

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 18, 2014
Committee-of-the-Whole
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: Albert Almy, Doug DeVries, Judy Clark, Chris Gavitt, Bob VanLente, Ken Bowen, Diane Adams, Don Ransom, Jim Valentine, Dorothy Pohl, Ken Gasper, Paul Spitzley, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

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

Unfinished Business

- A. Frank Bednarek presented the Board with draft drawings of the remodel of the old jail that would house Circuit Court Probation, Administration/Finance, Juvenile Court and the Board of Commissioners. Bednarek stated that the current foundation could be used whether the Board chose to tear down or just re-model the old jail. Bednarek further went on to discuss that if the Board chose to just re-model the current structure, there could only be two floors due to the difficulty in aligning the floors with the current courthouse structure. Other items discussed were heating/cooling costs, security and elevators. Chair Calley asked for comments from Don Ransom and Stephanie Hurlbut. Ransom voiced his concerns regarding the amount of space for storage and also he would be in favor of a new building being built and believes a third floor would be/is needed. Hurlbut concurred with Ransom.
- B. Ken Bowen, Public Health Officer, was asked to join in the discussion on who the Public Health Officer should report to, whether it be the Board of Commissioners or a Board of Health. Bowen stated that he believes the best option would be a Board of Health made up of health professionals, which would be a great support for his department. Hurlbut stated that she believed a Board of Health would make more work for Bowen. Commissioners' were given the opportunity to ask questions and offer their opinions.

New Business

A. Department Reports

1. County Treasurer, Judy Clark, discussed the County's investments, interest rates, foreclosures, taxes, payment by credit cards and the Land Bank Authority.
2. Robin Anderson, Manager of the Animal Shelter, presented her written report and answered questions from the Board.
3. Ken Bowen, Public Health Officer, presented his written report and answered questions from the Board.

B. Managing Director, Dorothy Pohl, along with Road Commissioners, Albert Almy and Ken Gasper and Road Engineer, Paul Spitzley, met with the Board to discuss a possible countywide road millage to be presented to the voters in 2014. Pohl stated that the roads continue to worsen due to lack of funding to fix the roads. Currently, Ionia County is in need of \$47,570,000 worth of road repairs and Pohl, Gasper and Spitzley discussed how a road millage would help.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Calley recognized and congratulated the Commission on Aging on the Assessment that was done by AAWMA.

County Administrator's Report

- 1) Passed out copies of The Giving Vine, which is a painted design at the Animal Shelter. Hurlbut stated that this is to show the names of those who donated toward the building of a new Animal Shelter.

Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:
