

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
**March 18, 2014**  
4:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Lynn Mason, Larry Tiejema, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz,  
Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Members absent: Jim Banks

Others present: Jim Valentine, Doug DeVries, Don Lehman, Charlie Noll, Bob  
VanLente, Diane Adams, Don Ransom, Walter Barnes, Stephanie  
Hurlbut, Stephanie Leuenberger and Tonda Rich

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **New Business**

#### A. Departmental Reports

1. Don Lehman with MSU Extension discussed an upcoming Civil Rights audit that will be taking place and explained the current civil rights practices of the MSU Extension Office. Lehman also passed out a flyer on How to Start a Successful Cottage Food Business in Michigan, with the workshop to take place on April 3, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Ionia County Intermediate School District.
2. Register of Deeds, Diane Adams, presented the Board with a 2013 Annual Report on the Ionia County Register of Deeds Office. Adams stated that revenues are up \$70,000+ from last year. Other items of discussion included GIS Mapping, Abstracts, projects and e-recording. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office)
3. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, gave a brief update on the Buildings & Grounds Department. Ransom discussed the utilities budget. Ransom stated that due to freezing temperatures, his department has been dealing with a frozen well at the Airport Terminal Building, frozen sewer line at Central Dispatch, frozen roof drains at the Sheriff's Department and have been unplugging the outside filters of the energy recovery equipment at the Animal Shelter. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office)

4. Information Technician, Walter Barnes, discussed the County's new website, Windows 7, new wireless equipment, the servers at Central Dispatch and the Sheriff's Department.
  5. Doug DeVries, with Emergency Management, stated that Ionia County is at a high risk of river flooding. Other topics of discussion included the Rave Alert, which is being negotiated.
  6. Ionia County Prosecutor, Ron Schafer, discussed the specialty courts, high profile cases that will be going to a jury trial, Ionia County Collections Department and prison escape cases.
  7. Undersheriff, Charlie Noll, discussed proposed projects at the Sheriff's Department, a fatal fire that occurred in Boston Township and public relations that the Sheriff is doing.
- B. Commissioner Tiejema presented the Board with a handout/graph showing how the County could allocate the \$2.2 million it has that are committed to facilities. Each commissioner was given an opportunity to comment. Chair Calley requested that pricing be looked into regarding having county records scanned.

## Reports

Commissioner Shattuck reminded everyone of the Bertha Brock Park benefit that will be at the KC Hall in Ionia on March 22, 2014.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 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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