

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
April 28, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Chair Banks called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mason, Powell, Shattuck, Vroman, Banks, Tiejema, and Calley
Members absent: None

Others present: Joel Palmer, Tom Thelen, Alex Doty, Stephanie Hurlbut, Jack Elliott, Lisa McCafferty, Deb Thalison, Jim Valentine, Lynette Seiler, Paul Spoelstra, Mark Howe and Janae Cooper

Chair Banks noted one addition to the agenda under New Business. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the courthouse dome.

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Mason, Shattuck, Banks, and Tiejema contributed miscellaneous facts to the meeting.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting (s)
2. Approve per diem and mileage
3. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of March 2009 - \$858,270.71
4. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$86,821.91

Commissioners' Tiejema and Shattuck amended their vouchers. Moved by Vroman, supported by Shattuck, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

1. Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Advisory Council - Moved by Powell, supported by Vroman, to appoint Ojars Smits, Judith Kalmanek and Norma Kilpatrick to the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Advisory Council. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority - Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, to appoint Melissa Eldridge, Chris Thelen and Mark Howe to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Jury Board - Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, to appoint Dave Cook to the Jury Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

1. Paul Spoelstra, Certified Financial Planner, reviewed the Pension Plan Investment Policy and discussed with the Board recommendations for the Plan. Spoelstra stated that there has been some return to normalcy in the markets and that some bonds are showing returns this year. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the reallocation of investments as presented and to review the changes again in six months. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Deb Thailson with the Health Department discussed reallocating staff to utilize employees at different levels. Thailson stated that there will be no grade changes nor will the reallocation affect funding, programs or services. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve changing one position (FTE) from 1.0 to 0.6 and further, approve changing another position (FTE) from 0.6 to 0.8. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the 2010 – 2012 AAAWM Funding Proposal and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the budget that will be submitted to the Tax Allocation Board, and to authorize appropriate signatures. Discussion took place concerning going to fixed rate for mills rather than going through the TAB (Tax Allocation Board) process. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Discussions took place concerning the farm lease for the Main Street property (60.54 acres). County Administrator, Mark Howe, stated that two bids have been submitted so far, with a deadline for submitted bids to end on Wednesday, April 29, 2009. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize the County Administrator to approve the winning bid, along with proof of insurance, upon consulting with Chair Banks. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Banks discussed the Animal Shelter project. Banks stated that approximately \$300,000 has been allocated toward this project with approximately \$200,000 to \$300,000 more to raise. Banks further stated that the positive factors to building right now would be that building costs are down and it would provide jobs in the community. Further discussions included holding public meetings and the architect interviews. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the "Dog Team" (Commissioners' Banks, Vroman and Powell; County Administrator Mark Howe and Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom) to proceed with making the final decision on hiring the architect. Motion carried by voice vote.

County Administrator's Report:

Howe stated that Nicole Frost, Park Manager, has resigned and that Loren Gage, the full time maintenance worker at the park, will be promoted to the interim Park Manager. In addition, a seasonal, full-time Maintenance position will be requested.

McCafferty reported on the Swine Flu.

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committees

Commissioner Tiejema questioned/commented on the General Fund and the various state grants the county receives. Tiejema stated that his calculations came up with a positive number and questioned the cash flow with having all the additional grants.

Banks opened up the second Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board regarding placing billboards/signs in the county regarding the animal shelter. Paul Spoelstra commented on Saranac possibly forming a DDA. In addition, Spoelstra suggested the possibility of contacting some GVSU Marketing students to focus on the shelter as a class project, as it would be free marketing. Jim Valentine gave kudos to the Health Department regarding the Swine Flu and keeping it within the realm of reality.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk