

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 13, 2016
4:00 p.m.

The Chair 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: Joyce Hamp, Ron Gunderson, Robert Brown Jr., Larry Listerman, Ken Bowen, Bob Van Lente, Bob Cusack, Jessica Wierckz, Charlie Noll, Judy Clark, Dale Miller, Roger VanderMolen, Suana McDaniels, Bob Dunton, Mark Jones, Jason Mellema, Patti Patson, Stephanie Fox and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

The Chair noted the following amendments to the agenda: Under New Business, move item L. after item B.; add a Resolution for item B. for the River Valley Rail; add item O. Facilities Demolition and item P. Building Project. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Tiejema, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Larry Listerman, Ionia Township Supervisor, addressed the Board concerning a house in the township that was condemned by the Ionia County Health Department. Listerman stated he expects the County to take care of the issue/house.

Patti Patson, an Easton Township resident, endorsed Joyce Hamp for the Ionia County Road Commission Board.

ISD Superintendent, Jason Mellema, stated he is in support of the My Community Dental Centers.

Consent Calendar

A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

Unfinished Business

A. Road Commission Appointment

The Board voted for the appointment to the Road Commission Board by ballot. The following votes were tallied:

Dennis Sitzer	1 vote
Bob Dunton	5 votes
Joyce Hamp	1 vote

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to appoint Bob Dunton to the Ionia County Road Commission Board with his term to expire in 2020. Motion carried by voice vote. (Copies of the ballots are on file in the Clerk's Office).

New Business

A. Moved by Calley, supported by Wirtz, to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation for Mark Jones. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION 2016-9

We gather here to pay tribute to

Mark Jones

Who is retiring from the Ionia County Sheriff's Office on September 19, 2016;
and

WHEREAS, Mark Jones began his career with the County of Ionia as
a Corrections Officer on April 2, 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jones worked his way up the ranks through promotions; first
to Sergeant in 1990, then Lieutenant in 1993, and finally to Jail Administrator
in 2007; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mark Jones helped supervise the successful move and
transition into the new Ionia County Jail; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Sheriff's Office, Mark Jones was named
Ionia County Sheriff's Office Corrections Officer of the Year in 1991, and

National Jail Association Corrections Officer of the Year in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jones participated in the 8th Circuit Adult Drug Treatment Court receiving a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding performance and lasting contribution, and also played an integral role in the Sheriff's Office receiving a Certificate of Achievement Award for 100% compliance in officer training and jail inspections; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jones did an outstanding job coordinating the *Shop With A Cop* and *Shop With A Hero* events each year; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jones has served the Ionia County Sheriff's Office and the Citizens of the County of Ionia with professionalism, courteousness and high integrity; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding service, it is fitting and proper that, after 27 years of service, Mark Jones be commended.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, by way of this Resolution, expresses its deep appreciation to Mark Jones for his faithful and dedicated service, and wishes him well in his future endeavors; and, that this Resolution be entered into the records of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and a copy presented to Mark Jones.

- B. Robert Brown, Jr., Chairperson for the Friends of River Valley Rail Trail, gave a presentation on the trail discussing the maintenance, upkeep, the health benefits, and future projects for the trail.
- C. Moved by Banks, supported by Wirtz, to adopt the Resolution Supporting the Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trail Walkable Community. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes - all. The Resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FRIENDS OF THE FRED MEIJER
RIVER VALLEY RAIL-TRAIL WALKABLE COMMUNITY
2016-10**

WHEREAS, the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails are guardians of 38 miles of developed and undeveloped trails spanning three counties; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails prides itself as a safe and accessible trail for children, families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Michelle Obama has encouraged the nation to become physically active through her “Let’s Move!” initiative; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have found that communities that are walkable tend to be safer, have higher quality of life satisfaction, promote community, and have higher property values; and

WHEREAS, walking reduces traffic congestion, air pollution, demand for parking, demand for oil, and contributes to physical fitness, while reducing stress and obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails encourages communities to build and maintain pathways and sidewalks which connect the trail to businesses, government buildings and recreational areas; and

WHEREAS, the trail seeks to promote support for local businesses, attract new residents, businesses and developers; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of The Fred Meijer River Valley Rail-Trails supports walkable communities that strive to be “just two feet away from everything”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners supports the Friends of The River Valley Rail-Trails, who encourages and supports communities who adopt and maintain a Walkable Community philosophy by promotion through social media, websites, and print publications.

- D. Representatives from Tenurgy Utility Auditing Company discussed the purpose of Tenurgy, which is a company that audits utility bills, reviews contracts and negotiates the best rate for companies. The representatives shared that on average 90% of their clients save 5 - 15% on their utilities by refunds from errors found. Tenurgy identifies favorable rates, terms and conditions that utility companies will offer. Tenurgy works with many hospitals, schools and counties (which testimonials are on file in the Clerk’s Office from multiple companies). If the County were interested in the services offered by Tenurgy and agreed to a 36 month contract, they would do a full service review of the County’s utility bills and contracts. If any errors are found, Tenurgy

would receive 50% of the refund. It was the consensus of the Board to review the material and discuss this further at another meeting.

- E. Moved by Calley, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the Public Dental Center Program Agreement between My Community Dental Centers and Ionia County on behalf of Ionia County Health Department and authorize the signature of Jack Shattuck, Chairperson. Ken Bowen, Public Health Officer, stated that My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) and the Health Department will jointly establish and administer a program for the purpose of meeting the dental health needs of the underserved in Ionia County. Motion carried by voice vote.

- F. Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to adopt the Resolution to Support the Grand River Water Trail for the County of Ionia, Michigan. After review of the proposed Resolution, Commissioner Banks amended his motion to adopt the Resolution, minus Section 3, as listed in the Resolution. Commissioner Tiejema supported the amendment. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes - all. The Resolution is as follows:

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE GRAND RIVER WATER TRAIL
FOR THE COUNTY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN
2016-11**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Ionia County value its natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities afforded by the Grand River; and

WHEREAS, the citizens value the Grand River for water quality and fish and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the County will greatly benefit from the recreational, natural and cultural experiences provided by the water trail; and

WHEREAS, water trails present great opportunities to grow local and regional economies, strengthen regional identity, attract out-of-state tourists and workers, promote healthy lifestyles and showcase Michigan's incredible water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division Strategic Plan, and the Michigan Water Strategy all call for the establishment of a statewide system of designated water trails; and

WHEREAS, a State Water Trail Designation will provide sound information to help customers make recreational activity choices and to provide clear, consistent communication about trails that contribute to successful recruitment and retention of new water trail users and encourage return visits to regional destinations; and

WHEREAS, a water trail will be successful if it can provide a quality trail experience for users and possess broad community support and local partnerships; and

WHEREAS, this water trail is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan of Ionia County for recreational facilities for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously supported activities that promote recreation on the river; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Ionia County have indicated their support for the water trail; and

WHEREAS, Ionia County affirms and supports the water trail, beginning in Jackson County and ending at Ottawa County to be of value and benefit to the citizens of Ionia County and its neighboring counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Ionia County, Michigan;

Section 1: That the Grand River Water Trail on the Grand River in Ionia County is hereby recognized and accepted by the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Ionia County, and visitors from throughout the State of Michigan and the United States;

Section 2: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption; and

- G. Sheriff Dale Miller requested experience credit for Undersheriff Charlie Noll. Miller stated that the Jail Administrator and Uniformed Services Lieutenant fall under the direction of the Undersheriff and these positions make more than the Undersheriff. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to grant the experience credit for Undersheriff Charlie Noll effective immediately. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Tiejema, to approve filling the Jail Administrator position and authorizing experience credit to the

candidate selected to start at the top of the scale, which is Grade 15, Step 6. Motion carried by voice vote.

- I. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve filling a deputy position at the Sheriff's Department. Motion carried by voice vote.
- J. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Hodges, to approve the Community Corrections FY 17 contract and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- K. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract for federal funding to the Friend of the Court for establishment and enforcement of domestic relation cases (divorce, custody, paternity and child support). Motion carried by voice vote.
- L. Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges, to approve the Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract that provides 66% reimbursement of expenses incurred by Ionia County for child support establishment in the Prosecutor's Office. Motion carried by voice vote.
- M. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve the Agreement between Kent County Health Department and Ionia County Health Department for Regional Perinatal Care System Quality Improvement Initiative and authorize the signature of Ken Bowen, Public Health Officer. Motion carried by voice vote.
- N. Chair Shattuck appointed Commissioners' Cowling-Cronk, Banks and Hodges to the Dog Ordinance Review Ad Hoc Committee.
- O. The Chair acknowledged the upcoming appointment to the Commission on Aging Board.
- P. Commissioner Banks gave the background on facilities and why the facilities discussion was started. Commissioner Tiejema discussed the Budget Comparisons handout that he drafted. Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges, to allow Landmark Design Group Architects and Beckering Construction, as Construction Managers, to proceed on design development and construction documents using a combination of Schematic Design and Budget #1, as well as Schematic Design and Budget #4, as approved by the Facilities Committee. Motion carried by voice vote with Commissioners' Calley and Wirtz voting no.
- Q. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to accept the bids from and approve a contract with Pitsch Companies for Asbestos

Abatement and Demolition of the old jail in an amount not to exceed \$58,045 and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote, with Commissioners' Calley and Wirtz voting no.

County Administrator's Report

1. Reminded the Board of the upcoming budget meeting on Thursday at 9:15 a.m.

Reports

Commissioner Cowling-Cronk stated she called MERS and asked questions.

Commissioner Calley thanked the Facilities Committee for working on the facility project.

Commissioner Wirtz stated that he is happy with the architect and manager for the facilities project, but he does not like the budget.

Public Comment

Bob Cusack addressed the Board stating he is having problems with the Building Department who has issued a Stop Work Permit on a house he was re-roofing. Cusack stated that Montcalm and Barry counties do not require a building permit to re-roof and believes that Ionia County should not require a permit either.

Tonda Rich requested that the Board discuss moving their November 8th board meeting due to it being an election day.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
