

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
**September 15, 2009**  
3:30 p.m.

Chair Banks called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Members absent: Vroman

Others present: Tom Thelen, Loren Gage, Stephanie Hurlbut, Jim Valentine, Lisa McCafferty, Bob Cusack, Alex Doty, Don Ransom, Cari O'Connor, Pinky McPherson, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted one item to be added to the agenda. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the Public Comment period. No one addressed the Board.

**New Business**

1. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, discussed a Consumers Energy rebate and described in length how the County will benefit from the rebate and what his department will be doing/has been doing to reduce the cost of electricity.
2. Park Manager, Loren Gage, updated the Board on Bertha Brock Park. Adgate stated that the Fall Festival will be held this Saturday. In addition, the DEQ inspected the campground and the park passed the inspection. Gage showed pictures of the new toll booth and had a short discussion concerning lowering the cabin rates in the fall.
3. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, discussed the fiber optic project and stated that bids for the project have been received. Before moving forward with the project, Valentine stated that he wants to ensure that the funding is in place first. Other discussions included the roofing project and radio upgrades.
4. Public Health Officer, Lisa McCafferty, updated the Board on the events at the Health Department and submitted the Agency Report for September 15, 2009 Board of Health meeting (a copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).
5. Cari O'Connor and Pinky McPherson with the Ionia County Great Start Collaborative discussed the Great Start program and described the purpose of the program.

**County Administrator's report:**

1. Loren Adgate has been serving as Interim Park Manager and with the consensus of the Park Board, Adgate will be appointed Park Manager.
2. Howe negotiated a "freeze" on the rates charged by Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. for the next three years;
3. Emergency Management has been coordinating and putting together a draft of a school emergency plan and will soon be presenting it to the local schools.
4. Having discussions with Department Heads on the budget and trying to facilitate a consensus recommendation as much as possible. In addition, Howe will try to put together as many options as possible to present to the Board.
5. Discussion on an Interlocal Agreement for Rails to Trails.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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James L. Banks, Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk