

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
April 21, 2009
3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Shattuck, Tiejema, Powell, Mason, Calley and Banks
Members absent: Vroman

Others present: Tom Thelen, Robert S. Sykes, Jr., Gordon Douglas, Joel Palmer, Sr., Mike Calton, Ken Freestone, Alex Doty, Nancy Hickey, Monte Starkweather, Stephanie Hurlbut, Don Ransom, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Powell, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning family court cases.

New Business

1. Monte Starkweather, Juvenile Court Referee, and Probate Judge Robert S. Sykes, Jr. presented/discussed the 2008 Family Division – 8th Circuit Court Report. Discussions included abuse and neglect cases, services offered by the Youth Service Bureau, foster homes, education/prevention services and the Child Care Fund. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk’s Office).
2. Ken Freestone, West Michigan Strategic Alliance Green Infrastructure Project Manager, discussed the purpose of the project, which is an interconnected network of green space and environmental assets that conserve the functions of natural ecosystems and provide associated benefits to people.
3. Nancy Hickey, County Treasurer, presented the Board with the Treasurer’s Quarterly Report and answered questions from the Board. Discussions took place concerning the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.
4. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, reported on Capital Improvements that are needed throughout the county buildings. Three of the major improvements needed are work/restoration of the dome, a new roof at the old jail, and backflow/water issues. A lengthy discussion took place concerning the dome. Ransom showed photographs of the dome and how deteriorated it has become. Discussions continued regarding the roof at the old jail and a back flow preventer for fire sprinkler systems in all buildings with automatic sprinkler systems.

5. Chief Animal Control Officer, Gordon Douglas, presented the Board with the January, February and March 2009 Ionia County Animal Control Monthly Reports. In addition, Douglas stated that the 4th Annual West Michigan Pet Expo that took place at the Delta Plex was very successful and many dogs were adopted during this event. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
6. Bert Gale, with the Building Codes Department, presented the Board with the Ionia County Building Codes First Quarter Report for 2009 and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office). A lengthy discussion took place concerning dangerous structures in the County.
7. Public Health Officer, Lisa McCafferty, presented the Board with the Agency Report for April 21, 2009 Board of Health meeting (a copy of this report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk