

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 10, 2009
Regular Meeting
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Shattuck and Vroman

Others present: Tom Thelen, Stephanie Hurlbut, Melissa Eldridge, Art Pelon, Alex Doty, James Valentine, Betsy Koehnlein, Bob Cusack, Don Ransom, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted the following additions to the agenda: Added items #5 and #6 under New Business; added item #2 under the Consent Calendar. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first Public Comment period. Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning the economy.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
2. Approve Closed Session minutes from February 24th;

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

New Business

1. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, requested approval of a tractor lease for the Buildings & Grounds Department. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve a three year lease agreement with Baders & Sons for two John Deere 700 garden tractors, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Moved by Powell, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve reducing the Ionia County Planning Commission from 11 members to 9 members. County Administrator, Mark Howe, stated that the Commission is finding it hard to get a quorum for their meetings and by reducing the membership, it may help the Commission. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Court Services contract with MMH Centers, Inc. for services provided to Ionia Treatment and Sobriety Court clients, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

4. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize amendment #2 of the Michigan Department of Community Health FY 08/09 Comprehensive Planning, Budgeting and Contracting Agreement, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. The County Administrator stated the County is in receipt of a proposed contract with the Michigan Department of Transportation, which will provide federal and state funding for the installation of an automated weather observation system (AWOS) at the Airport, as well as, crack sealing and paint marking. The estimated cost of the project is \$157,895.

Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners enter into Contract 2009-0213 with the Michigan Department of Transportation and further authorize Board Chair James L. Banks to sign the contract on behalf of the County. Motion carried by voice vote.

6. Art Pelon with the Ionia County Soil Conservation District requested the Board to release the \$10,000 that was allocated to the District. Pelon stated that due to economic times, tree sales being down and the overall increase in expenses, the Soil Conservation is in need of the funding in order to keep operating. A lengthy discussion took place concerning the dollars that are brought into the county through the Department of Agriculture and many of the programs that are utilized in the county. In addition, alternative means of funding for the District was discussed. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize releasing the allocated \$10,000 to the Ionia County Soil Conservation District. Motion carried by voice vote.

County Administrator's Report:

1. Will be preparing the budget to be submitted to the Tax Allocation Board;
2. Been receiving many questions from architects concerning the Animal Shelter;
3. Working on the Central Dispatch budget/revenue forecasting;
4. Briefly discussed the liability insurance retention fund through Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA);
5. Handed out a worksheet prepared by Blue Cross Blue Shield showing how the insurance works/money saved;

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

Commissioner Powell thanked Mari Droste and Sharyn Overton for the work they had done in preparing for the Ionia Expo (animal shelter project).

Commissioner Mason updated the Board on the Rails-to-Trails.

Commissioner Tiejema stated that he had a meeting with Judge Sykes on the Child Care Fund.

Commissioner Calley reported that she had a county facilities tour.

Banks called for a brief recess at 5:06 p.m. and reconvened at 5:08 p.m.

Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, to enter into Closed Session to discuss union negotiations at 5:08 p.m. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

Moved by Powell, supported by Mason, to adjourn Closed Session and return to regular session at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk