

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2009
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Others present: Joel Palmer, Sr., Tom Thelen, Jack Elliott, Garret Emelander, Cliff Lazarus, Bob Cusack, Michael Trebesh, Rick Norman, Jim Valentine, Stephanie Hurlbut, Alex Doty, Nancy Hickey, Lynette Seiler, Don Ransom, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted two additional items to be added under New Business.

Banks commented on the article concerning McKenzie Animal Sanctuary that appeared in the July 12th edition of the Grand Rapids Press. Banks further stated that due to pending litigation, the Board would have no comment regarding the recent federal judge ruling in the Estate of Fred Bletz v Ionia County lawsuit.

Banks opened up the first Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning dangerous structures. Michael Trebesh, candidate for the District #33 State Senate seat, introduced himself and touched briefly on his background. Cliff Lazarus addressed the Board concerning the Gallagher Farm and Pitsch Landfill.

Moved by Vroman, supported by Mason, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Absent any objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

New Business

1. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve a three (3) year lease agreement with Neopost, Inc. for the mail machine at a cost of \$840 per year and further approve a one year maintenance agreement at a cost of \$525, and to authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, requested the Board's approval to remove an underground fuel tank at the MSU Extension Office (old MSP Building). Ransom stated that the fuel tank was installed years ago for the Michigan State Police and the County is responsible for the insurance and license fees for this tank. Three bids were received and Ransom requested the Board to approve the bid from Young's Environmental Cleanup, Inc. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia

County Board of Commissioners approve the bid from Young's Environmental Cleanup, Inc. for \$9,150 for the removal of the underground fuel tank at the MSU Extension Office Building, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement for FY2008, and authorize appropriate signatures. Rick Norman, Emergency Program Manager, stated that this grant supports a portion of the County's program. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Ionia County Mutual Aid Compact Agreement and authorize appropriate signatures. A brief discussion took place concerning the Plan, how the Plan was put together and what is covered in the Plan. Motion carried by voice vote. County Administrator, Mark Howe, gave "kudos" to Commissioner Vroman and Rick Norman for their work and time they put into the development of the Plan.
5. Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the 2009 Groundwater Technical Assistance Grant Amendment, which cancels the requirement for 24% of the deliverables that were to be completed with tasks from the USDA/NRCS Contribution Agreement. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) multi-year plan for FY 2010, 2011 and 2012 that secures funding for services/programs to help older adults. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Moved by Powell, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the 2010 Budget Calendar. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the PA 116 Farmland Agreement filed on June 5, 2009 by Norman and Nancy McKendry for property in Orleans Township. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. Banks discussed the Construction Manager position for the new animal shelter and outlined the responsibilities that the Construction Manager would have. Interviews for the Construction Manager position have been completed and the "Dog Team" is recommending Dan Vos Construction for the position. Banks explained that an employee of Dan Vos Construction, a resident of Ionia County, would have the responsibility as the Construction Manager, who would also serve as the on-site manager working 5 days a week during the construction of the animal shelter. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve, upon written contact, the hiring of Dan Vos Construction Company for the Construction Manager position for the new animal shelter project. Motion carried by voice vote.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning funding the Construction Manager position. Banks discussed the option of purchasing General Obligation Bonds and explained the advantages of purchasing these types of bonds. It was the consensus of the Board to discuss the General Obligation Bonds at the last meeting in July.

Chairperson's Report

Banks stated that Linda Sanchez is interested in doing a fundraiser for the new animal shelter and discussed some of Sanchez's ideas and what the Board's role would be in these fundraisers.

County Administrator's Report

1. Brief discussion on the CRC of Michigan (Headlee Report);
2. Copies of an attorney opinion are in Commissioners' boxes concerning road patrol;
3. Reminder: Planning session will take place after the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Commissioner Calley attended the recent Michigan Township Association meeting in Portland and stated that the meeting was well attended.

Banks opened up the second Public Comment period. Cliff Lazarus addressed the Board concerning the County, the animal shelter, the Estate of Fred Bletz v Travis Gribble and Brent Denny, and commented on the Prosecuting Attorney. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the Law Library. Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning underground tanks. Garret Emelander addressed the Board concerning lawsuits involving the County.

Moved by Calley, supported by Mason, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk