

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 24, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Ionia County Central Dispatch Building

Chair Calley called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Commissioner Hodges giving the Invocation.

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

Others present: Tom Thelen, Jack Elliott, Goose Elliott, Bob VanLente, Doug DeVries, Al Almy, Melissa Eldridge, Carolyn Kane, Ron Gunderson, Jason Eppler, Jim Valentine, Steve VanHolysten, Dorothy Pohl, Chuck Minkley, Dale Miller, Deb Thailson, Paul Spitzley, Thomas White, Raymond Van Buskirk, Kenda Heilman, Kenneth Haverstick, Ken Ritsema, Don Hogen, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley requested to move the facilities discussion (item C. under Unfinished Business) to the end of the agenda. Moved by Cowling- Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott and Thomas White commented on the proposed ORV Ordinance.

Did You Know?

Commissioner Tiejema and Commissioner Shattuck stated facts of interest.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of February 2015 - \$1,488,507.36
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$81,840.07

Chair Calley requested to remove the March 10th board minutes from the Consent Calendar and amend the minutes as follows: page 2, item A., in the last paragraph where it states “. . . *state law* be incorporated into the ordinance . . . “ should read: “*DNR’s ORV law* be incorporated into the ordinance . . . “ Moved by Calley, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to approve the amended March 10, 2015 board minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Hearing no other objections, the Chair declared the remaining items under the Consent Calendar approved.

Unfinished Business

- A. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to appoint Gretchen Nyland, Deborah McPeek- McFadden and Melissa McKinstry to the Community Mental Health Services Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Paul Spitzley with the Ionia County Road Commission and Dale Miller, Ionia County Sheriff, continued discussions on the proposed ORV Ordinance. Spitzley prepared a handout showing the miles of gravel and paved roads in the county, as well as, the miles of roads that have shoulders. Other data collected in the handout showed that 16 other counties have an ORV Ordinance, a list of 5 counties that have restricted roads in their Ordinance and any problems or accidents related to ORV usage in the respective counties. In conclusion, Spitzley stated that the Ionia County Road Commission was in favor of the ORV Ordinance.

Sheriff Miller discussed the number of ORV accidents in the county over the past five years and was unable to get the statistics on the number of bicycle accidents over the years. Miller went through the document and questioned a few of the items set forth in the proposed ordinance. Miller also stated that state law gives a city or village the authority to prohibit ORV use on certain highways by adopting their own ORV ordinance.

The Board went through the Ordinance and made the following changes:

- Page 1, item g. – the word “recreational” should be changed to “recreation”
- Page 3, Section 2. Designated Roads – add item E. *A township board of a township in the county may adopt an ordinance to close any roads within the boundaries of the township to the operation of ORV's permitted by the county.*
- Page 3, Section 3. – strike items G. and H.

Before calling for a vote on the proposed Ordinance, the Chair asked for any comments from the Board. Commissioner Banks stated that his concern is safety and for this reason, he will not be voting in favor of the Ordinance. Commissioner Tiejema stated he was concerned with the safety issue as well.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Wirtz, to adopt the Ionia County ORV Ordinance as amended. Motion carried by a show of hands, with Commissioners Banks and Hodges voting no. (A copy of the Ionia County ORV Ordinance is on file in the County Clerk's Office).

New Business

- A. Ron Gunderson and Carolyn Kane on behalf of the Friends of the Flat River Valley Rail Trail requested the Ionia County Board of Commissioners to approve submitting a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in the amount of \$300,000, with the required match for the grant to be raised by the Friends' group. Kane showed a map of the trail and discussed the many

features, benefits and uses of the trail. In addition, Kane stated that the Friends' group have received letters of financial commitment.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to open up the Public Hearing on the grant application to be submitted to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Elliott asked where the grant money would be coming from and stated his disagreement with using the grant money.

Melissa Eldridge discussed the DNR's responsibilities to the trail.

Jason Eppler stated that the City of Ionia used this same process and everything went well and believed it would be the same for the City of Belding.

Deb Thailson stated there were many county employees that will use the trail.

Jack Elliott questioned the number of citizens the trail would benefit.

Goose Elliott questioned what would happen and who would pay if the trail was turned back into a railroad. Kane stated that the rail would pay at market value.

Commissioner Banks stated that he and Commissioner Hodges are on the authority board and that many people are excited for this rail trail and commended the Friends' group for their hard work and dedication.

Ron Gunderson stated he enjoys supporting the trail and using it.

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to close the public hearing at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges, to adopt the Resolution to Submit a Recreation Grant Application River Valley Rail Trail. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION
RIVER VALLEY RAIL TRAIL
2015-10**

WHEREAS, the County of Ionia has prepared a recreation plan intended to guide future recreational projects and financing; an

WHEREAS, the recreation plan has identified the need for development of trails; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners has determined it to be in the best interest of the County to apply for state and/or federal monies to assist in the financing of said improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the County of Ionia has participated in the creation of the Mid West Michigan Trail Authority and has generally been supportive of rail to trail acquisition and development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the County Administrator to submit an application to the DNR for a grant to develop the trail from Saranac to Lowell, known as the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail and Lowell to Ionia- Kent County line, known as the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Trail.

- C. Ionia City Manager, Jason Eppler, requested water and sewer improvement bonds in the amount of \$6.2 million dollars. Chair Calley stated that the County authorized a fee to those entities that borrow funds from the County and requested that the City of Ionia and the County of Ionia have a Memorandum of Understanding done that covers the fee owed. Eppler stated the City of Ionia was in agreement with the fee. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing Water and Sewer Improvement Bonds 2015- 11 (City of Ionia), Series 2015 (Limited Tax General Obligation). The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes - all. (Due to the length of the Resolution, a copy can be obtained in the County Clerk's Office).
- D. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, to approve the contract between the County of Ionia and the City of Ionia with the County issuing bonds to provide funds in the maximum amount of \$6,225,000 to pay the cost of the water and sewer project, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to adopt the Resolution to Increase 9-1-1 Surcharge. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes - all. The Resolution is as follows:

**Resolution to Increase the Monthly 9-1-1 Surcharge within
Ionia County
2015-12**

WHEREAS, under the Emergency 9- 1- 1 Service Enabling Act (PA 379 of 2008 as amended) the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approved the final amended 9- 1- 1 service plan on March 23, 2011, to benefit the citizens of Ionia County; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners continues to believe that 91- 1 service will benefit the citizens of Ionia County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan enacted Public Act 379 to support 9- 1- 1 service in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Public Act 379 allows for the creation of a county-based 9- 1- 1 surcharge on all communications service providers that can access 9- 1- 1 and provides for the collection, disbursement, use and audit of said funds;

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2013, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopted the Resolution to Restore Surcharge Rate to 2008 Original Request Amount of \$1.90, effective July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners on this date shall increase the surcharge rate up to \$2.30, effective July 1, 2015, as approved by the voters on November 4, 2014 in Ionia County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 379, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners shall notify the State 9-1-1 Committee of the surcharge increase for notification to the communications service providers for collection starting July 1, 2015.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the monthly surcharge increase.

- F. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Shattuck, to approve a one year agreement with Veolia Environmental Services, LLC, with the option to two one-year extensions, to handle the transportation, collection, recycling, and disposal of wastes generated through the Ionia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to authorize out of state travel for Chad Shaw. Deb Thailson stated that the travel funds are budgeted and further that the SNS Preparedness Course is a mandated training. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to authorize payment in the amount of \$14,500 to Rave Mobile Safety for the Rave alert and notification system annual license fee. Doug DeVries thanked the following entities for their financial commitment toward the license fee as well: Ionia County Health Department, City of Ionia, City of Portland, Village of Lake Odessa and Sparrow Hospital in Ionia. Motion carried by voice vote.
- I. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to approve the addendum to the Oversight Policy Board Intergovernmental Agreement. The following changes were made to the agreement: Under Recitals, p. 1, the MCL number at the end of the paragraph should read: *MCL 330.1100a*. Under Section 2.7 Compliance with Laws, the following wording was added to the first paragraph: *"appointment to the Board because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, familial status, or disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job."* Motion carried by voice vote.
- J. Deb Thailson briefly discussed the CEI Substance Use Disorder Board and stated that another six month contract will be forthcoming and believes that the contract will have some drastic changes to it. Thailson stated she is concerned with the written approval for treatment wording.
- K. The Chair acknowledged the filing of two PA 116's filed by MarLyle LLC.

The Chair called for a brief recess at 9:10 p.m. and reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

The Chair opened up the discussion on facilities. Commissioner Tiejema presented a handout titled Ionia County Financial Resources for Building Program Year 2015. The handout discusses the County's financial commitment to facilities; lists three sources of funds for making bond payments, past and future predicted county property tax revenues and scheduled payment amounts.

The Chair gave a power point presentation showing the results of a five question survey given to the Commissioners (how many floors, how much they are willing to spend, etc.). The Chair asked the Board to set a budget amount.

Other discussions included Library Street. The discussion ended with no budget amount set.

Chairperson's Report

1. The Chair and Commissioner Tiejema will be attending a Prosperity Region meeting for Zone 4.

County Administrator's Report

1. Presented a handout on a Governmental 401(a) Money Purchase Plan from Morgan Stanley and stated that they will be at a future meeting to discuss this Plan.
2. Thanked Kyle Butler, Dale Miller and everyone that was involved in preparing the ORV Ordinance.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on the board minutes and the Michigan Works Building as a possible building site for county administrative offices.

Goose Elliott commented on the ORV Ordinance and questioned why the facility discussion was put to the end of the agenda.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling- Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
