

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
February 17, 2015  
Committee- of- the- Whole  
3:00 p.m.

Chair Calley called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Innovation.

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

**Members absent:** David Hodges

**Others present:** Doug DeVries, Charlie Noll, Judy Clark, Bob VanLente, Ken Bowen, Robin Anderson, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

### Approval of Agenda

The Chair noted one additional item under New Business. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

### Unfinished Business

- A. The Chair passed out a copy of the May 27, 2014 board minutes reminding the Board of item B. under Unfinished Business when the Board voted to authorize the County Administrator to seek bids for the interior demolition of the old jail. Stephanie Fox, County Administrator, passed out an updated spreadsheet on the cost of renovating the old jail or building new. Fox stated that bids were sought, however, due to the length of time that has now passed with no action, bids will have to be submitted again.

### New Business

- A. Animal Control Manager, Robin Anderson, discussed the Animal Shelter operations. Some of the highlights in her report included: In 2014, the shelter took in 1100 animals with 900 being adopted/transferred and 187 animals being returned to their owner. A new vehicle was purchased for animal control which was decaled by General Signs in Ionia. Anderson announced that there will be another low cost vaccine day at the shelter on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (A copy of the Animal Control report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- B. Public Health Officer, Ken Bowen, presented the Public Health report covering public health, community health, personal family health, environmental health and public health preparedness. Bowen commented on the Prosperity Regions stating that the Michigan Department of Community Health is pushing for regionalization of Health Departments. One proposed plan has Ionia merged with Mid- Michigan DHD, Barry- Eaton DHD and Ingham CHD. The Governor's Prosperity Regions would combine Ionia with Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon Counties. (A copy of the Health Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

- C. Doug DeVries, with Emergency Management, presented his report discussing outdoor warning sirens, Smart 911/Rave Alert System, Homeland Security update and volunteer resources. (A copy of the Emergency Management report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- D. Undersheriff, Charlie Noll, discussed projects at the department, incidents the department was involved in (armed robbery, meth arrest), as well as staffing, changes in staffing and training. (A copy of the Sheriff's Department report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- E. County Treasurer, Judy Clark, stated that the ATM in the basement is used between 20 to 40 times per month; the current tax payments are going well. Clark discussed foreclosures and the change in the law governing auctioning off properties. Clark also discussed a mills error concerning Lowell Area Schools, Brownfield properties and the Land Bank properties. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- F. Commissioner Tiejema discussed the creation of the proposed Prosperity Regions and voiced his concern with Ionia County being put in with a larger county (bigger county = bigger voice). Tiejema stated that if Ionia County gets involved now with the creation of prosperity regions, Ionia County will have a voice and therefore, Tiejema proposed bringing a resolution before the Board in the near future.

**Chairperson's Report**

- 1. Facilities was a common goal on the goal sheets submitted by the Commissioners
- 2. Congressman Justin Amash will be hosting a town hall meeting in Portland this week
- 3. Special recognition to those Ionia County employees that did the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics.

**Other Reports**

Commissioner Shattuck updated the Board on the Friends for Bertha Brock Park group and stated a resolution will be forthcoming concerning their organization which benefits the County.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 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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