

Jackson County Board of Commissioners Meetings Minutes
September 18, 2007 - Regular Meeting
Jackson County Commissioners Chambers: 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shotwell called the September 18, 2007, meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner David K. Elwell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by Chairman Steve Shotwell

MOMENT OF SILENCE – In memory of James Syrek, Circuit Court employee

ROLL CALL:

County Clerk - Amanda L. Riska

(11) Present: Commissioners Herl, Lutchka, Brittain, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Elwell and Shotwell.

(1) Absent. Commissioner Way.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney supported by Duckham for Approval of the Agenda. Motion carried.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS/PETITIONS:

None.

SPECIAL ORDERS/PUBLIC HEARINGS: (7:20 p.m.)

Setting a Public Hearing regarding Issuance of County of Jackson Hospital Finance Authority Revenue and Refunding Bonds for the Benefit of W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital

The public hearing opened at 7:19 p.m. Peter Ecklund, the Authority Counsel of the Jackson County Hospital Finance Authority and Hendrik Schuur of W.A. Foote Memorial spoke about a new series of bonds that they are issuing. There were no questions from commissioners or the public. Chairman Shotwell thanked Mr. Ecklund and Mr. Shore, and closed the hearing at 7:22 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comment began at 7:09 p.m. They were taken out of order because Special Orders/Public Hearing wasn't scheduled to begin until 7:20 p.m.

District Judge R. Darryl Mazur introduced District Judge Michael Klaeren. Judge Klaeren spoke about his experience as a judge and his perceptions of the system since he has been appointed.

Lynn Sajdak introduced himself to the commissioners and stated that he has submitted an application for the open Road Commission position.

SPECIAL MEETINGS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the 8/21/07 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Moved by Herl supported by Mahoney to Approve the Minutes of the 8/21/07 Regular Meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Mahoney, supported by Brittain for Approval of the Consent Agenda. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

A. County Affairs

1. Bureau of Aeronautics Sponsor Contract for a Snow Removal Equipment Building Concept Budget Report and Final Engineering for Runway 14-32 (Phase II)
2. Resolution (09-07.32) Authorizing the County Board of Commissioners Chair, James E. Shotwell, Jr. to Sign MDOT Contract #2003-0776 (Federal Project #B-26-0051-1806) for Preparation of a Concept Budget Report for a New Snow Removal Equipment Building to be Constructed at the Jackson County Airport and Final Engineering Design for Runway 14-32 (Phase II)
3. Mead and Hunt Contract for a Concept Budget Report for the Snow Removal Equipment Building
4. Mead and Hunt Contract for Final Design for Extension/Reconstruction of Runway 14-32 and Taxiway D

B. County Agencies

5. Fiscal Year 2008 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract for Jackson County CS/FOC-08-38001
6. Friend of the Court Budget

C. Human Services

7. Medical Director Services Agreement with Jackson County of Jackson
8. Agreement between Michigan Department of Community Health and Jackson County Board of Commissioners for the Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contract (CPBC) Agreement
9. Director/Health Officer Contract with Livingston County of Jackson
10. 2007/2008 Health Department Budget Request

D. Personnel & Finance

11. Resolution (09-07.34) Regarding the Issuance of County of Jackson Hospital Finance Authority Hospital Revenue and Refunding Bonds for the Benefit of W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital
12. Fund Deficit Elimination Plans
13. Budget Adjustments
 - A. Health Department

E. **Claims** – Claims were unavailable at the Committee meetings due to month end timing. Claims for August will be reviewed and approved in October.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

County Affairs – Commissioner Dave Lutchka

Appointment to the Department on Aging Advisory Council, one public member, term to 12/2007

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee nominated Gerald Robinson for the Department on Aging Advisory Council. No other motions from the floor. Mr. Robinson is appointed to the Department on Aging Advisory Council.

Appointment to the Jury Board, one public member, term to 4/2013

Cmr. Lutchka stated that the committee nominated Thomas Cottrell for appointment to the Jury Board, which requires a recommendation from the Circuit Court Judges. Cmr. Brittain nominated Lynette Maurer even though he knows that she won't get appointed unless the judges agree to it. She lives in the district that he represents and he feels that she would be a good person for that board. Chairman Shotwell stated that unfortunately the nomination is out of order, but Cmr. Brittain's preference is noted for the record. Voice vote: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Elwell and Shotwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Thomas Cottrell is appointed to the Jury board.

County Agencies – Commissioner Gail W. Mahoney

None.

Human Services – Commissioner Mike Way

None.

Personnel & Finance – Commissioner James Videto

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Travel Expenses – Commissioner Gail W. Mahoney

Moved by Poleski, supported by Brown to Waive the Policy in this Case. Cmr. Poleski asked if we allow the incremental expenses, will we still remain on budget with the line item. Per Acting County Administrator Randy Treacher, they will still remain on budget. Cmr. Elwell asked if it is an uncapped limit, or will there be a cap placed. Chairman Shotwell responded that it is not uncapped. Roll call: (8) Yeas. Cmr. Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, and Elwell. (3) Nays. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, and Brittain. Motion carried.

B. Jackson County Road Commission – Filing Vacancies

Moved by Brittain, supported by Mahoney to Accept the Resignations of Robert Zenz and Karl Schmidt. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Poleski, supported by Lutchka to Suspend the Board Policy on the Appointment of the Road Commission and Wait for the Results from the Ad Hoc Committee to be Returned to the Board. Cmr. Elwell said that there was discussion before the board meeting about stating officially that we are accepting applications for new Road Commissioners. That hasn't been said yet, but his understanding is that a lot of people have applied online and have submitted applications. He hopes that the ad hoc committee will report by the October meeting, adopt what is necessary, and then begin making appointments by the November meeting. He asked if we officially announce now that we are accepting applications, does that cut down on the time that may be required later. Chairman Shotwell said that it has been suggested by Acting Administrator Treacher that we continue to accept the applications. When a job description has been created including all of the parameters that the Road Commission Board is expected to perform, it will be addressed in a formal letter to those applicants, along with the compensation. The applicants will then have a chance to say that they still want to apply, or have their name removed from the list. Cmr. Elwell asked if it will be advertised in the local paper the way that it is normally done. Chairman Shotwell responded yes. Cmr. Brittain feels that there should be some type of requirements, or stipulation, that they have general background knowledge in road construction, or engineering, etc., and conduct an interview process. Chairman Shotwell stated that he would be most appreciative if commissioners would attend the meeting next Monday evening or the following Monday morning meeting and make these suggestions duly noted. He also suggested putting their suggestions in writing and giving it to him or Acting Administrator Treacher, and they will make sure that they are introduced into the minutes for discussion. Roll call: (10) Yeas. Cmr. Herl, Lutchka, Duckham, Poleski, Videto, Shotwell, Mahoney, Brown, Smith, Way and Elwell. (1) Nay. Cmr. Brittain. Motion passed.

Moved by Brittain, supported by Brown to Communicate that Jackson County Will Not be Paying for the Health Insurance for the Continuation of the Road Commissioners if They Stay in Their Job. Cmr. Elwell thinks that the motion is out of order. The board, by a prior motion, had decided that and if we have a motion now it takes back that action. He thinks it was made clear what the board has done. **Cmr. Brittain withdrew the motion.**

C. Resolution (09-07.35) Supporting Legislative Changes to Allow Adjustments to Salaries for County Boards of Road Commissioners

Moved by Elwell, supported by Brittain to Adopt Resolution (09-07.35) Supporting Legislative Changes to Allow Adjustments to Salaries for County Boards of Road Commissioners. Cmr. Lutchka would rather see the Board of Commissioners send a resolution stating that they prefer the ability to change salaries of any position, elected or appointed, that has a resignation or retirement. Cmr. Elwell stated that it is a good idea, but a separate issue. He stated that this resolution is to address an immediate need that we have that is regarding finances and the budget. He will be open to supporting a separate motion at some other time, but he feels if they stay focused it makes the argument better. Roll call: (11) Yeas. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Calhoun – Columbia Twp. Treasurer. He feels that as long as the board is redesigning/reinventing the Road Commission, he would ask that the ad hoc committee also take into consideration the consulting that is done with the Road Commission. That they not only quantify a consultant's wages, qualifications, terms of employment, length of employment, but they must also consider holding that person accountable for actions that they may or may not have done correctly. Because of the time limit on public comment of three minutes, he stated that he did not want to get into the actual details of some of the experiences that they have had with the Road Commission, but he knows that Chief Elwell, as part of the ad hoc committee, can probably bring those issues to light very easily. He is asking that if the commissioners are going to take the steps that they are taking now, that they all look at the whole ball of wax.

Estelle Graves said she can't agree more with the judges that spoke earlier in tonight's meeting. She was a victim of a horrific crime eleven years ago. The person that committed the crime against her got out of prison, and has committed another crime since his release. She sits on the Victim's Impact Panel with Ruth Stressman of the Victim's Rights Unit. They meet once a month at the jail with first time juvenile offenders. She knows the county tries to help to prevent crimes, and she would like to see them continue to look at the possibility of doing other things. She asked the commissioners to keep in mind that it is the citizens of Jackson County that are hurt by criminals.

Dewey Graves spoke as a former employee of the road commission. He would like to see a "quality control," someone that works there that can oversee the projects.

Public comment closed at 7:32 p.m.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Cmr. Brittain would like to see the road commissioners be elected instead of appointed by the commissioners. He thinks the people should be the voice of who should hold that position.

Cmr. Elwell would appreciate all of Cmr. Brittain's comments at the ad hoc committee or by e-mail. He said that the issue he raised was already discussed during one of the ad hoc committee meetings.

Cmr. Poleski stated that he has attended a couple of the road commission ad hoc committee sessions and thinks they are doing a great job. He is looking forward to hearing their recommendations. He also wants to keep the JTA issues open and is looking forward to what JTA board members may have to say. As to the animal shelter, he is looking forward to what options Acting Administrator Treacher will be presenting to them on Friday morning at the study session.

Chairman Shotwell said that the study session is a public meeting that is going to be held this Friday, September 21, 2007, at 7:30 a.m. on the 6th floor.

Cmr. Brittain wanted to rebut Cmr. Elwell's comments about accountability. Ever since he has been on the board there has been no accountability. Chairman Shotwell said that this is not debate; it's a chance for commissioners to comment only once.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Shotwell adjourned the September 18, 2007, meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners at 7:35 p.m.

James E. Shotwell – Chairman, Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Respectfully submitted by Amanda L. Riska – County Clerk