

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
January 13, 2009
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Vroman

Others present: Stephanie Hurlbut, Lisa McCafferty, Diane Adams, Jim Knopf, Jim Valentine, Joel Palmer, Sr., Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted three additional items to be added to the agenda. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first public comment period. No one addressed the Board.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
2. Approve Closed Session minutes from December 16, 2008

The Closed Session minutes from December 16th were reviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Calley requested that the January 6, 2009 Organizational Minutes be removed from the Consent Calendar. Absent any further objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

Moved by Calley, supported by Powell, to amend the January 6th minutes to reflect that Commissioner Banks was appointed to the Jordan Lake Board and Commissioner Tiejema was appointed to the Morrison Lake Board, and to approve the amended board minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

1. Commissioner Tiejema discussed the proposed changes to the Board's Bylaws, specifically to items 2.2 Regular Meetings and 3.3 Special and Emergency Meetings, to state as follows:

2.2 Regular Meetings

The county board shall meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. If any regularly scheduled meeting falls on one of the legal county holidays (as established by board policy), the board will meet on the next business day that is not a holiday.

3.3 Special and Emergency Meetings

If the board shall schedule a special meeting under Rule 2.3 or an emergency meeting under Rule 2.4, the clerk shall post a notice of such meeting immediately and deliver the notice of such meeting to the residence of each commissioner by personal delivery, facsimile transmission, email, registered mail or via personal telephone conversation between the clerk or his/her designee and each commissioner. Whatever method of delivery, the clerk shall verify that each member has received notice of the special meeting. No meeting, except emergency meetings, shall be held until the notice shall have been posted at least 18 hours.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the amendments, as presented, for Board Rules 2.2 and 3.3. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

1. Banks acknowledged that two separate PA 116 agreements have been filed with the County Clerk's Office from William Mills and Philip & Mary Seidelman.
2. County Clerk, Tonda Rich, stated that per MCL 600.1344 and 600.8351 that the juror mileage is set at .10 per mile or as set by the Board of Commissioners and requested that the Board set a mileage rate for Circuit Court jurors. The IRS mileage rate was discussed, as well as, the mileage rate for the Board members and the county employees. Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to set the juror mileage reimbursement rate at .38 cents per mile for Probate, District and Circuit Courts. Further discussions took place concerning setting the juror mileage rate per the IRS, making it less confusing for the courts and eliminating the need for the courts to keep coming back to the Board with this request. In addition, the price of gasoline and the state of the economy were causes of concern. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, to amend the motion and set the juror mileage rate according to the IRS rate for Probate, District and Circuit Courts. County Administrator, Mark Howe, discussed doing a financial review before setting the mileage rate. Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to table the discussion on the juror mileage rate until the financial review can be done and to find out what Montcalm County pays for their juror mileage.
3. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Netwerkes Service Agreement and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

County Administrator's report:

1. A strategic planning meeting was scheduled for February 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. A short discussion took place concerning topics to be discussed at the meeting. Commissioner Powell requested discussing/reviewing the financial impact of

freezing wages for one year rather than cutting positions. Commissioner Mason requested information on how much money the County has saved by being energy sufficient.

Banks opened up the second public comment period. Joel Palmer, Sr. addressed the Board concerning the Road Commission and the destruction of mail boxes by the road plows.

Banks called for a brief recess at 4:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to enter into Closed Session to discuss union negotiations. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the Closed Session at 5:25 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk