

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, October 24, 2017
Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

Chair Shattuck 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, Georgia Sharp, and Jack Shattuck

Others present: Ray Voet, Ron Schafer, Anthony Meyaard, Bob VanLente, Kim Clark, Elizabeth Walden, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

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

Did you know?

Tiejema stated that he attended a conference in Lansing and was able to attend a session regarding PA116's.

Cowling-Cronk stated that the chili-dog cook off is tomorrow.

Sharp commented on the alleged Big Foot sighting at Bertha Brock Park.

Action on 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 2017 - \$864,625.24
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$84,400.68
- E. Moved by Wirtz, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve per diem changes to the vouchers for Hodges and Sharp. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Unfinished Business

- A. The Indigent Defense Plan was discussed at length. The State of Michigan is mandating that individuals facing criminal charges are still entitled to a good defense even if they are unable to afford it and that the Board of Commissioners is responsible for implementing and administering this plan. The Board is considering two options: 1.) Hiring an Indigent Defense Administrator or 2.) creating and hiring a Public Defender's Office. The State is providing funding, however if the funding dissipates, then the County will likely resort to the way things were done previously to the mandate. Judges Voet, Schafer and Sykes prefer to implement a Public Defenders Office; Judge Kreeger prefers to hire an Indigent Defense Administrator. The County must submit a plan to the State by November 20th.
- B. Appointments
1. Board of Canvassers - Two four-year appointments. The Clerk was provided with three (3) names from each political party. Per Michigan Election Law, the Commissioners voted by non-secret ballot for their choice for each political party. The ballots revealed a unanimous vote for Melanie Bennett, Republican and Jan Powell, Democrat, 6 votes; Margot Cook, Democrat, 1 vote. Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges to appoint Melanie Bennett as the Republican Canvasser and Jan Powell as the Democrat Canvasser. Motion carried by voice vote.
 2. Construction Board of Appeals - Four two-year appointments. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk to appoint Robert Cusack, Gregg Yeomans, Nathan Sprague and Chris Bredice to the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion carried by voice vote.
 3. Department of Human Services Board - One three-year appointment. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks to appoint Mel Haga to the Department of Human Services Board. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Action on PA116 Farmland Agreements - Moved by Banks, supported Tiejema to approve the following PA116 Agreements:
1. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-002-FA)
 2. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-003-FA)
 3. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-004-FA)
 4. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-005-FA)
 5. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-006-FA)
 6. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-007-FA)
 7. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-008-FA)
 8. Geerlings Hillside Farms, LLC (17-009-FA)

Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk to approve the following PA116 Agreements:

9. Brook View Dairy, LLC (17-010-FA)
10. Brook View Dairy, LLC (17-011-FA)
11. Brook View Dairy, LLC (17-012-FA)

Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. Anthony Meyaard, Equalization Director gave the 2017 Apportionment Report (on file in the Clerk's Office).
- B. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks 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:
- C.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SPREADING OF MILLAGE 2017-09

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 2017, 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 2017 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 2017 Tax Warrants as submitted by township and city assessors.

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Cowling-Cronk, that the board move to enter into the FY2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant with the State of Michigan and allow the Board Chair and County Administrator to sign the necessary paperwork. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Banks, supported by Hodges to approve the request to hire a CAPA to fill the existing vacant position created by the pending departure of CAPA Kirkhoff and to fill an APA position should the CAPA position be filled from within the office. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Banks to authorize the District Court Judge to hire a Court Administrator/Magistrate at a pay grade 13, with the Step to be determined per County policy, effective December 1, 2017. Motion carried by voice vote.

Administrator's Report

Stephanie Fox, County Administrator, asked if there were any other questions regarding Indigent Defense and what direction the Board would like her to proceed. Tiejema stated that he would like to hear from Judge Kreeger on her stance.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Clerk

Minutes approved on: