

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 19, 2016
Committee-of-the-Whole
3:00 p.m.

Chair Shattuck called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hodges gave the Invocation.

Members present: David Hodges, Larry Tiejema, Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Julie Calley and Jack Shattuck

Others present: Robert Lathers, Melissa McKinstry, Dale Parus, Hon. Robert Sykes Jr., Monte Starkweather, Doug DeVries, Ken Bowen, Bob Logan, Georgia Sharp, Cory Grimminck, Jan Powell, Kerry Fountain, Allison Ferguson, Bob Logan, Bert Gale, Robert Van Lente, Britney Dillon, Kathie Cook, Connie Teachworth, Stephanie Fox and Stephanie Leuenberger

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

A. Community Mental Health Annual Report

Robert Lathers and Melissa McKinstry gave the Community Mental Health Annual Report. Last year Community Mental Health changed their name to The Right Door for Hope, Recovery and Wellness. McKinstry went over the 10 points on the Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 explaining that a majority of the clients that come to The Right Door are seen the same day. The Right Door has offices located in Ionia, Belding and Portland. The Ionia and Belding offices offer evening hours and the Ionia location offers some weekend hours. Commissioner Banks commended Judge Sykes for his work with the specialty courts and his partnership with The Right Door. Commissioner Calley commended McKinstry for her work with The Right Door. Commissioner Shattuck stated that The Right Door has a 24 hour hotline available to the public. (A copy of the Community Mental Health Annual Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

B. Ionia Community Library Presentation

Dale Parus, Ionia Community Library Director, stated that on behalf of the libraries in Ionia County, he was before the Board to discuss putting a renewal library millage on the ballot in August. Parus stated that the

libraries have computers available to the public with an approximate 1600 sessions a month of computer use at the Ionia Library alone. The Ionia library's children and teen programs are increasing and there are about 300 people who visit the library a day. Parus further thanked Tonda Rich and Janae Cooper for their help in guiding him through this process of getting the millage on the ballot. The Board will take action on the ballot language at the next regular meeting scheduled for April 26th. (A copy of the Community Library Presentation is on file in the Clerk's Office)

C. Departmental Reports

1. Juvenile Court / Probate Court

Probate Judge Robert Sykes Jr. and Juvenile Court Referee Monte Starkweather presented the 2015 Annual Report for the Juvenile Court and Youth Service Bureau. Starkweather commended Deputy Register Sallie Possehn for her efforts in collecting payments in Juvenile Court. Sykes discussed how a foster care institution can cost up to \$300 a day. It is currently being discussed moving the age a minor is considered to be an adult (from 17 to 18 years of age). Sykes also commended Prosecutor Kyle Butler and Sheriff Dale Miller for their involvement with the Mental Health Court. In other discussions, Sykes discussed truancy and how the Court is trying to get it under control, which is a little complicated due to each school having their own definition on what truancy is. (A copy of the Juvenile and Probate Court Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

2. Emergency Management

Doug DeVries gave an update on Emergency Management. DeVries stated that the next Homeland Security Grant has been awarded in the amount of \$40,841, which is a three year grant. The planning team has already met to determine the projects for this grant. Commissioner Calley recommended that DeVries hold introduction meetings so the citizens are kept up to date on who to contact when an emergency situation occurs. (A copy of the Emergency Management Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

3. Health Department

Public Health Officer Ken Bowen discussed the Zika virus and how the virus is expected to arrive in the United States. Bowen stated that only certain mosquitos carry the Zika virus and the virus can cause birth defects. This summer it will be determined if the Zika

virus is in Michigan. Other discussions included teaching children how to properly wash their hands to kill the germs. (A copy of the Health Department Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

4. Building Department

Bob Logan with the Building Department stated that the number of permits issued has increased. Logan discussed an incident where some builders did not have a license and had to be asked to leave a building site. Logan reminded everyone that the State of Michigan has a website where you can confirm that a potential builder is licensed. A private owner can perform work on their home with a permit, but a landlord cannot perform their own work. (A copy of the Building Department Report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Calley stated that the Grand River Water Trail Project Meeting is next week and stated that the Board may want to look into appointing someone to attend these meetings regularly.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Stephanie Leuenberger, Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on
