

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 27, 2015
Regular Meeting – Central Dispatch Building
7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Jack Shattuck

Others present: Tony Meyaard, Bob VanLente, Tamie Barker, Jack Elliott, John Bush, Karen Bush, Nicholas Grenke, Judy Clark, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley added Item E. Closed Session Minutes from October 13, 2015 to the Consent Calendar and added Item E. COA Contract Amendment under New Business. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the County Treasurer hiring her own attorney with county funds.

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Banks and Tiejema shared facts of interest.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of September 2015 - \$973,560.43
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$87,768.87
- E. Approve Closed Session minutes (Sessions I & II) from October 13, 2015

Commissioner Tiejema requested removal of the October 13, 2015 board minutes from the Consent Calendar for clarification/amendment. Chair Calley requested to remove her July 2015 per diem voucher from the Consent Calendar and Commissioner Hodges requested to remove his September 2015 per diem voucher from the Consent Calendar as well.

Commissioner Tiejema requested the October 13th minutes reflect that Julie Calley was appointed to the ACSET for Region 4.

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to amend Chair Calley's voucher to a total of \$225 and amend Commissioner Hodges voucher to \$375 (\$50 per budget meeting).
Motion carried by voice vote.

The Closed Session minutes from October 13, 2015 were passed out and reviewed by the Board.

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

Unfinished Business

- A. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to approve the PA116 Farmland Agreement filed by Boersen Farms Properties, LLC. (local file no. 15-009FA) for property located in Berlin Township. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Appointments
 - 1. Board of Canvassers - Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to reappoint Georgia Sharp and Norrie Slater to the Board of Canvassers. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 2. Commission on Aging Board - Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to appoint Janae Cooper to the Commission on Aging Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 3. Community Mental Health Board - Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to appoint Dale Miller (term to expire in 2018) and Mary Barker (term to expire in 2016) to the Community Mental Health Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - 4. Construction Board of Appeals - Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to appoint Bob Cusack, Gregg Yeomans, Nathan Sprague and Chris Bredice to the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. Chair Calley recognized John Bush, Ionia County Drain Commissioner, who will be retiring on October 30, 2015. The Board presented Bush with a Resolution of Appreciation for his years of service to the Ionia County citizens. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION 2015 - 24

We gather here to pay tribute to **John Bush**

WHEREAS, John Bush was first elected as the Ionia County Drain Commissioner on January 1, 1989; and

WHEREAS, John Bush was re-elected to the position of Drain Commissioner for seven consecutive terms, serving the County for a total of 27 years; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2007, John Bush established the Ionia County Geographical Information Systems Department, building and maintaining a quality mapping program for the County of Ionia, working with multiple agencies to provide valuable maps for a variety of recipients; and

WHEREAS, John Bush has served faithfully on numerous Boards and Committees during his tenure as Drain Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, John Bush performed the responsibilities and duties as set forth by the Constitution of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, John Bush performed these duties with outstanding dedication and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, John Bush has served the Citizens of the County of Ionia with the highest degree of integrity and distinction for 27 years; and

WHEREAS, John Bush was known by those with whom he worked for repeatedly going the extra mile; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of this outstanding service, it is fitting and proper that John Bush be highly commended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, by way of this Resolution, expresses its deep appreciation to John Bush for his faithful and dedicated service to the Citizens of the County of Ionia and wishes him well in his retirement, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the records of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, and that a copy be presented to John Bush.

- B. Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges, to approve filling the position of District Court Clerk at a rate of \$13.51 per hour effective immediately. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Tony Meyaard, Equalization Director, presented the Board with the 2015 Annual Apportionment Report. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Spreading of Millage. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll-call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SPREADING OF MILLAGE 2015 - 25

WHEREAS, the township and city assessors have certified to the county the various millage rates to be applied to the taxable valuation for the year 2015, including those to be spread for the county, township, city, state education tax, school, intermediate school, special education, community college and drains and special assessments, and

WHEREAS, the governing body of each taxing jurisdiction has certified that the requested tax levy rates have been reduced, if necessary, in compliance with the state constitution (Article 9, Section 31) and that the requested tax levy rates have

also been reduced, if necessary, to comply with MCL Sections 211.24e and 211.24, and

WHEREAS, the constitutional 50 mill limitation is not violated in any local unit of government, and

WHEREAS, the equalization director has made available for board review, copies of these certificates, and

WHEREAS, upon examination of the certificates showing the millage rates and appropriate amounts of money to be raised in the several townships and cities for the county, township, city, state education tax, school, drain and other purposes, the information, as certified, appears to be correct, and

WHEREAS, no objections have been made to raising any such monies by any taxpayer to be affected thereby.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners directs that such of the several amounts of millage proposed to be levied for the county, township, city, state education tax, school, drains and all other purposes as shall be authorized by law, be spread upon the 2015 assessment rolls of the various townships and cities in Ionia County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each of the township and city assessors be allowed to correct any clerical errors they may find in their respective rolls, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board chair and clerk be authorized to sign the 2015 Tax Warrants as submitted by township and city assessors.

- D. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve filling the Circuit Court Recorder position for Judge Kreeger up to the 5th year level. Chair Calley questioned the budget ramifications due to potential requests from existing employees who have been denied, as experience credits have not been offered since 2010. Chair Calley further stated that the County does have an experience credit policy, up to Step 4. Tiejema amended the motion authorizing Judge Kreeger to fill the court recorder position up to the 4th year level, per the Ionia County Policy. Motion failed by a tie vote (Banks, Tiejema, and Cowling-Cronk voting yes; Hodges, Wirtz, and Calley voting no).

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Hodges, to authorize filling the Circuit Court Recorder position at a Step 1. Motion carried by voice vote.

- E. Commission on Aging Director, Tamie Barker, requested a contract amendment due to a decrease in funding due to a lack of demand for respite services. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Hodges, to approve the FY15 OAA Funding Distribution by Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Contract Amendment for Ionia County Commission on Aging for contracted services. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Calley advised the Board that she attended her first meeting with ACSET and the future plan is to create a service center in Ionia.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator, Stephanie Fox, stated that Phase II of the fencing project at the airport has begun. Fox updated the Board that Shred Docs will be here on November 9th. Fox personally thanked John Bush for his service to the County of Ionia.

Special Reports

Tiejema updated the Board about his meeting with United Sign Company. Tiejema discussed sending out courtesy letters to local builders and posting notices in the Building Department regarding bid projects.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on the county spending money.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:
