

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
February 17, 2009
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Powell

Others present: Jack Elliott, Tom Thelen, Joel Palmer, Sr., Gordon Douglas, Fred Chapman, Alex Doty, Don Ransom, Dorothy Pohl, Diane Smith, Scott Peterson, Elizabeth Robbins, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

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

Banks opened up the Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the economy.

New Business

1. Road Commission Manager, Dorothy Pohl, updated the Board on the Road Commission's upcoming and completed projects. Pohl presented the Board with the Ionia County Road Commission Road News and answered questions from the Board. Road Commissioner, Fred Chapman, complimented the road crew and thanked the Board for their support.
2. Animal Control Officer, Gordon Douglas, presented the Board with the 2008 Ionia County Animal Shelter Year End Report (a copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office). Douglas further discussed the purchase prices for new trucks for Animal Control.
3. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, discussed steps his department has taken to reduce the expense, specifically the light bills, in the county buildings and answered questions from the Board.
4. Elizabeth Robins, Resource Recovery Coordinator, presented the Board with the Resource Recovery Totals for Fiscal Year 2008 and stated that 47,437 pounds of waste were taken in. In addition, Robins discussed the projects/programs for 2009 and updated the Board on a new recycling business *Recycle This!* that will be taking recyclables for free. Robins further discussed the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program and the 2008 Fiscal Year End Report for the program.

5. County Administrator, Mark Howe, answered questions regarding the county's finances.
6. Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Officer, presented the Board with the Agency Report for February 17, 2009 Board of Health meeting and answered questions from the Board. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
7. Diane Smith with Brownfield Development Authority discussed the Brownfield Development Authority Plan and how the Plan is funded. Smith stated that nine properties in the Plan have received investment from the Brownfield Assessment Grant funds for Baseline Environmental Assessment activities. The purpose of the Plan is to promote the redevelopment and reuse of the nine properties. Smith and an AKT Peerless representative answered various questions from the Board.

County Administrator's report:

1. Discussed 2009/2010 budget projections and the fund balance;
2. The County's bond rating is at an A+;
3. Received an email from the Intermediate School District concerning the Green Schools Program and the Board will be asked to appoint a coordinator for this program;

Commissioner Mason stated that the Director of Mid-South will be attending the March Committee of the Whole meeting, and briefly updated the Board on the Mid-South meeting she attended.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Mason, to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk