

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
**April 18, 2017**  
3:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Banks called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Sharp gave the Invocation.

**Members present:** Georgia Sharp, Larry Tiejema, Scott Wirtz, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, David Hodges and Jim Banks

**Members absent:** Jack Shattuck

**Others present:** Bob VanLente, Bob Lathers, Judy Clark, Scott DeRusiher, Lisa Insley, Carol Hanulcik, Deb Steele, Bert Gale, Jane Morris, Mark Jewell, Bob Sykes, Melissa McKinstry, Stephanie Fox and Janae CooperAmy Gorham

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Hodges, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Unfinished Business**

- A. Jane Morris came before the Board to discuss the need for an orientation process for citizens who are going to represent Ionia County on committees, boards or commissions. Morris distributed a hand-out (on file in the Clerk's Office) with objectives suggesting a need for the orientation process to be investigated. Tiejema noted that some appointments deal with federal and state laws as well as appropriations. Vice-Chair Banks stated that he would defer Chair Shattuck to do a referral to the Personnel Committee.

### **New Business**

- A. Bob Lathers, Director of The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness (formerly known as Ionia Community Mental Health) gave his annual report along Melissa McKinstry, Board Chair to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness. Lathers reminded the Board that is it once again time to grant their yearly \$163,000.00 towards The Right Door. McKinstry discussed the annual report at length. She noted that they try to see people the same day that they come in with a crisis. They have eight shared positions within the community, with offices in Ionia,

Portland and Belding. The Belding location, which is being funded buy the USDA is being outfitted as an autism center with a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, in which everyone is invited. Currently the closest location providing services for autism is in Hudsonville or at the Gerald Ford Hosptial. The Ionia location has a Veteran's office for those in need of services.

B. Departmental Reports

1. Bert Gale, Building Codes, gave his annual report to the Board (on file in the Clerk's Office). Gale reported that building permits are making a positive trend.

2. Carol Hanulcik, Commission on Aging Director; Deb Steele, In-Home Services Director and Lisa Insley, Food Services Director, reported to the Board about their goals, accomplishments and challenges. They re-established basic procedures and best practices. Hanulcik has reestablished trust with their funding agencies and feels that the COA is back on track and thriving. Challenges have been the hiring process however it appears to be moving in the right direction. Insley reported on Senior Programs and Meals on Wheels. Deb Steele reported on Homemaker, Home Health Aide and Respite Services. Steele reported that staffing has helped immensely. In closing, Hanulcik stated that the COA's Budget is doing better due to the millage.

3. Probate Judge, Bob Sykes and Mark Jewell, Director of Juvenile Services, gave their annual report on Juvenile Court. Sykes introduced Jewell, who replaced Monte Starkweather who retired in 2016 after 31 years of service. Sykes stated the Jewell has a fresh perspective and has modernized technology. Sykes reported that Kim Courtnay also retired last year after 43 years of service. Christy Ray was appointed as Probate Court Register in light of Courtnay's retirement. The Child Care Fund is currently under budget and juvenile cases are on trend to go down. Sykes announced that Nancy Miller will be retiring in June after 31 years of service. He does not intend to replace her position at this time. Jewell thanked the Board for the opportunity that was given to him. They indicated that Juvenile Court and The Right Door have a great collaboration between the two offices. Sykes advised the Board that he has two Mental Health participants. Sykes reported that Truancy Petitions are on the rise. There is pending legislation considering truancy as educational neglect.

4. Scott DeRusiher, Physical Plant Director, briefly reported on projects at the airport, damages resulting from the recent windstorm, the courthouse boilers, completed/near completed projects at Bertha Brock Park and the new one point of entry.

