

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 18, 2015

Regular Meeting

3:00 p.m.

Chair Calley 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, Jack Shattuck (arrived at 3:27 p.m.) and Julie Calley

Others present: Melissa Eldridge, Kaitlyn Kiessling, Bob VanLente, Ken Bowen, Jennifer Proto, Nicholas Grenke, Amy Irish-Brown, Diane Smith, Don Lehman, Tamie Barker, Bob Sykes, Judy Clark, Monte Starkweather, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley made the following revisions to the agenda: Removed item C. under New Business and added items F. & G. under New Business. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Did You Know?

Chair Calley shared a fact 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 July 2015 - \$1,222,317.81
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$134,330.52

The Chair requested to make the following amendments to the per diem and mileage vouchers: Amend Commissioner Shattuck's voucher from \$50 to \$25 for the Facilities meeting held on July 14, 2015; amend Commissioner Hodge's voucher dates from August to July and add the per diem and mileage vouchers for Commissioners Cowling-Cronk and Tiejema. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the amended vouchers and the added vouchers as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.

Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

New Business

- A. Melissa Eldridge and Kaitlyn Kiessling presented the Resource Recovery/Soil Conservation Annual Report and answered questions from the Board. Eldridge informed the Board that their department has received a grant to relocate 264 Snuff Box Mussels from the Grand River in Lyons. In addition, Eldridge updated the Board on recycling in the County. (A copy of the annual report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- B. Departmental Reports
1. **Juvenile Court – Child Care Fund** – Juvenile Court Referee Monte Starkweather and Probate Judge Robert Sykes, Jr. discussed the Juvenile Court Child Care Fund. Starkweather and Sykes reported that there is a spike in Child Protective proceedings with many of these children being too damaged to go into a residential facility. Starkweather and Sykes discussed foster care and adoptions.
 2. **MSU Extension** - Don Lehman, with MSU Extension Office, introduced Amy Irish-Brown from the West Michigan Extension Office in Kent County. Irish-Brown did a brief presentation on Michigan apple growers and stated that she has seen an increasing number of farmers taking an interest in growing hops and grapes due to micro-breweries. (A copy of the MSU Extension report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
 3. **Treasurer's Office** - Ionia County Treasurer, Judy Clark, reported that interest rates are going down and short-term CD rates are rising. Clark suggested moving funds to improve interest rates. In addition, Clark stated that current tax bill collections are underway. In other items of discussion, Clark reported that nineteen parcels are in foreclosure and forfeitures are at their highest (480) right now. Clark informed the Board that a policy advisor is looking into changing the 1919 Dog Licensing law, as rabies are more of a public health issue. The ATM in the basement is not likely to be retained due to lack of transactions and credit card payments continue to create balancing and time issues in the office.
 4. **Public Health** - Public Health Officer Ken Bowen introduced Jennifer Prodo as a new member of the Health Department. Bowen presented a handout for Senate Bill 423 and explained that if this bill gets passed the Health Department cannot operate their food licensing and inspection programs, which would cause an approximate loss to the County in the amount of \$150,000 - \$200,000. In other news, Bowen stated that Otisco and Orleans townships have found high lead levels in buildings located in each of the townships.
- C. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to ratify the signature of the Chair on the Friend of the Court Title IV-D Agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. County Administrator, Stephanie Fox, presented the Board with the 2016 budget recommendation and advised the Board that there will be four budget meetings scheduled.
- E. Fox presented the Board with a Resolution resulting from the recent tornado in Portland. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to adopt the State Disaster

Contingency Fund Grant Resolution. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes: all. The Resolution is as follows:

**IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
STATE DISASTER CONTINGENCY FUND GRANT
RESOLUTION
2015 - 21**

WHEREAS, Ionia County, Michigan, is a political subdivision within the State of Michigan with an official Emergency Operations plan in compliance with Section 19 of the Emergency Management Act, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Ionia County sustained severe losses of major proportions brought on by a tornado, resulting in the following conditions: widespread and severe damage to homes, businesses, non-profit organizations, public facilities and infrastructure, causing an immediate threat to public health and safety and disrupting vital community services; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners certifies that the County/Municipal Emergency Operations Plan was implemented at the onset of the disaster at 2:30 p.m. on June 22, 2015, and all applicable disaster relief forces identified therein were exhausted; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the disaster, public damage and expenditures were extraordinary and place an unreasonably great financial burden on Ionia County totaling up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor authorize a grant to the County of Ionia from the State Disaster Contingency Fund pursuant to Section 19, Act 390, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that County Administrator Stephanie Fox is authorized to execute for and on behalf of Ionia County the application for financial assistance and to provide to the State any information required for that purpose.

G. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to amend the Hours of Work Policy to include in the language that County Offices will be open during the noon hour with *exceptions for special events or exceptional events*. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

1. The new Michigan Work Collaboration (ASCET) will go live on October 1st.

2. Emergency Management Doug DeVries held a meeting yesterday regarding the grant that was approved. DeVries did a debriefing on the tornado.

Administrator's Report

1. The 18th Annual Summer Picnic will be held on September 2nd.
2. Work will begin on the stone bridge in Bertha Brock Park.
3. The fencing project is scheduled to begin at the airport.

Special Reports

Commissioner Shattuck reported that a longboard group requested to race at Bertha Brock Park, but their request was denied. Shattuck advised the Board of a golf outing at Morrison Lake on August 28th at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Cowling-Cronk commented on the Michigan State Police participation at the tornado debriefing.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on: