

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
March 21, 2017
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: Georgia Sharp, Larry Tiejema, Scott Wirtz, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, David Hodges and Jack Shattuck

Members absent: Jim Banks

Others present: Bob VanLente, Dave Bee, William Hoskins, Don Lehman, Jim Valentine, Stephanie Fox and Amy Gorham

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

- A. Dave Bee, Director of the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission presented their Annual Report (on file in the Clerk's Office) to the Board. Bee stated that between 2009 and 2012 there was an interruption in membership, with Ionia County leaving the WMRPC due to financial challenges. Individual Ionia County communities who expressed interest were allowed to join as individual members. Those members included each of the cities, three townships and three villages. Bee highlighted the benefits those members received during that time. Bee further updated the Board on more recent WMRPC activities ranging from 2013 to present.
- B. Departmental Reports
 1. Sgt. Stan Hoskins, Ionia County Emergency Manager, updated the Board on the recent windstorm that impacted Ionia County on March 8th. Approximately 45% of residents and businesses experienced a loss of power. The Ionia Armory was set up as an emergency shelter which ran for three days. Hoskins further advised the Board of an upcoming presentation that he will present at city, township and village meetings to familiarize them with emergency management services should the need arise. Hoskins informed the Board of various other trainings that he has attended (a full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

2. Don Lehman, MSU Extension Office District 8 Coordinator, presented their 2015-2016 Annual Report (on file in the Clerk's Office). Lehman briefly reported on the many innovative programs that the MSU Extension offers to residents. Tiejema questioned if there has been a renewed interest in organic farming. Lehman answered yes, they are doing more at looking into growing without the use of pesticides.
- C. Discussion took place regarding the orientation process for appointed committee members. Tiejema stated that Jane Morris contacted him and made the suggestion for an orientation so those appointed are effective members from the start. Sharp agreed that when she was appointed to the Eight Cap Board that she found it to be a valuable experience for her to sit with someone and have an overview of their process. Wirtz wondered how a blanket procedure could be developed. Shattuck added that accomplishments from the past and goals for the future could be added as well. Jane Morris will be invited to a future meeting to discuss her suggestions.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Shattuck mentioned seeking approval to harvest 32 more trees from the camping area of Bertha Brock Park. This item will be added to next Tuesday's Agenda.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator, Stephanie Fox stated that the auditors are here and will be leaving on Wednesday.

Adjourn

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 4:06 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Amy Gorham, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on:
