

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 16, 2015
Committee- of- the- Whole
3:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Commissioner Hodges gave the Invocation.

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

Others present: Deb Thailson, Loren Gage, Bob VanLente, Judy Clark, Dale Miller, Charlie Noll, Ron Schafer, Jacob Maas, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

- A. Jacob Maas, Executive Director of ASCET (Area Community Services Employment and Training) discussed the Michigan Works! Regionalization. Maas outlined the steps taken for the regionalization and presented the Board with a proposed inter- local agreement. In addition, Maas discussed the goals and answered questions from the Board.
- B. Departmental Reports
 - Prosecuting Attorney – Ionia County Prosecutor, Ron Schafer, discussed the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) that recently opened up in Belding at the Community Mental Health Office. Schafer shared that there is a big push in the criminal field with advocates believing that there are too many individuals being sentenced to prison for too long. In response to this push, Schafer listed some statistics stating that 1 out of 10 felons are sentenced to prison and only about 2.5 out of 10 are sentenced to prison for violation. Schafer concluded that there is reasoning why the Truth in Sentencing Act was passed.
 - Health Department – Deb Thailson presented the 2014 Ionia County Health Department Annual Report and further discussed Community Health, Personal Family Health, Environmental Health and Public Health Preparedness. (Copies of the reports are available in the Clerk’s Office).
 - Parks & Recreation – Loren Gage, Park Manager, discussed the work being done in the park, repair work needed on the Palmer Lodge and the

caretaker's house, camping reservations, disc golf and the increase in visitors to the park.

Sheriff's Department – Ionia County Sheriff, Dale Miller and Undersheriff, Charlie Noll, gave an update on the Sheriff's Department and briefly discussed a few cases the Sheriff's Department was involved in. Noll updated the Board on completed projects at the jail/department. Miller voiced his concern about individuals being lodged that have a mental illness and the difficulty the jail staff have with these inmates. The jail is currently housing an inmate that has been found incompetent to stand trial. In these types of cases, this inmate is to be turned over to the state, but the state has nowhere for this inmate to go.

County Clerk – Tonda Rich, County Clerk, gave a brief update on the Clerk's Office. Rich discussed staffing, training, collections and elections.

- C. Judy Clark, Ionia County Treasurer, reported on foreclosed properties and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- D. Stephanie Fox, County Administrator, discussed the Equalization Director position, which is currently being filled on an interim basis. The wages for the Director were discussed. Chair Calley directed the County Administrator to advertise for an Equalization Director with wages being negotiable.
- E. Fox presented the Board with new updates on the Freedom of Information Act that will take effect in July 2015. Fox stated that the Board will have to take action at their next board meeting by passing a resolution.

County Administrator's Report

- 1. Fox thanked Sharyn Overton, Kathleen Rubie and Brenda Ingersoll for their help these past couple of weeks due to the two vacancies in the Finance Department and Administration.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
