

**IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**February 24, 2015**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

**Members absent:** David Hodges and Jack Shattuck

**Others present:** Tom Thelen, Bob Conner, Ron Possehn, Earl Howell, Terry Allerding, Ed Lincoln, Robin Johnson, Jim Valentine, Walter Barnes, Bob Van Lente, Judy Clark, Doug Devries, Kenda Heilman, Kevin Heilman, Ken Bowen, Mark Doane, Linn Plett, Ken Haverstick, William Sedlar, Goose Elliott, Tim Reisbig, Dale Miller, Jim Patrick, James Tucker, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

### **Approval of Agenda**

The Chair noted the following additions to the agenda: Added item E. under the Consent Calendar (approval of Closed Session minutes from February 10, 2015) and added item O. under New Business (Memorandum of Understanding). Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **Public Comment**

Jack Elliott commented on the county payroll amount and property values.

### **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 January 2015 - \$1,689,473.01
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$127,379.51
- E. Approve Closed Session minutes from February 10, 2015

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to approve adding Commissioner Wirtz, Banks, Cowling- Cronk and Tiejema's per diem vouchers to the Consent Calendar. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair noted two changes to Commissioner Hodges voucher: The per diem for the January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting should be \$25 and the per diem for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting should be \$75. Moved by Calley, supported by Banks, to approve the changes on Commissioner Hodges' voucher as discussed. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

### Unfinished Business

- A. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to approve the PA 116 Farmland Agreement filed by Boersen Farms Properties (local file no. 15- 001FA) for property located in Berlin Township. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair went back to item E. under the Consent Calendar. The Closed Session minutes were passed out and reviewed by the Board. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to ratify the approval of the Consent Calendar. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. The pros and cons were briefly discussed concerning the Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council. Commissioner Wirtz moved to table the appointments to the Council until more information was available. The motion died for lack of support.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to appoint Lynn Mason and Cori Anderson to the Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair requested that the facilities discussion be moved to the end of the meeting.

### New Business

- A. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to open up the Public Hearing on the Off Road Vehicle Ordinance at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Mark Doane from Lake Odessa questioned the definition of motorcycle as outlined in the ordinance under *Section 1. Definitions, item g*. Doane also commented on *Section 6. Evidence*, specifically *prima facie negligence* verses a tort case.

Commissioner Banks stated he would not vote for the ordinance due to how it is written.

Jack Elliott from Easton Township stated that Ionia County is a general law county and questioned the Board's authority to adopt such an ordinance. Elliott further questioned the "reasonable right to highway" as stated in Michigan law.

Bob Conner from Easton Township stated that many counties already have this ordinance adopted and requested that it be adopted in Ionia County as well. Conner stated that he is an insurance agent and recommended that anyone with an ORV should have insurance.

Ron Possehn from Easton Township also voiced his approval of having the ordinance adopted and pointed out that local farmers use ORV's as well.

County Administrator, Stephanie Fox, stated that the Ionia County Road Commission is also in agreement and supports the ORV ordinance. Fox distributed a letter from Dorothy Pohl, Managing Director of the Road Commission, stating their approval and support of the ordinance.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to close the Public Hearing at 7:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair noted that as part of the ordinance there is an attached list of roads where ORV travel will be permitted and questioned if any of the roads listed were disputed by the townships. Linn Plett, Orange Township Clerk, stated that Orange Township requested to have David Highway taken off of the list, which is still listed. Calley recognized that David Highway runs through two other townships as well. The Board questioned if the townships were in favor of the ordinance and if they had any concerns. Fox stated she would gather this information from the Road Commission and bring it back before the Board.

Commissioner Cowling- Cronk voiced concern with the wording in Section 6 of the ordinance. Commissioner Banks voiced his concern with the wording in Sections 5 and 6 as well. Commissioner Wirtz stated he was in agreement with the ordinance, but would like the ordinance correct before passing it.

Chair Calley stated that there are legal issues concerning two parts of the ordinance that need to be corrected. Once corrected and once information is received from the townships and road commission, the Board will consider passing the ordinance at the next commissioners meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

- B. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Tiejema, to approve the FY15 Community Corrections contract and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to approve the SmartStart Ignition Interlock program description to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Corrections. The program will provide funding for eligible convicted OWI – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sobriety Court participants to have the ignition interlock system fees waived. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to approve the 5- year agreement between the Village of Saranac and Ionia County for additional Sheriff's Office Services. Sheriff Dale Miller stated that the Sheriff's Office will provide a maximum of 1680 hours per year. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to adopt the Resolution for Charitable Gaming License. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

**LOCAL GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION FOR  
CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSES  
2015 - 5**

At a regular meeting of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners called to order by Chairperson Julie Calley on February 24, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. the following resolution was offered:

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, that the request from Friends of Bertha Brock Park Preservation of Ionia County of Ionia, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, be considered for approval.

- F. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to approve the out of state travel expense for Chad Shaw for April 14<sup>th</sup> through April 17<sup>th</sup>. Public Health Officer, Ken Bowen, stated that the funding is covered in the 2015 budget. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to approve filling the Office Manager position at the Health Department starting at a Grade 9, Step 3. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve a grant agreement with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and

Homeland Security Division for the 2014- 2015 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Planning Program Grant and authorize the Chairperson's signature. Motion carried by voice vote.

- I. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission (WMSRDC) that funds homeland security related activities and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- J. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to approve the 36 month contract with AT&T for the PRI Circuit for Central Dispatch and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- K. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to approve the bid from NETech Corporation for the purchase of on- site backup in an amount not to exceed \$24,025.57, with funds to come from the General Fund Designated Fund. Walter Barnes, Information Technician, explained the county's current backup system and answered questions from the Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
- L. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to authorize the purchase of three copy machines from Hasselbring- Clark for Probate Court, Clerk's Office and MSU Extension Office in an amount not to exceed \$17,728 with the understanding that MSU Extension will reimburse the County for 50% of the cost of their machine or a total of \$3,230, with funds to come from the General Fund Designated Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.
- M. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to amend the Meals Section of the Travel Policy to reflect the following reimbursement amounts: breakfast - \$7; lunch - \$8 and dinner - \$15, with a maximum total reimbursement for meals for one full day of \$30 effective March 1, 2015. Motion carried by voice vote.
- N. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to appoint Gregg Moore to the Central Dispatch Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
- O. It was the consensus of the Board to table the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the grant work to be completed for the Rail Trail in order to give the Board more time to review the Memorandum.

P. A brief discussion took place concerning facilities and the need for a maintenance garage.

### **Public Comment**

Goose Elliott discussed the last public hearing on facilities and further talked about tailgating issues. Jack Elliott commented on taxing the citizens and spending funds.

### **Chairperson's Report**

- 1) Thanked the county employees who helped with the flood in the basement of the courthouse.

### **Other Reports**

Commissioner Tiejema discussed having equal representation in the Prosperity Region and discussed the importance of why Ionia County needs a voice in their region.

Bob Conner voiced his support for the ORV ordinance.

Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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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