

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
November 19, 2019
Committee-of-the-Whole
3:00 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Jim Banks

Others present: Ken Bowen, Judy Clark, Carly Quinn, Evan Sasiela, Elisabeth Walden, Paul Spitzley, Ken Olson, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Wirtz, supported by Sharp to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

A. Departmental Reports

1. Friend of the Court – Jessica Wierckz, Friend of the Court, was unable to attend due to being in court. A Full report is on file in the Clerk’s Office.

The Treasurer was not present yet, so the Board moved on to the next Agenda item.

2. Animal Shelter – Carly Quinn, Animal Shelter Manager gave a detailed report on the happenings this past year at the Animal Shelter. A full report is on file in the Clerk’s Office.
3. Judy Clark, Treasurer, gave an update on the investments, rates, cash summary/bank fund and property postings/foreclosures (280 parcels) and taxes. Clark reports that foreclosures are down this year. Clark discussed foreclosed properties and the Land Bank. A full report is on file in the Clerk’s Office.
4. Ken Bowen, Health Officer, gave a Powerpoint presentation on several unique challenges that the Health Department has faced in the past year such as Hepatitis A, Measles, EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis), Grand River E.Coli, Algal Blooms, Vapor Intrusion, PFAS, and KMI. A copy of the

Powerpoint is on file in the Clerk's Office. The Health Department's regular report is on file in the Clerk's Office as well.

5. Paul Spitzley from the Road Commission reported that the first Road Commission Advisory Board Meeting was held last night and it went well. Spitzley gave a report updating the Board of Commissioners regarding the happenings this past year at the Road Commission as well as proposed projects and a five-year plan. A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office. Additionally, Spitzley advised the Board that the Business Manager, Patty Loosemore will be leaving in December and that he is mildly concerned. Spitzley commented that he is glad to be here and is willing to step up to the plate; he has unfinished business regarding the road millage and projects that he would like to see through to the end. Chair Hodges asked Spitzley if the Road Commission makes money on State Projects. Spitzley stated that there are some advantages. Tiejema addressed the by-laws with some explanation and concerns. What contacts need to come back to the Board of Commissioners for approval? Some of the contracts are time-sensitive and may also affect funding. Who interviews and hires staff? How will budget amendments addressed? Tiejema expressed the need to meet with Spitzley and Stephanie Fox, County Administrator. Spitzley agreed that some changes should come before the full board, but not everything as the long process can affect pricing, etc. Wirtz stated that the Board of Commissioners cannot micromanage everything. Shattuck asked Fox what the plans are for filling the Road Commission Manager position. The Business Manager position was also discussed as to how to fill the pending vacancy. Bredice stated that he thought the purpose of this (dissolving the Road Commission) was to combine services. Sharp stated that the only change that has taken place is the name--are we taking them in or just changing the name? Tiejema commented that there has to be a transition period. Options were discussed. Fox and Spitzley will meet on Thursday.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Hodges inquired if any of the Commissioners had interest in going to Big Rapids to the morgue with him tomorrow morning. Chair Hodges reported that he will be going to a township meeting tonight. He also gave the dates and times of the upcoming Road Commission Advisory Board Meetings. Dates and times will be emailed out by the Administration Office.

Adjournment

Moved by Sharp, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the meeting at 4:39 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

David Hodges, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, County Clerk

Minutes Approved on: