reynolds, supported by Wilson* to accept the Communication from Ray Snell. Motion carried. Cmr. Shotwell handed out to commissioners.

Public Comment concluded at 8:50 p.m.

*Moved by Wilson, supported by Herl* to suspend the rules. Motion carried.

*Moved by Wilson, supported by Gumbert* to **Send to Personnel & Finance a consideration of a one time payment of \$32,100.00 from the General Fund to the Jackson Transportation Authority prior to the end of the fiscal year 2006.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

None

Cmr. Shotwell took advantage of the suspension of the rules and asked Tim McGuire, Executive Director of Michigan Association of Counties to come forward to give his presentation now rather than later in the scheduled agenda under 15. New Business.

At 8:53 p.m., Tim McGuire gave a presentation regarding legislative priorities involving the Michigan Association of Counties. *Moved by Videto, supported by Mahoney* to **receive the Mid-Year Legislative Wrap-up Communication** from Tim. Motion carried. (Randy Treacher handed out the correspondence.)

Tim also introduced Ben Bodkin, MAC Legislative Coordinator, who spoke regarding the Friend of the Court issues. *Moved by Brittain, supported by Mahoney* to **receive the Communication, "Families May Wait Longer for Child Support"**. Motion carried. (Randy Treacher handed out the correspondence.)

The presentation concluded at about 9:21 p.m.

#### **MINUTES:**

*Moved by Reynolds, supported by Duckham* to approve the Minutes of the May 16, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

*Moved by Berkemeier, supported by Videto* to **Accept the Consent Agenda Items A through E as follows:**

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

None

##### **B. County Agencies:**

1. Agreement Between the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), the County of Jackson, and the Prosecuting Attorney Regarding Child Support Services.

##### **C. Human Services:**

None

##### **D. Personnel & Finance:**

2. Budget Adjustments - District Court & Health Department

##### **E. Claims:**

None

Motion carried.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

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

1. County Affairs 7/31/06 Meeting Minutes. No action required.

Commissioner Lutchka had nothing to take action on tonight.

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

1. County Agencies 7/31/06 Meeting Minutes. No action required.

Commissioner Reynolds had no business to bring before the Board.

**C. Human Services - Commissioner Phil Berkemeier**

1. Human Services 7/31/06 Meeting Minutes. No action required.

*Moved by Berkemeier, supported by Lutchka* **Adopt Resolution (08-06.40) Supporting Mental Health Parity Legislation.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion passed unanimously.

**D. Personnel & Finance - Commissioner James Videto**

1. Personnel & Finance 8/1/06 Meeting Minutes. No action required.

*Moved by Videto, supported by Reynolds* **to approve for Master Plan Funding up to \$24,000 to be paid from the Unreserved General Fund Balance, in Support of the Cascades Renovation Project - Parks & Recreation Commission.** Roll Call: (12) Yeas. Motion passed unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Adoption of Purchasing Policies**

1. Policy 2020 - Purchasing Procedures
2. Policy 2030 - Professional Services
3. Policy 2035 - Administration of Public Improvement Projects by the Designated County Agency

*Moved by Videto, supported by Gumbert* **to Redirect Policies 2020, 2030, and 2035 back to Personnel & Finance for some clarification and wordage.** Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

(This presentation by Tim McGuire, Executive Director of MAC, was heard after the first public comment.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public Comment began at 9:28 p.m. with Estelle Graves who thanked commissioners for the support to JTA.

Tom Keyes thanked the commissioners for their patience in listening to everyone who spoke tonight with regards to JTA and for adopting a policy to find something that would work.

Jody Greenland, a driver for JTA, thanked the commissioners for listening to everyone who spoke tonight and to hold the JTA Board accountable for what they do for all of the citizens that use the service.

Susan Milhoan, Chamber of Commerce, spoke on behalf of John Crist, Chairman of the Cascades Restoration Project, and Perry Sparks, both of whom were unable to be here this evening thanked the commissioners for their support of the Master Plan Project.

Public Comment closed at 9:31 p.m.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Smith attended the send-off of 199 service men who were going to Iraq. There was no one there representing the County, except for her. She hopes that when the next 150 go that someone from the County is there representing these people.

Berkemeier agreed with Pat. He was there also, but it would have been nice to have some formal representation there. It was a tremendous send-off and Jackson is just a great community when it comes to things like that. He's glad we helped the JTA situation tonight because he was part of that committee meeting where there just was not support for moving a millage proposal forward and it was because of lack of information and unanswered

questions. He's impressed with the leadership of our Board and the administrative assistants and the leadership of the JTA Board in working towards finding some way of getting this thing into a better posture. A salute to Sally Griffis also for a great Fair this year.

Mahoney was at the troupes' send-off also. There's so much opportunity for the County to have representation. It's important that the citizens as well know that we have one voice that we can speak with and it's important to be at those types of functions. She appreciates the Board support tonight for JTA. She had several former students here tonight and they are working on jobs that she helped them get five years ago. She hopes the Board will continue to work with the JTA Board and with that administration and work towards a positive solution.

Brittain commented on the JTA Board also. He was disappointed that Personnel & Finance didn't let that come out to at least be put on the ballot. The voters deserved an opportunity to vote on that. He's glad that the Board did come up with a solution that is at least going to provide service for the rest of the year. In the future, the Board should at least consider, if they need it and there's proof behind amounts that they need, that we should possibly increase the amount that we do give because it is a service that is provided to the general public and taxpayers. Brittain also commented that he was sorry to see the three commissioners leave, but he also welcomed the new commissioners on board.

Reynolds thanked the Board for okaying the \$24,000. She reminded them that this was a large committee that was meeting every single week. When you see the end result, you will see that sometimes big committees get a lot done also. You are going to be so thrilled when you see it, but without that \$24,000, they would have been at a dead end.

Wilson spoke regarding JTA and thinks the County Commission needs to look at a regional transportation authority structure from this point forward. It's gone on too long and it's too valuable of a resource. When business and industry look at a community, they look at the transportation that is available to get workers to and from their jobs. Workers such as the people here tonight are so dedicated to their jobs that they'll do just about anything they can to get there despite how they feel, look or act. They are dedicated employees.

Herl echoed what the others commissioners said about the JTA, but the thing he'd like to see is getting the word out to all organizations, townships and villages because they are the ones who are going to have to pass this.

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

##### **A. Closed Session for the Purpose of the Administrator/Controller Performance Evaluation**

*Moved by Videto, supported by Wilson to Go Into Closed Session.* Motion carried.  
(At about 9:40 p.m., the Commissioners go into Closed Session.)

*Moved by Mahoney, supported by Duckham to Come Back into Open Session* at about 11:17 p.m. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Moved by Videto; supported by Lutchka to Adjourn until August 30, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. in the 6 th floor Conference Room, Jackson County Tower Building to discuss Collective Bargaining.* Motion carried.

The August 15, 2006 regular meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 11:19 p.m. Motion carried.

Steve Shotwell-Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners  
Sandy Crowley-Jackson County Clerk