

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
October 15, 2019
Committee-of-the-Whole
3:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Commissioner Sharp gave the Invocation.

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

Members absent: Jim Banks

Others present: Jade Albrecht, Ryan Winkels, Kyle Butler, Cory Smith, Evan Sasiela, Rod Steele, Robert Rose, Jack Elliott, Brian Simon, Bert Gale, Anthony Meyaard, Brent Denny, Charlie Noll, Carol Hanulcik, Mel Haga, Julie Calley, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Bredice to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on happenings in Washington relating to the impeachment process.

New Business

- A. Ryan Winkels and Jade Albrecht gave a Powerpoint presentation on Enterprise Fleet Management. The advantages of entering into a partnership with Enterprise were discussed at length. If a partnership were to be entered into, Enterprise would report quarterly to the Board. If Exxon or Mobile gas were to be used the County would receive an additional \$.05 cents off per gallon. The price would not be reflected at the pump, but rather at the end of the month when billing occurs. Vehicle costs, maintenance and replacement costs were discussed. (The Powerpoint presentation was printed out and is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- B. Tony Meyaard presented the Review of the 2019 Apportionment Report. Michigan's rate of inflation in 2019 is 2.4%. Despite several attempts, Otisco Township has not submitted their L4029, so the report may need to be revised. Meyaard discussed Truth in Taxation. (The full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
- C. Departmental Reports

1. Prosecutor Kyle Butler informed the Board that 1500 cases have been processed in his office this year. Abuse and Neglect cases are reported as being substantial. Appeals have been numerous. Employment remains stable and training continues. Commissioner Sharp commented that the shooting in Portland is not in the report. Butler commented that he left it off intentionally as it is still under investigation. Wirtz inquired on the Bogert Trial. Butler gave an explanation on the specifics of what transpired in this case. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
2. Bert Gale, Building and Codes Manager gave the Third Quarter Report consisting of July through September 2019. Gale reports that his office has been very busy. Currently this is the busiest the office has been since before 2008. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
3. Rod Steele, Facilities Manager, gave the Buildings and Grounds advised the Board that the boilers were fired up this morning. Bredice inquired if anything major was going on at the jail. Steele reported that it is under control.
4. Sheriff Charlie Noll discussed projects, staff and training. Noll distributed a booklet regarding Wedgewood Christian Services (on file in the Clerk's Office), a community-based program for Substance Use Disorder. These services can also be accessed from outside of the jail. Anthony Muller, Director of Clinical & Business Development discussed Wedgewood's services briefly. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
5. Brent Denny reported on happenings in District Court. Projected 2019 Criminal Caseload appears to be down; this is believed to be due to the legalization of marijuana and the lack of deputies in the Sheriff's Department. Veteran's Court received their normal grant. Denny discussed the ITASC (Sobriety Court) cases and Judge Voet's creation of a Domestic Violence Docket. A Warrant Amnesty Program will be offered again this year from November 2019 through January 15, 2020. 1,100 bench warrants qualify for this program. Monies collected from income tax garnishments was discussed. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
6. Carol Hanulcik, COA Director and Mel Haga COA Board Chair appeared before the Board to present their Semi-Annual Report. Hanulcik cited the importance of the Senior Millage which accounts for about 50% of their funding. Hanulcik reported the need for in-home aides. The Commission on Aging has documented just under 4,700 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2019. Sharp commented on her amazement to this fact. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
7. Robert Rose, Drain Commissioner, distributed the 2019 Annual Drain Report. Rose reported on two drains that were started and finished this year. Wirtz questioned the location of Spectacle Lake. Rose reports that that drain is running at full capacity. Rose reported on repair and maintenance, spraying and dam inspections. Morrison Lake Dam will need to be inspected

this year. Tiejema clarified the use of the revolving fund; Rose clarified it is for use to pay contractors for work done on drains-it is similar to an in-house bank. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

The Chair called for a brief recess at 5:04 p.m.

Back in session at 5:08 p.m.

- D. 87th District State Representative Julie Calley came before the Board to discuss the State Budget impacts to Ionia County, specifically rural areas. Governor Whitmer proposed a \$.45 gas tax (long-term roads planning). Negotiations continued all summer long. Whitmer walked away from the negotiations; her veto's were record setting, reaching almost one billion dollars. Whitmer vetoed some items that were in her original budget and some items that she advocated for initially. Other funding cuts were in rural health care, scholarships to existing college students, funding for veterans, Pure Michigan, etc. Calley discussed the imbalance of powers. Thirteen of 16 budgets were affected. Chair Hodges commented as to why the media is not hearing about this. There is a bill to resurrect secondary road patrol which could be vetoed a second time, if an agreement is made the funds are retroactive. Calley stated that there is no timeline, however she is keeping us informed as to what is going on in Lansing. Chair Hodges commented on an email that he received from Governor Whitmer's staff. Chair Hodges allowed Jack Elliott to comment on the roads. Chair Hodges encouraged legislators to get before the camera so both sides are being told. Tiejema inquired to Calley if it is "all or nothing." Calley commented on counter proposals that she had heard about earlier this summer. Wirtz commented that rural Michigan is impacted far more than urban Michigan. Calley concurred. Calley hopes to come before us with good news on a different day and hopes the current situation is temporary. Sharp inquired as to what else is going on in the House. Calley said legislation is before the House to raise the age of a child being charged as an adult, expungement, and ways to support Clerks in the 2020 Elections (mail-in ballots; no reason absentee). Calley voiced Whitmer's irresponsibility to abandon the demolition of the Deerfield Facility.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Hodges went to the Portland Township meeting to discuss what is going on with the Road Commission. He is going to Otisco Township tonight. Chair Hodges asked the Board to keep him informed as to how they would like to proceed with the Road Commission.

Commissioner's Reports

Sharp commented on the MAC update regarding proposed legislation for Commissioner terms being changed to four-year terms. Many counties are passing resolutions.

Adjournment

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Sharp, to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

David Hodges, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, County Clerk

Minutes Approved on:
