

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 15, 2016
Committee-of-the-Whole
3:00 p.m.

Chair Shattuck 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 (left at 4:37 p.m.) and Jack Shattuck

Members absent: Julie Calley

Others present: Bob VanLente, David Bee, Tom Vargas, Jim Valentine, Scott De Ruischer, Don Lehman, Kevin Gould, Ron Schafer, Charlie Noll, Dale Miller, John Milewski, Morgan Carroll, Tina Conner-Wellman, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Public Comment

Chair Shattuck congratulated Ron Schafer on his appointment to the 8th Judicial Circuit Court Judgeship. Schafer took a moment to thank the Board for their continuing support.

New Business

- A. David Bee with the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission gave an update on the Planning Commission discussing transportation grants, MDOT projects, economic developments and the Regional Prosperity Program.
- B. Departmental Reports
 1. **Register of Deeds** - Diane Adams, Register of Deeds, submitted a written report which is on file in the Clerk's Office.
 2. **Buildings & Grounds** - Physical Plant Director, Scott De Ruischer, reported that his department fixed a water line at the airport, is working on moving Judge Kreeger into her new office, addressed the grease trap issue at the Commission on Aging and has a list of repairs needed at the Sheriff's Department. (A copy of the Maintenance Department report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
 3. **MSU Extension** - Kevin Gould discussed his job duties and responsibilities as the Livestock Educator. Gould stated that he attends many meetings and in addition to being the Livestock Educator, he also works in the youth development area as well. Don Lehman, MSUE

Director, gave an update on the 4H Program and on behalf of Haley McLean, the 4-H Program Coordinator, thanked the Board for fully funding the Coordinator position. (A copy of the MSUE report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

4. **Central Dispatch** – Jim Valentine, Director, gave a brief update on Central Dispatch reporting that Mike Ketchum, a retired Ionia Department of Public Safety Sergeant, accepted the dispatcher position. Valentine passed out the 2016 telephone report showing the number of calls made to 9-1-1 so far this year. (A copy of the Central Dispatch report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

5. **Sheriff's Department** – Sheriff Dale Miller and Undersheriff Charlie Noll discussed the contracts the department has with a few of the townships for additional law enforcement services. Miller stated that the contracts will be amended reducing the rate being charged to these townships. In other discussions, Miller gave a brief update on the Community Corrections Program and that the position of Manager needs to be filled, gave a handout showing the comparisons of handgun purchases and lastly, discussed the staffing issues at the Sheriff's Department. Miller presented a handout showing the total amount invested in each new officer (wages, screening, testing, uniforms and equipment). Noll stated that many deputies have left Ionia County to pursue another position in a larger county. After doing exit interviews, Noll stated that not only are wages an issue in Ionia County, but going to a larger county has more opportunity for advancement.

6. **IT Department** – John Milewski, Tina Conner-Wellman and Morgan Carroll with the Ionia Broadband Committee, discussed the internet connectivity needs of Ionia County residents. Wellman stated that people are moving from Ionia County due to the internet connectivity issues and many residents and students that work from home or take education classes' on-line struggle with internet services. The Committee has put together a survey and requested the help from the County to get these surveys out to all the residents in Ionia County. The connectivity issue needs to be addressed, but the results from the survey need to be known first. A brief discussion took place concerning the possibility of mailing the surveys with the tax bills.

Tom Vargas, IT Director, discussed the need to have the courthouse cameras and the jail cameras separated onto different servers. Vargas discussed the door alarm system at District Court and the replacement of the network firewall. (A copy of the IT Departments Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

- C. De Ruischer met with the architect and the four departments that will be affected by the new building site. De Ruischer stated that he met with the mechanical engineer who has recommended that the courthouse stay

on steam heat. A RFP will be done concerning the demolition of the old jail site, along with specifications for the demo. Next week another facilities meeting will be held and more updates will be given then. Commissioner Hodges stated that the Board needs to decide if a general manager will be hired or not.

County Administrator's Report

A. MI Works has moved into their new location on Main Street in Ionia.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Hodges, to adjourn the meeting at 4:54 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
