

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting

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, Julie Calley and Jack Shattuck

Others present: Tim Loney, Robert Lathers, Morgan Carroll, Susan Hatto, Scott DeRuischer, Jim Valentine, Paul Spitzley, Albert Almy, Judy Clark, Jessica Wierckz, Georgia Sharp, Nick Grenke, Therese Thill, Bob Van Lente, Stephanie Fox and Stephanie Leuenberger

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

A. Veteran's Office Discussion

Tim Loney and Robert Lathers discussed adding a new Veterans Service Office at The Right Door (formerly Community Mental Health). The office will offer the service of a "VSO Veteran Service Officer" to help veterans in the county to connect with the services they have earned at the state and federal levels. Commissioner Shattuck stated this matter will be on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting. (A copy of the Veteran's Office handout is on file in the Clerk's Office).

B. Ionia County Economic Alliance Report

Morgan Carroll, Business Development Coordinator and Susan Hatto with Montcalm Community College discussed The Right Place Partner Program. A few of the core services of the Program are helping businesses use local suppliers, regional service groups (suppliers, trainers, legal, etc.), state and local incentives, business research and further, discussed how the Program offers business training. Carroll discussed job creations that took place in 2015 and fundraising efforts. (A copy of the Economic Alliance Handout is on file in the Clerk's Office).

C. Road Commission Annual Report

Paul Spitzley and Albert Almy with the Ionia County Road Commission, presented the 2015 Supplemental Report. Discussions included the David Highway project, adding shoulders to Keefer Highway and Grand River Avenue. Almy thanked the Board for their continued support. (A copy of the Road Commission's Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

D. Departmental Reports

1. Buildings and Grounds

Physical Plant Director, Scott DeRuischer, discussed various projects that have been completed including the Circuit Court Judges offices and the bathrooms in the jury room. In addition, new drinking fountains have been installed throughout the courthouse. DeRuischer announced that his department has a new hire Mike Eikey and that the Maintenance Department will be moving into their new building soon. (A copy of the Buildings and Grounds Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

2. Central Dispatch

Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, discussed Smart 911 and the large number of personal and facility profiles that have been created. Central Dispatch's Facebook page has reached over 10,000 likes and they are currently in the planning stages for their open house this year. (A copy of the Central Dispatch Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

3. Treasurer

County Treasurer, Judy Clark, stated that foreclosures have increased this year with 32 parcels having been foreclosed. Last year there were 19 foreclosures. Clark discussed that tickets are being paid by those individuals having unlicensed dogs. However, these individuals are not purchasing the licenses. County Administrator Stephanie Fox stated she will contact District Court to see how this issue can be resolved. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

4. Friend of the Court

Friend of the Court Referee, Jessica Wierckz, discussed staffing adjustments with no plans to request any additional staffing. Wierckz stated the Friend of the Court staff are looking forward to moving into a new building. (A copy of the Friend of the Court's Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

Chairperson's Report

Shattuck briefly commented on legislation regarding "Dark Stores."

County Administrator's Report

Fox announced a facility meeting on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

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

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Stephanie Leuenberger, Deputy Clerk