



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

January 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Members Present: County Commissioner David Hodges, County Commissioner Scott Wirtz, County Commissioner Larry Tiejema, County Commissioner Phil Hesche, County Commissioner Gordon Kelley, County Commissioner Jack Shattuck, County Commissioner Terence Frewen

Members Absent:

Others Present: County Finance Director Bernadette Blonde, County Clerk Greg Geiger, County Treasurer Judith Clark

- I. Call to Order
Geiger called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation
Geiger led the pledge of allegiance and invocation.
- III. Oath of Office
All members had previously taken oath.
- IV. Organization of Board of Commissioners
Geiger open the floor for nominations for Chairman.
Shattuck nominated by Hodges
Frewen nominated by Hesche
Kelley nominated by Frewen

Geiger closed the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Motion to Cast Secret Ballot

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by roll call vote

Yes – Hodges, Wirtz, Tiejema, Hesche, Kelley, Shattuck, Frewen

No –

Board cast secret ballot, tallied by Geiger and Clark.
Shattuck received 4 votes,
Frewen received 3 votes,
Kelley received 0 votes,



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Shattuck, having received a majority of votes is declared Chairman of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners.

Shattuck assumes the Chair.

Shattuck open the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Tiejema nominated by Hodges

Kelley nominated by Frewen

Roll Call Vote

Tiejema received 4 votes, Hodges, Wirtz, Tiejema, Shattuck

Kelley received 3 votes, Hesche, Kelley, Frewen

Tiejema, having received a majority of votes is declared Vice-Chairman of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners.

V. Approval of Agenda

Board discussed the agenda.

Motion to Approve Agenda

Moved by Tiejema

Supported by Hodges

Motion carried by voice vote

VI. Public Comment

Gregg Guetschow commented on an agenda item for the Village of Lake Odessa.

Sallie Possehn commented on disparity in wages within the county staff.

Priscilla Waldon commented on open positions within the county.

Phyllie Perrien commented on a proposed wage study.

Kris Elvert commented on transparency in county decision making.

VII. Action on the Consent Calendar

Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

VIII. Appointments

Appointments to Standing Committees

Shattuck appointed Hodges, Tiejema, and Wirtz to the Audit Committee.

Shattuck appointed Frewen, Kelley, and Hodges to the Facilities Committee.

Shattuck appointed Tiejema, Frewen, and Hodges to the Finance Committee.

Shattuck appointed Shattuck, Tiejema, and Hesche to the Grievance Committee.

Shattuck appointed Kelley, Hesche, and Tiejema to the Personnel Committee.



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Board discussed appointment of Hodges, Shattuck, and Wirtz to the Airport Board for a two-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Wirtz

Supported by Hodges

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Tiejema to the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Tiejema to the Area Community Services Employment and Training Council for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Kelley to be the Bargaining Committee Representative for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hesche

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Tiejema to the Central Dispatch Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

Board discussed appointment of Wirtz to the Community Corrections Advisory Board for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hesche

Supported by Hodges

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Frewen to the Department of Human Services Board for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Kelley to the Eight-CAP Governing Board for a two-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hesche

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Shattuck to the MAC Workers' Compensation Board for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Wirtz

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Frewen to the Park Advisory Board for a two-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Hesche

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David Hodges, Chairman

Board discussed appointment of Hesche to the Road Advisory Board for a three-year term, Frewen for a two-year term, and Kelley for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Hodges

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Kelley and Frewen to the Southwest Michigan Alliance for Region Three (SMART) for a one-year terms.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Hodges

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Chairman of Finance Committee to the Tax Allocation Board for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Hesche

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

Board discussed appointment of Kelley and Hodges to the West Michigan Regional Planning Committee for a one-year term.

Motion to Appoint

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

Frewen Dissented

IX. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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X. New Business

Board discussed appointment of interim County Administrator. Board discussed job description. Board discussed appointment of Chad Shaw. Board discussed compensation of \$250.00 per week

Motion to Appoint Chad Shaw as Interim County Administrator

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed appointment of ad-hoc search committee for county administrator position. Board discussed appointment of 7 people including commissioners, human resources director, finance director, administrative assistant to the county administrator, road department employee, and other department head.

Motion to Create Committee and Appoint Members

Moved by

Supported by

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed Clerk's Office request to purchase furniture and accept bid from National Business Furniture. Geiger presented the request and recommended approval.

Motion to Accept Bid from National Business Furniture for \$13,711.02

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Tiejema

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed approval of farmland preservation agreement for H. Walcott Family Farms, LLC.

Motion to Approve

Moved by Wirtz

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed request to approve 2025 Remonumentation Grant Application.

Motion to Approve

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote



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David Hodges, Chairman

Board discussed request to approve quit claim deed. Lake Odessa Interim Village Manager Gregg Guetschow presented the request and recommended approval. Board discussed property in question. Board and Treasurer discussed options moving forward.

Motion to Approve Quit Claim Deed Pursuant to Legal Review

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Kelley

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed request to increase Finance Director compensation by \$20,000. Board discussed modified amount of \$10,000. Board discussed duties of Finance Director. Board discussed process for increasing compensation for employees. Board discussed raises for other employees by County Administrator. Board discussed authority to offer raises. Board referred issue of raise for Finance Director to the Personnel Committee.

Board discussed request to accept diesel fuel contract extension for Road Department. Road Department Director Linda Pigue presented the request and recommended approval

Motion to Approve

Moved by Kelley

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

Board discussed request to award contract for trailer mounted attenuator and message board rental. Road Department Director Linda Pigue presented the request and recommended approval

Motion to Approve

Moved by Frewen

Supported by Wirtz

Motion carried by voice vote

XI. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Standing Committees

Shattuck congratulated Shaw on appointment.

Shattuck led discussion on County Administrator giving administrative staff raises in excess of the approved 2% in final week before leaving county employment. Board discussed County Administrator's authority to give raises. Board discussed appearance of impropriety. Board discussed equity with other similar requests. Shattuck referred issue to County Attorney to review.



IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Hodges commented on administrative staff raises.

Tiejema commented on Central Dispatch Advisory Board meeting.

Hesche commented on Ionia County Township Officers Association meeting.

Frewen commented on DHHS meeting.

- XII. Reports of Special or Ad-Hoc Committees
No reports of special or ad-hoc committees.

- XIII. Public Comment
Judith Clark commented on administrative staff raises.
Ashley Wakely commented on administrative staff raises.
Greg Geiger commented on administrative staff raises.
Terry Frewen commented on parliamentary procedure and voting dissents.

- XIV. Closed Session
No closed session.

- XV. Adjournment
Motion to Adjourn
Moved by Kelley
Supported by Frewen
Motion carried by voice vote

Jack Shattuck, Chairman

Greg Geiger, County Clerk