

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
June 9, 2009
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Tom Thelen, Stephanie Hurlbut, Deb Thailson, Alex Doty, Jack Elliott, Bob Cusack, JoAnne Eakins, James Valentine, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Chair Banks stated that item #6 will be deleted from the agenda and one additional item to be added under New Business. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Vroman, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first public comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the economy. Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning the economy and the Board of Review.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

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

New Business

1. Chair Banks acknowledged the filing of the PA 116 Farmland Agreement filed by 4A Properties, LLC., for property located in Ronald Township.

In addition, Banks acknowledged the filing of the PA 116 Farmland Agreement by Norman and Nancy McKendry for property located in Orleans Township.

Discussion took place concerning the Farmland Agreement process. Tonda Rich, County Clerk, stated that she would gather information on Farmland Agreements and get that information back to each board member.

2. JoAnne Eakins, Director of Personal Health at the Health Department, requested an increase in hours for the Clerk position (from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE hours) at the Health Department. Eakins explained that the Health Department has had an increase in the number of clients being served, and additionally, the Health Department has received an increase in funds from the USDA based on their

caseload. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the increase in hours for the Clerk position from 0.8 FTE to 1.0 FTE. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Health Department Environmental Health Services Agreement between the County of Ionia and Gene Paez, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Deb Thailson, Community Health Supervisor, requested authorization to hire a temporary/casual clinical therapist to assist with providing care services to those in need of substance abuse service.

Board members questioned Thailson concerning having an in-house clinician. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to take this matter up at a later board meeting when more information is available concerning the position.

5. County Administrator, Mark Howe, stated that a Public Act was passed a couple of years ago regarding school buildings becoming “green” schools if the schools comply with 10 out of the 20 criteria as set forth in the Act. The Act further states that the Board of Commissioners designates a county department or the local ISD to be responsible for declaring a “green school.” Additionally, Howe stated that the County and the ISD would like to do this as a group effort.

Moved by Mason, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution to Support the Michigan Green Schools Program. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution to Support the Michigan Green Schools Program

Whereas, the Michigan Green Schools Program is a new program that was first enacted into law in 2006; and,

Whereas, the program encourages public and private schools to take steps toward being more environmentally and ecologically friendly; and,

Whereas, 20 specific activities are listed for the program, and a school must participate in at least 10 of those activities within an academic year to be designated an official Green School; and,

Whereas, these activities pertain to energy saving and environmental preservation activities which save taxpayer money and preserve natural resources, all of which are goals supported by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners; and,

Whereas, the law states that a county should designate a county department and/or the county's Intermediate School District to manage the Michigan Green Schools Program in Ionia County; and,

Whereas, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners desires to partner with the Ionia County Intermediate School District (ICISD), with support from the Michigan Green Schools Program organization, to jointly administrate this program so that Ionia County public and private schools can work toward and receive official Green Schools designation; and,

Whereas, there is no cost to the county to manage this program and qualifying schools will receive an official flag and certificate at a ceremony to be held each year on or around Earth Day.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners supports the environmentally conscious student activities which lead to savings and increased efficiency in schools and hereby designates the Michigan Green Schools Program as an endorsed program in Ionia County which is to be administered through a joint effort between the County of Ionia and the Ionia County Intermediate School District.

Be It Further Resolved that a suitable copy of this Resolution will be transmitted to the Ionia County Intermediate School District in testimony of the high esteem in which the Green Schools Program in Ionia County is held by the Ionia County Board of Commissioners.

6. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Letter of Engagement with Tim Tornga with Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones as the pension attorney for the county. Motion carried by voice vote.

County Administrator's Report:

1. Discussed the MMRMA Report specifically regarding the part on liability insurance;
2. Process being worked on concerning dangerous structures in the county;
3. Has received information on the Census 2010;
4. Received a check for \$73,000 from BCBS;
5. Brief update on the Rails to Trails (Clinton- Ionia- Shiawasee) trail;
6. The audits have been completed and the auditors will be at the next board meeting. In addition, Howe recognized the Finance Department for their hard work and help during the time the auditors were here.

Banks opened up the second public comment period. Bob Cusack complimented both Lisa McCafferty and Deb Thailson. In addition, Cusack commented on dangerous structures in the County. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning ordinances and census forms.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, County Clerk