

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
April 17, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Banks called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Hodges gave the Invocation.

Members present: Dave Hodges, Larry Tiejema, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jim Banks and Georgia Sharp

Members absent: Jack Shattuck

Others present: Steve Currie, Dick Hoekstra, Dale Parus, Carol Hanulcik, Lisa Insley, Deb Steele, Scott DeRuisher, Bob Sykes, Mark Jewell, Brent Denny, Diane Adams, Bert Gale, Elisabeth Walden, Kerry Possehn, Nancy Patera, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

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

New Business

- A. Steve Currie, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Counties gave a Legislative Update to the Board. Currie provided a Powerpoint presentation showing the Board the website for Michigan Association of Counties which gives updates on topics such as Legislature and State Budget, as well as defining County Officer roles such as the Register of Deeds, County Clerk, Commissioners, etc. The website posts Board openings for various appointments. Participation can take place virtually on the MAC Policy Committees. Their Annual Conference will take place at the end of August in Frankenmuth.
- B. Dale Parus, Ionia Community Library Director gave a Powerpoint presentation (on file in the Clerk's office) on the library ratings, possibly relocating the library, a feasibility study. The Hall-Fowler Library is owned by the City of Ionia. Parus indicated that the library could possibly be repurposed as a museum or a genealogical center. The library is not just a book facility but a multi-digital facility. The Board allowed Diane Adams, Register of Deeds, to speak as she has the original deed on file in her office and it is very explicit as to how the property is to be handled. Parus stated that the original deed has been reviewed by Foster-Swift and many restrictions are valid and enforceable. There was no mention of tearing the existing building down.
- C. Nancy Patera, CMH Board Member and Kerry Possehn, CMH Director gave their Annual Community Mental Health report (on file in the Clerk's Office). They reported that the Autism Center was opened in Belding. Bob Lathers retired after 16 years and Kerry Possehn replaced him as Director.
- D. Departmental Reports

1. Probate Court Judge Robert S. Sykes, Jr., and Mark Jewell, Director of Juvenile Services reported on the Juvenile Division and Youth Service Bureau (report on file in the Clerk's Office). Mark Jewell has been in his role for over a year. He serves as Referee in a non-attorney role as needed. Sykes stated that Ionia County is one of the few counties in the state that maintains a Youth Service Bureau, which was established by Commissioner and former Judge Banks. Truancy continues to be a huge problem. The Child Care Fund for 2017 was under budget. Sykes reported that Michigan is one of the few states that treats a 17-year old as an adult in court proceedings. Sykes presides over an Adult Mental Health Court for Ionia, Montcalm, Gratiot and Clinton counties. No violent offenders are allowed into the program.
2. Brent Denny, District Court Administrator reported on the 2017 caseload in comparison to 2016 and Montcalm County. District Court will be participating in a Michigan Judicial Time Study. Denny has hired Amber Brown as the Compliance Officer. Denny thanked the Board for allowing Sug to train him for a few months prior to her retirement. (a full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
3. Bert Gale, Building Codes, gave his quarterly report (on file in the Clerk's Office). Gale reported that permits are down by about 20 compared to this time last year, but he thinks it is likely due to the weather. Gale is projecting that new homes will be built this year due to so few homes being for sale on the market.
4. Carol Hanulcik, Commission on Aging Director; Deb Steele, In-Home Services Director and Lisa Insley, Nutrition Director reported on the value of the Commission on Aging (a full report is on file in the Clerk's Office). Hanulcik reported that the COA has a healthy budget.

Commissioner's Report

Tiejema stated that the COA has hiring difficulties and he would like to see more full-time positions with a higher pay scale.

Wirtz reported that the Road Commission will be coming before the Board shortly to request a millage for the August ballot.

Administrator's Report

Stephanie Fox stated that there will be a tour of the jail after the meeting for any interested Commissioners.

Ajourn

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Hodges, to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Vice-Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Clerk

Minutes approved on: