

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

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

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

Members Absent: David Hodges

Others present: Bob VanLente, Jeff Montgomery, Ken Bowen, Charlie Noll, Joan Duffy Walsh, Brian Abraham, Carly Quinn, Kyle Butler, Elisabeth Walden, Evan Sasiela, Stephanie Fox and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

County Administrator Stephanie Fox reported that Judy Clark will be unavailable to be present to give her report today. Moved by Banks, supported by Wirtz to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

A. Departmental Reports

1. Carly Quinn, Manager, Animal Control reported on the happenings at the Shelter. Quinn reports that 2018 was a very successful this year with adoptions and reuniting pets with their owners. Quinn discussed adoption events; the shelter receiving a \$10,000 grant from Two Seven Oh. Quinn reported some electrical issues at the shelter which have been addressed. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
2. Ken Bowen, Health Officer reported on the Public Health Department. Bowen reports the PFAS water tests are being wrapped up. With the flooding in Portland, an advisory was released regarding raw sewage being dumped into the Grand River. Hepatitis A is still a high risk within the County. Bowen also reported on dry cleaning supply contamination near the old Clothing Care site. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office). Vice-Chair Tiejema questioned where PFAS can be found. Bowen stated that it can be present anywhere there has been a fire in the past 20 years. Vice-Chair Tiejema also questioned the implications of the new marijuana laws and the harm on younger people vs. older people. Bowen stated it is more harmful to younger people as they are in the developmental stages.

3. With the absence of the County Treasurer, the Treasurer's Report was acknowledged and no questions were presented. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
4. Sheriff Charlie Noll reported on the Sheriff's Department. The jail remains at maximum capacity. Noll reports an issues with the jail water heater and the jail washing machine. Noll discussed weather-related closings and commended his essential staff for reporting to work and working in the severe weather conditions. Noll also discussed staffing as well as jail programs for the inmates. Noll appointed Andrew Bucholtz as his Undersheriff. Noll reported on a missing child situation in Lyons in December. The child was found after about four hours, cold, but okay. The inmate that escaped was caught after 34 minutes. There was a murder in Sebewa Township on New Year's Day. Noll advised the Board of the Awards Banquet and recognized all of the staff that received awards. Noll mentioned the addition of a new crime Victim Advocate. ALICE training continues. Noll reported on a Rescue Task Force and the CLEAR (Coalition, Leadership, Education, Advice, and Rehabilitation) Probation/Parole Project. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

Tiejema questioned Noll about addressing the condition of the jail. Noll stated that a team needs to be formed and discussion should take place as to how to proceed.

Banks commended all department heads on their thorough reports.

5. Prosecutor Kyle Butler discussed his trials, hearings and trainings. He further discussed cases that are assigned to his staff. Butler is cross-training staff currently. Butler discussed "big cases" in his office. Staffing is healthy and back to working full time. Butler mentioned the IMSAFE CAC (Child Advocacy Center) fundraiser taking place later this week.

Banks asked how the Indigent Defense Program is impacting his office. Butler stated that there are still some cases that are wrapping up with Public Defenders. Butler stated it is too soon to tell if the Indigent Defense Program will be worthwhile or not.

Vice-Chair Tiejema asked how the marijuana law is affecting suspect drivers. Butler briefly discussed how to determine impairments of drivers.

Marijuana is a civil infraction; minor in possession is a misdemeanor.

Butler discussed the PBT process as a question was posed by Vice-Chair Tiejema.

Bredice inquired as to why some cases take so long. Butler discussed why the process can take so long, specifically relating to certain cases. Competency exams are lengthy (possibly delaying cases by 6 months).

6. Brian Abraham, I3Solutions gave the 2018 4th Quarter report. Abraham discussed time consuming projects beyond daily operations. These categories were broken down by office. (A full report is on file in the Clerk's Office). Security updates were discussed. Abraham updated the Board on projects nearing completion as well as long term initiatives and planning.

Bredice questioned as to how IT staff is compensated.

Tiejema asked if the Windows 10 Operation System is working for all programs as there had been issues in the past. Abraham stated that most, if not all programs are working on Windows 10.

Commissioner's Reports

Shattuck distributed a flyer for a fundraiser regarding the flood damage in Portland.

Sharp distributed a handout from Community Mental Health.

Administrator's Report

County Administrator, Stephanie Fox distributed a handout regarding the State of Emergency.

The Employee Benefits Task Force will reconvene to discuss reducing the cost of Health benefit options.

Software and Sound system quotes will be available soon.

Adjournment

Moved by Banks, supported by Shattuck to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Larry Tiejema, Vice-Chair

Janae K. Cooper, County Clerk

Minutes Approved on:
