

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
January 27, 2009
7:00 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Vroman, Powell, Shattuck, Calley, Tiejema (arrived at 7:47 p.m.), and Banks

Members absent: None

Others present: Tom Thelen, Joel Palmer, Sr., Rick Norman, James Valentine, Stephanie Hurlbut, Jack Elliott, Alex Doty, Deb Thailson, Douglas Rich, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted the following items to be added to the agenda: Added item #5 to the Consent Calendar; added item #1 under Unfinished Business and added items #5 and #6 under New Business. Moved by Vroman, supported by Powell, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

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

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Mason, Powell, Vroman and Calley stated facts of interest.

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 December 2008 - \$753,117.68
4. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$94,811.98
5. Approve Closed Session minutes from January 13, 2009

The Closed Session minutes were reviewed by the Board. Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

Unfinished Business

1. County Administrator, Mark Howe, presented a spreadsheet to the Board showing the current juror mileage being paid to jurors from the Probate, District and Circuit Courts. Moved by Mason, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners set the juror mileage reimbursement rate for Probate, District and Circuit courts at .38 cents per mile. Further discussion took place concerning the mileage reimbursement for county employees, as well as, the Board. Motion carried by voice vote, with Banks voting no.

New Business

1. Emergency Program Manager, Rick Norman, discussed current and upcoming Regional Homeland Security funding for Ionia County and requested that appointments be made to the Local Planning Team. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners appoint Greg Moore, Matt Bennett, Robert Bauer, Dwain Dennis, Rick Norman, Jani Millard, Mike Smith, Dorothy Pohl, James Valentine, Mark Vroman, Lisa McCafferty, George Rutherford, Adam Money Penny and Doug DeVries to the Local Planning Team, and authorize the Chair's signature on the Statement of Concurrency. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Byrne Memorial Formula Grant/Subcontract for CMET/Ionia County Sheriff's Department. Howe explained that this grant partially funds a deputy position at the Sheriff's Department. In addition, Howe explained that this is a matching grant and requests have been sent to the local jurisdictions for help in funding the matching portion of the grant. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the agreement between the University of Phoenix and the Ionia County Health Department for an internship opportunity to assist with Community Health Division and Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Deb Thailson, with the Health Department, requested authorization to hire a Temporary/Casual Employee at the Health Department that would be assisting with drug testing that is now being offered at the department. Thailson stated that the Health Department's current budget has the funding for this position. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize the Health Department to hire a temporary employee. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize the hiring of Tim Tornga with Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt, Howlett law firm as the pension plan attorney. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Moved by Vroman, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve extending the Michigan State Housing Development Authority Grant to expire on June 30, 2009. Motion carried by voice vote.

County Administrator's report:

1. Updated the Board on the Leadership Academy;
2. Updated the Board on the matter of selling bonds on behalf of the City of Ionia;
3. The Brownfield Development Authority will be bringing a Plan to the Board in the future for approval and briefly discussed the Neighborhood Stabilization Program;
4. Reminded the Board of the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting;

5. Requested the Board's approval that Howe be able to miss the February 24th meeting;
6. Commissioner Vroman has been accepted to Michigan Politically Leadership Program, which is organized through Michigan State University;
7. Brief discussion on the hiring of an architect for the animal shelter;

Commissioner Shattuck stated he will not be able to attend the February 4th Road Commission meeting.

Commissioner Tiejema commented on the external audit reports that should be presented by the auditors.

Banks opened up the second public comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the juror mileage rate. Joel Palmer addressed the Board concerning the juror mileage rate and commented on a program being implemented by County Treasurers that are helping people keep their homes.

Chair Banks called for a brief recess at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:41 p.m.

Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, to enter into Closed Session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss union negotiations. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:38 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, to enter into Closed Session at 9:39 p.m. to discuss attorney/client privilege letter from attorney David Stoker. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the Closed Session at 9:46 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners waive the attorney/client privilege of the December 23rd letter from David Stoker. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:46 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, County Clerk