

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Committee-of-the-Whole

May 19, 2015

3:00 p.m.

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

Members absent: Scott Wirtz

Others present: Nicholas Grenke, Robin Anderson, Jessica Wierckz, Jason Eppler, Sue Dahms, Dorothy Pohl, Paul Spitzley, Jim Valentine, Al Almy, Bob VanLente, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Unfinished Business

- A. The Chair advised the Board that there are no further updates from last week's facility discussion.

New Business

- A. Dorothy Pohl, Ionia County Road Commission Managing Director, presented the Board with the Road Commission's Annual Report. Pohl advised the Board that 2014 was a record year for winter maintenance on roads. Paul Spitzley, County Highway Engineer, discussed bridge projects, safety projects, chip and fog seals as well as various other projects scheduled for the year. Pohl and Spitzley discussed the failed countywide millage in August 2014 and the failed statewide millage on May 5, 2015. Pohl advised the Board that the Road Commission will be coming to the Board in the future for approval to do another millage proposal attempt. Both Spitzley and Pohl voiced concern regarding the condition of the roads in Ionia County.

B. Departmental Reports

- 1. Friend of the Court, Jessica Wierckz, discussed staffing. Wierckz also requested clarification regarding the pension plan as to whether or not an employee can work part-time and still collect their pension. Other items of discussion included the FOC caseload and performance measures. (The FOC Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

2. Robin Anderson, Animal Shelter Manager, stated the animal shelter will be working with the Michigan Lyme Disease Research and MSUE. Ticks will be gathered and sent to MSUE to be tested to see how many ticks are carrying the disease. Anderson stated she has applied for \$25,000 in grants and has received \$15,000 which will be spent on cats to be spayed/neutered and treated for rabies. Sterner Veterinary is working with the county and providing these services at reduced rates. Other items of discussion included a \$5,000 donation to the shelter, adoption of animals and citations being issued for unlicensed dogs.
 3. Jim Valentine, Central Dispatch Director, advised that Central Dispatch is close to going live with "Text to 911". Ionia County will be the eighth county in the state to have this service. Valentine also stated that approximately 10% of the households in Ionia County have Smart 911. The goal for this year is 20%.
- C. Chris Thelen and Jen Wangler discussed ICEA's goals that were achieved over the past three years, as well as, the future goals. A hand out was presented and Wangler thanked the Board for their support.

Chairperson's Report

1. Gave an update on Ionia County hosting SMART and stated that six counties attended. Calley thanked the County Administrator, Sharyn Overton, Ron Schafer and Jim Valentine for their help and assistance with this.

County Administrator's Report

1. Updated the Board on the county audit
2. Will be attending a conference for the next three days

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 4:15. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on: