

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Committee-of-the-Whole

May 20, 2014

4:00 p.m.

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

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

Others present: Jennifer Wangler, Chris Thelen, Robert Sykes Jr.,  
Monte Starkweather, Judy Clark, James Valentine, Bob Van Lente,  
Jessica Wierckz, Don Ransom, Diane Adams, "Gus" Elliott,  
Stephanie Hurlbut and Stephanie Leuenberger

**Approval of Agenda**

Chair Calley requested that item A under Unfinished Business be heard after New Business. Moved by Commissioner Cowling-Cronk, supported by Commissioner Wirtz, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**New Business**

A. **Ionian County Economic Alliance Report** – Jennifer Wangler, with The Right Place and Chris Thelen, the Chairperson for the Ionia County Economic Alliance discussed their goals to help strengthen Ionia County's economy through expansion and attraction. Wangler also touched briefly on a few projects which include APEC, Herbruck's, and Cargill. Thelen stated how pleased he is with the partnership with The Right Place.

**B. Departmental Reports**

1. **Juvenile/Probate Court Annual Report** – Robert S. Sykes Jr., Probate Court Judge and Monte Starkweather, Juvenile Court Referee, discussed truancy, the Youth Service Bureau, abuse/neglect filings and substance abuse. (A copy of the Juvenile Court and Youth Service Bureau Report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
2. **County Treasurer** – Ionia County Treasurer, Judy Clark, discussed Ionia County investments as of March 31, 2014. Other items of

discussion included the foreclosure hearing that was held on March 31, 2014 and an upcoming auction that will take place on August 4, 2014. Clark further stated that she is waiting for a few townships to respond as to whether they would be willing to contribute to the BS&A Program.

3. **Central Dispatch** – James Valentine, Central Dispatch Director, discussed the Automatic Vehicle Locator and Smart911. Valentine further discussed the Rave Alert, which launched last week Friday, and the appreciation dinner that was held for the Telecommunicators.

Chair Calley called for a brief recess at 5:40p.m. and reconvened at 5:45 p.m.

### **Unfinished Business**

- A. **Facilities Discussion** – Don Ransom, Physical Plant Director, gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the off-site retention locations. Chair Calley requested the County Administrator to contact the various department heads for their input regarding record storage. Commissioner Tiejema discussed a meeting between him and the County Administrator regarding the finances for a new or remodeled “old jail” building. Tiejema stated the County could spend \$3 million. Chair Calley announced that at the May 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting, the Board will be voting on the demolition of the old jail building.

### **County Administrator’s Report**

Hurlbut thanked the Finance Department and all other Department Heads for their work/help with the audit.

### **Public Comment**

“Gus” Elliott spoke about the Friend of the Court building, the condition of roads in Ionia County and back when the 64A District Court was renovated, as well as, the Commission on Aging.

Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the meeting at 6:57p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

---

Julie Calley, Chair

---

Stephanie Leuenberger, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved on: