

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

Chair Calley called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Don Lehman gave the Invocation.

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

Others present: Dave Bee, Diane Smith, Don Lehman, Jim Valentine, Joe Cusack, Diane Adams, Michelle Riger Spicer, Pam Cowling, Georgia Sharp, Lynette Seiler, Tamie Barker, Judy Clark, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Lynette Seiler, Commission on Aging Director, introduced Tamie Barker as her replacement effective April 1, 2015. Tamie Barker thanked the Board and stated that she looks forward to her new responsibilities as the Commission on Aging Director.

New Business

- A. Dave Bee, Director of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission, presented the Annual Report to the Board. Bee discussed the four main programs that the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission offers: U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Division (Economic Development), MDOT Rural Task Force Program, Regional Prosperity Initiative and Community Planning Projects. Bee stated that through these four programs our region has received grants, a task force has been established where funds are divvied up for Michigan roads, Ionia County was one of four applicants eligible for funds through the Regional Prosperity Initiative and received \$20,000. Bee stated that the Community Planning Projects is a facet of the Regional Planning Commission that is used on an as-needed basis for communities that cannot afford consultants. Bee answered questions from the Board.
- B. Michelle Riger Spicer and Pam Cowling of the Green Day Committee appeared before the Board to discuss the 1st Annual Green Day Event which will take place on April 11th. The committee is a group of individuals who want to bridge awareness in the community about mental health, earth recycling, animal services and needs in our environment. The committee is seeking support and a monetary contribution from the Board for a \$700 ad in the Shoppers Guide. Riger Spicer and Cowling were

advised by Chair Calley that the Committee-of-the-Whole is not a voting meeting and they should bring their request back to a regular meeting.

C. Departmental Reports

1. **Register of Deeds** – Register of Deeds Diane Adams presented the Board with her annual report. Adams reported that transfer tax is low or \$0 on foreclosed properties, however property values are improving. The Register of Deeds Office generated \$1,310,876.44 in revenue for 2014. Other items of discussion included deed images being available on-line and can be printed from the web; all index books have been scanned and E-recording is being tested. Adams also reported that the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are exempt from transfer tax and the County currently has \$3,600 to be refunded to those who paid it. Adams stated that a link is on the website informing people that they may qualify for a refund.
2. **MSU Extension** – Don Lehman informed the Board of staff changes and role changes of staff. Lehman distributed a packet of information regarding 4-H Exploration Days (A copy of the report is on file in Clerk's Office).
3. **Central Dispatch** – Director Jim Valentine distributed three handouts and discussed implementing the new surcharge rate. Valentine stated a new dispatcher was hired in February and briefly commented on Smart 911.
4. **Building and Grounds** – Physical Plant Director, Joe Cusack, discussed the progress of the renovations in the Juvenile Court Office due to the flooding in the basement of the courthouse. Cusack informed the Board of the many projects that have either been started, completed or are currently in progress.

Chairperson's Report

1. Assistant Prosecutor Kyle Butler is drafting the ORV Ordinance;
2. Lynette Seiler will be having a going-away party as her last day will be March 31st.;
3. Facilities will be discussed at the next meeting;
4. Distributed a five question survey to the Commissioners regarding facilities.

Commissioner's Reports

Commissioner Tiejema reported that he attended the Michigan Works Directors Meeting.

Commissioner Shattuck noted that a benefit for the Friends of Bertha Brock Park will take place on March 28th.

County Administrator's Report

1. The county auditors will be here for the next two weeks;
2. There will be a Public Hearing on the DNR Public Trust Fund at the next meeting;
3. Reminded the Board about the tour of the new hospital at the end of the meeting.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on