

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**April 22, 2014**

Regular Meeting

7:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Others present: Tom Thelen, David Jager, Jim Valentine, Doug DeVries, Al Almy, Barbara Walters, Lynette Seiler, Bill Weisgerber, Chuck Minkley, Jack Elliott, "Gus" Elliott, Judy Clark, Dale Miller, Ken Gasper, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

**Approval of Agenda**

The Chair noted one addition to the agenda under New Business (item H). Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

Jack Elliott commented on the Open Meetings Act and meeting locations for the Board.

Barbara Walters commented on the Animal Shelter.

**Did You Know?**

Commissioners' Cowling-Cronk and Calley shared facts of interest.

**Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of March 2014 - \$1,101,619.90
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$87,260.76

Commissioner Shattuck requested to remove his per diem voucher from the Consent Calendar and amend the March 11<sup>th</sup> meeting per diem to zero. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve Commissioner Shattuck's amended per diem voucher as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.

A brief discussion followed concerning the policy on mileage and per diem for certain meetings that the Board attends.

Hearing no further objections, the Chair declared the remaining items on the Consent Calendar approved.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Appointments**

1. Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority  
Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to appoint Mark Bender, Jonathan Dinehart and Robert Van Lente to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **New Business**

- A. David Jasper, Acting Equalization Director, presented the 2014 Equalization Report in compliance with the General Property Tax Act, Section 211.34 of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 as amended by Act 6 of the Public Acts of 1981. The 2014 report indicates the assessed value of real and personal property in Ionia County is \$1,904,587,488. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, that the 2014 Equalization Report for Ionia County, which establishes the county's equalized value at \$1,904,587,488, be approved and authorize the signatures of all commissioners. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Moved by Mason, supported by Wirtz, to approve filling the Site Hostess/Coordinator position at the Commission on Aging, at a Grade 4, not to exceed .24 FTE. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve the AAAWM FY 2015 Older Americans Act Continuation of Funding Request, and authorize the signature of the Chair. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Ionia County Sheriff, Dale Miller, requested 12 additional cameras for the jail, in addition to replacing the 19 black and white analog cameras, with the funds to come from the Securus Technology Grant and inmate housing revenue. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Wirtz, to approve the purchase of 12 additional cameras for the jail and to further approve replacing the 19 black and white analog cameras at the jail. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to amend the Personnel Allocation for the Sheriff's Department by re-allocating one Sergeant position to one full-time Corrections Officer and to further authorize filling two full-time Corrections Officers positions. Motion carried by voice vote.

F. Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to adopt the National Correctional Officers' and Employees' Week Resolution. The Resolution passed by the following roll call vote: yes - all. The Resolution is as follows:

**NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK  
RESOLUTION  
2014-7**

**WHEREAS**, National Correctional Officers and Employees Week was first proclaimed on May 5, 1984, by President Ronald Reagan, when he signed Proclamation 5187 creating "National Correctional Officers' Week," to recognize the men and women who work in jails, prisons, and community corrections across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Correctional Employees of the Ionia County Sheriff's Office form a core element of the Public Safety team in this community by providing security supervision, treatment services, and reentry efforts for more than 2800 individual cases in the course of a calendar year; and

**WHEREAS**, In the Ionia County Sheriff's Office, professional Correctional Employees serve a co-equal role with law enforcement and fire rescue colleagues, engaging in dangerous and potentially life-threatening situations; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of the Ionia County community recognize and understand the complex, dangerous, and challenging responsibilities carried out by Correctional Employees in the Ionia County Sheriff's Office, and recognize and highly commend their public safety work.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of Ionia County, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of Ionia County, does hereby proclaim the week of May 4-10, 2014, as **NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK** in Ionia County, and further encourage residents to join in recognition and appreciation of the outstanding service professional Correctional Employees provide to our community.

G. Managing Director of the Road Commission, Dorothy Pohl and Road Commissioner, Bill Weisgerber, discussed the condition of the county roads and proposed putting a millage for 2 mills for a six year term on the August 2014 ballot. Pohl stated that the State of Michigan is in discussions concerning funding for Michigan roads. However, Pohl indicated that even with this funding, it will not be enough to fix the roads in Ionia County. Commissioner Shattuck, who acts as the liaison between the Board and the Road Commission,

stated he was in agreement with the millage proposal. Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to adopt the Resolution to Approve Ballot Proposal for New Additional Millage for Highway, Road, and Street Purposes, Including Bridges, Within Ionia County, pending the final approval of the County Attorney. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes, with Chair Calley voting no. The Resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE BALLOT PROPOSAL FOR NEW  
ADDITIONAL MILLAGE FOR HIGHWAY, ROAD AND STREET  
PURPOSES INCLUDING BRIDGES WITHIN IONIA COUNTY  
2014-8**

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of (1) the need for significant repair, maintenance and improvement of highways, roads, streets and bridges located within Ionia County and (2) the lack of assurance that additional state and federal money will be available to fund the cost of such needed repairs, maintenance and improvements in the County, the Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Ionia (the "Road Commission"), acting pursuant to and in accordance with Act 283 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1909, as amended ("Act 283"), adopted a resolution on April 16, 2014, to endorse and request that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners (the "County Board") adopt the resolution to submit a ballot proposal to County electors at the August 4, 2014 state primary election to increase the County's total tax rate limitation as provided in Section 6 of Article IX of the State Constitution of 1963 in order to levy taxes for County road purposes for a specified number of years; and

**WHEREAS**, Act 283 and the Property Tax Limitation Act, which is Act 62 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1933, as amended ("Act 62"), authorize the County to submit a ballot proposal to the County electors for the authorization of a new additional millage for road purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the wording of the ballot proposal to be submitted to County electors is attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. A ballot proposal to increase the County's total tax rate limitation by, and to levy up to, the amount of 2.000 mills for a period of six (6) years, commencing in 2014 through and including 2019, both inclusive, to provide funding for the maintenance, repair and improvement of highways, roads, streets, and bridges located within the County, which is a request for new additional millage, shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the County.
2. The ballot proposal shall be submitted to the electors at the state primary election to be held on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, the next regularly scheduled

- election date, pursuant to the provisions of Act 62, the General Property Tax Act, and the Michigan Election Law.
3. The ballot proposal to be submitted to the electors shall be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, and in such form is hereby approved and certified to the County Clerk.
  4. The County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to provide all notices of the election as may be required by law, including the Michigan Election Law. Without limitation of the foregoing, the Notice of Election shall contain a statement by the County Treasurer of the total of all voted increases in the total tax rate limitation in the County, and each local unit therein, and the year the increases are effective, as required by Section 3 of Act 62.
  5. All resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict herewith shall be and the same are hereby rescinded.

*EXHIBIT A*

**MILLAGE PROPOSITION NEW ADDITIONAL MILLAGE FOR  
HIGHWAY, ROAD, AND STREET PURPOSES, INCLUDING BRIDGES  
WITHIN IONIA COUNTY  
2014-8**

Shall the limitation on general ad valorem taxation within the County of Ionia (the "County") imposed under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution be increased by, and the County be authorized to levy, up to 2.000 mill (\$2.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, beginning in 2014 and continuing through 2019, inclusive, subject to reduction as provided by law, on taxable property in the County?

The purpose of this new millage is to provide funds for highway, road, and street purposes, including bridges located in the County to be allocated and distributed pursuant to the statutory formula set forth in Act 133 of the Public Acts of 1968, as amended, among the Ionia County Road Commission for roads located in the Clarksville, Hubbardston, Lake Odessa, Lyons, Muir, Pewamo and Saranac. If approved, it is estimated that the levy of 2.000 mills will provide revenue of \$3,129,932 in the first calendar year of the levy, which will be disbursed to the Road Commission for allocation and distribution among the Road Commission, and the cities and villages, as described above and, in accordance with state law, among the downtown development authorities for the cities of Belding, Ionia, and Portland, the Village of Lake Odessa, and the Village of Lyons' and the City of Belding's two tax increment finance authorities.

- H. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to authorize an expenditure of \$4,000 from the General Fund to pay West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission for Management and Administration costs associated

with oversight of Homeland Security Planning for Ionia County. Motion carried by voice vote, with Banks voting no.

### **Chairperson's Report**

Chair Calley announced that the next facility meeting will be Tuesday, April 29, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.

### **County Administrator's Report**

- 1) The Giving Vine is complete at the Animal Shelter.

### **Public Comment**

Jack Elliott commented on a new facility and the Road Commission.

"Gus" Elliott discussed the 64A District Court and requested that the Board keep the citizens informed on their decisions.

Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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Julie Calley, Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
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