

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
March 24, 2009

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: Larry Listerman, Joel Palmer, Sr., Jack Elliott, Tom Thelen, James Valentine, Mike Huckleberry, Eric Hufnagel, Alex Doty, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted the following additions to the agenda: added approval of Closed Session minutes from March 10th and March 17th to the Consent Calendar; added items #3 and #4 under New Business. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first Public Comment period. Larry Listerman and Joel Palmer addressed the Board concerning having to pay for copies of the agenda to be sent to them. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the economy. State Representative, Mike Huckleberry, introduced himself.

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Mason, Powell and Tiejema stated facts of interest.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meetings
2. Approve per diem and mileage
3. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of February 2009 - \$894,712.29
4. Approve payment of Health Fund bills – \$119,484.87
5. Approve Closed Session minutes from March 10th and March 17th

The Closed Session minutes from March 10th and March 17th were reviewed by the Board.

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

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, to approve the January 2009 per diem and mileage voucher for Banks. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

1. Community Mental Health Services Board – Moved by Shattuck, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners appoint Gretchen Nyland, Deborah McPeek, Melissa McKinstry and Beverly Harger to the Community Mental Health Services Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

1. Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize filling the 4-H Program Assistant position. Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the MSHDA Grant Agreement, and authorized appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. Commissioners' Mason and Powell discussed a meeting they attended regarding the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawasee Rails-to-Trails. Mason stated that the DNR will only lease the rail to a single authority. Powell stated that Shiawasee and Ionia Counties are requesting their Boards to establish an authority and further, have the County Administrators work on putting language together for the authority. Both Mason and Powell discussed that Clinton County wanted an inter-agreement and further, Clinton County is concerned with how the money will be split up between the three counties. Moved by Powell, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the **concept** of establishing an authority and to have the County Administrators from Ionia and Shiawasee Counties working together on the language. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners ratify the Mediation Settlement Offer regarding the Central Dispatch union contract. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

Banks updated the Board on the animal shelter project stating that 6 architects will be interviewed shortly. Banks reminded the Board and the public that the interviews are open to the public.

County Administrator's Report

1. Update on the Strong Community Summit
2. Update on the Emergency Fund balance
3. Discussed what the cost for non-union employees will be for a 1% increase in wages
4. Strategic Planning discussion

Banks opened up the second Public Comment period. Larry Listerman addressed the Board concerning paying for the agenda and further commented on the Mental Health Services Board. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning spending money when the economy is not doing well.

Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk