

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 27, 2019
Regular Meeting
7:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Invocation.

Members present: Chris Bredice, Larry Tiejema, Scott Wirtz, Georgia Sharp, Jack Shattuck, Jim Banks and David Hodges

Others present: Jack Elliott, Brian Simon, Al Almy, Evan Sasiela, Elisabeth Walden, Jim Valentine, Lynn Mason, Ken Gasper, Bob Dunton, Jeff Montgomery, Paul Spitzley, Dorothy Pohl, Nick Bowerman, Kyle Bowerman, Dick Pohl, Chuck Minkley, Brian Simon, Al Almy, Bonnie Listerman, Mike Blood, Brad Weller, Ray DeMeester, Matt Wilson, Courtney Wilson, Karen Bota, Jason Lucier, Charles Babcock, Carol Hanulcik, Thomas Lillian

Approval of the Agenda

The Chair noted the following additions to the Agenda: Item K. under New Business, Inbound Service Agreement. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Bredice to approve the amended Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on ordinances and charters.

Action on Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve closed session minutes from July 9, 2019 meeting
- C. Approve Commissioners' Per Diem and Mileage
- D. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of June 2019 - \$1,005,480.99.
- E. Approve payment of June Health Fund bills - \$105,932.73

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Bredice to add Chair Hodges Per Diem and Mileage to the Consent Calendar. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Chair added approving Closed Session Minutes from August 20, 2019 to the Consent Calendar.

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

New Business

- A. Road Commission Discussion - Attorney Gordon Love of Cohl, Stoker & Toskey, P.C. discussed the process of converting the appointed Road Commission to an elected Road Commission. (handout on file in the Clerk's Office). Chair Hodges informed the public present at the meeting that the Board is still pursuing possible options. The Chair opened up Public Comment regarding the Road Commission discussion.

Lynn Mason, former County Commissioner, made an inquiry as to the Board packets and decision making. Mason also commented on why this topic is being researched now.

Dorothy Pohl inquired to Love as on the structure of the Ingham County Road Commission Advisory Board. Pohl read a statement and requested that the Road Commission would like to be involved in any discussions and decisions.

Jack Elliott commented that he is in agreement with the Board to research this option.

Ken Gasper, Road Commissioner from Keene Township stated that he sought the position to serve the community. Gasper stated that if he is not doing his job to let him know. Gasper's father and grandfather served on the Road Commission. Gasper commented on the pension.

Chuck Minkley, Road Commissioner, commented on elected positions.

Mike Blood commented on the lack of funding available from the townships.

Commissioner Shattuck stated that he is not in favor of electing the Road Commission. More communication is needed and too many rumors are going around-everyone needs to get on the same page.

Commissioner Wirtz stated that he is probably responsible for getting this started due to the pension. The pension is funded at 35-40% and the taxpayers may get stuck with a big bill.

Commissioner Bredice stated that someone needs to be accountable. The people should have a voice in this.

Commissioner Tiejema commented on revenue sharing and how smaller townships are impacted. Some townships are left out in the cold.

Commissioner Sharp stated that the pension is largely underfunded.

Chair Hodges stated his concerns with the pension. The Board wants to help the Road Commission to succeed. Chair Hodges stated that he was the one who considered making the Road Commission a department.

Commissioner Banks questioned Love how to set up the Road Commission. Love stated that the Board cannot draw the lines.

Rodney Wells commented that change is difficult but needed.

Dorothy Pohl commented that the pension plan has been underfunded since 1991. That information is reported to the Treasury. The State of Michigan has approved a waiver for the Commission on Aging. The pension plan is short \$11-\$15 million dollars.

Charles Babcock, Lyons Township Supervisor, stated that they have a good relationship with the Road Commission. Babcock would like to see the pension taken care of. Babcock would like to see representation from his area if the positions are elected.

Courtney Wilson stated that there appears to be an accountability issue. Wilson commented on the 9 a.m. meeting times being non-accessible.

Commissioner Banks asked Pohl how Ionia County's Pension funding compares to other counties our size. Pohl stated that it is on the low side.

Commissioner Shattuck stated elected Road Commission positions would be at-large, not districted.

Matt Wilson stated that something needs to change. He would run if the positions were elected. He plows his own road so it gets done.

Charles Babcock questioned if a position can be un-appointed.

Commissioner Wirtz stated that he would have not stated this if the pension were further funded.

Bonnie Listerman stated we are paying what we are willing to pay. We cannot take anymore. She is concerned about being on the hook for the pension in the future. Transparency is needed.

Lynn Mason commented on a flat-budget.

Rodney Wells questioned how Ionia County ended up at the bottom if everyone is funded the same.

Commissioner Bredice asked Love how an appointed person is removed from office. Love will have to research that question.

Bob Dunton, Road Commissioner, stated that appointed officials are just as responsible as elected officials.

Jack Elliott commented on wasting money due to State regulations.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Tiejema to schedule a meeting with the commissioners and Dorothy Pohl to gather information for further public hearings. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chair Hodges called for a brief recess at 8:17 p.m. Back in session at 8:30 p.m.

- B. Moved Wirtz, supported by Bredice to approve the extension of the Service Agreement between Ionia County Sheriff's Office and Arbor Circle and authorize the signature of Sheriff Charlie Noll. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz to allow Central Dispatch to purchase the Central Square/Zuercher CAD System for \$157,862 following the proposed Central Square Payment Schedule and to authorize Central Dispatch to transfer the amount from fund balance into the capital outlay line (970.000) pending final contract approval by county legal counsel. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Wirtz to renew the five year lease program with DSS Corporation for the Equature Telephone and Radio Recording equipment at Central Dispatch at an annual cost of \$5,139.00 plus a onetime \$750 installation fee. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Moved by Banks, supported by Wirtz to approve entering into a contract with Central Square Technologies to provide the Sheriff's Office with RMS/JMS program. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck to approve the request for Partial Removal of a PA 116 Farmland Agreement, 19-006-FA, for Brenda and Dan Armbruster. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes-all. The Resolution is as follows:

19-006

RESOLUTION FOR A PARTIAL TERMINATION OF PA 116

At a regular meeting of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners held in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room, 110 West Main Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 27th day of August, 2019, at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2019, the County Clerk received a request from Brenda and Dan Armbruster for approval to have a certain parcel released from a Farmland Agreement both recorded in Liber 0653 Page 0322, which were executed in accordance with the provisions of Part 361, Farmland and Open Space Preservation, of the Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994 (formerly PA 116 of 1974).

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed this request and determined that the encroachment(s) located on the parcel(s) were present prior to the original execution of said agreement; and

WHEREAS, the parcel proposed for release is 160-031-000-050-00; this parcel is to be split into two parcels; and 160-031-000-055-00; this parcel has an encroachment. The line adjustment will be with parcel 160-031-000-050-00.

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the request for the release is acceptable:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) That the Board hereby approves the request to release the following property from the agreement; Land in the Township of Sebewa, County of Ionia and State of Michigan, described as:

PART OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 31, T5N-R6W, SEBEWA TOWNSHIP, IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE N 89° 40' 37" W 303.20 FEET FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 31; THENCE N 89° 40' 37" W 49.80 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 31; THENCE N 00° 15' 48" E 185.00 FEET; THENCE S 89° 40' 37" E 353.00 FEET; THENCE S 00° 15' 48" W 16.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 31; THENCE N 89° 40' 37" W 303.20 FEET; THENCE S 00° 48" W 169.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THIS PARCEL CONTAINS 0.323 ACRES.

(160-031-000-050-00)

AND

PART OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 31, T5N-R6W, SEBEWA TOWNSHIP, IONIA COUNTY, MICHIGAN, DESCRIBED AS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SECTION 31; THENCE N 89° 40' 37" W 353.00 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SECTION 31; THENCE N 00° 15' 48" E 185.00 FEET; THENCE S 89° 40' 37" E 353 FEET; THENCE S 00° 15' 48" W 185.00 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 31 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THIS PARCEL CONTAINS 1.50 ACRES.

(160-031-000-055-00)

(2) That the Board hereby certifies that the encroachment(s) located on the property were present prior to the original execution of the Farmland Agreement.

(3) That the County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the persons making the request and to the Department of Natural Resources.

G. Moved by Banks, supported by Bredice to approve hiring a Site Host/ess Coordinator for out Portland Meal Site which will shortly be vacant. Motion carried by voice vote.

H. Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema to hire a Food Service Aide, Pay Grade 4, at an FTE of .53 (or approximately 20 hours per week). Motion carried by voice vote.

I. Moved by Bredice, supported by Banks, to proceed with Tim Spitzley due to the overall scope of the project and the services included in their proposal. Motion carried by voice vote.

J. The Board acknowledged the 2020 Budget Recommendation presented by Stephanie Fox, County Administrator.

K. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Bredice to approve the In-Bound Service Agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

Commissioner Hodges stated that he may be contacted with questions about electing the Road Commissioners and regarding the public hearings.

Board of Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Sharp mentioned that the Personnel Committee Meeting was held prior to the Board meeting. No action taken.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on meeting with the Road Commission and the public hearings. Elliott additionally commented on the meeting times.

Adjournment

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

David Hodges, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Clerk

Minutes approved on: