

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

October 27, 2009

7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Jack Elliott, Cliff Lazarus, Tom Thelen, Joel Palmer, Sr., Stephanie Hurlbut, Deb Thailson, Lisa McCafferty, James Lower, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks noted the following additions to the agenda: Added item #2 under Unfinished Business; added items #9 - #12 to New Business. Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first public comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning his disagreement with the October 13th board minutes and requested the minutes be corrected. Cliff Lazarus addressed the Board concerning the Animal Shelter.

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Tiejema, Vroman and Mason 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 September 2009 - \$786,504.00
4. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$84,560.77

Commissioner Tiejema requested that the Committee-of-the-Whole minutes from October 20, 2009 be removed from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration.

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

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, to amend the Committee-of-the-Whole minutes by adding the following statement made by Commissioner Tiejema:

Commissioner Tiejema announced that an opinion of Mike Cox, Michigan Attorney General, will prevent Ionia County Community Mental Health from treating mentally ill inmates while they are incarcerated. The Attorney General's opinion specifies that such mental health services must be funded through the Sheriff's Department.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Powell, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners reconsider the October 13, 2009 board minutes.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning board minutes and what is required to be put in the minutes.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion to reconsider the approval of the October 13th board minutes by a show of hands:

- Yes votes: Tiejema, Shattuck and Powell
- No votes: Mason, Vroman, Calley and Banks

Motion failed for lack of support.

Unfinished Business

1. Appointments

a. **Board of Canvassers** – Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners appoint Melanie Bennett, Republican and Jan Powell, Democrat, to the Ionia County Board of Canvassers. Motion carried by voice vote.

b. **Construction Board of Appeals** – Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners appoint Mike Schafer, Robert Cusack, Gregg Yeomans and Nathan Sprague to the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. Ionia County Clerk, Tonda Rich, stated that at the October 14th board meeting, the Board acknowledged the filing of a PA 116 by Verne Lettinga. Due to an incomplete filing, Rich stated the application was returned to Verne Lettinga. The Chair acknowledged that the PA 116 Application filed by Verne Lettinga has been dismissed.

New Business

1. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the Road Commission Resolution. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

BOARD RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Ionia County Board of Road Commissioners has been concerned about safety on its 695 mile gravel road system due to excessive speed of travel; and

WHEREAS, many county residents have voiced their concern regarding the speed of vehicles on gravel roads; and

WHEREAS, the majority of our gravel roads have never been constructed to modern standards to accommodate this speed of traffic or commercial truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, current Michigan law sets the prima facie speed limit on gravel roads at fifty-five (55) miles per hour and does not provide for any real option to reduce speeds on gravel roads; and

WHEREAS, Representative Brian Calley has introduced House Bill 5773 setting the maximum prima facie speed on gravel roads at forty-five (45) miles per hour; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Ionia County Road Commissioners requests the Michigan State Legislature consider House Bill 5773 that would set the maximum prima facie speed of 45 miles per hour for all vehicles on gravel roads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that true copies of this resolution will be sent to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and all Ionia County Township Boards to be passed and forwarded to our legislators.

2. Deb Thailson, Community Health Supervisor, requested that in addition to the approval of the two clinician agreements that are already on the agenda, that a third clinician agreement for Run2 Recovery be added as well. Banks called for any objections to add a third clinician agreement to the agenda. Hearing no objections, the Chair amended the agenda to add the third clinician agreement.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the following agreements:

- Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement between the County of Ionia on behalf of the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative and Northpoint Counseling and authorize appropriate signatures.

- Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement between the County of Ionia on behalf of the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative and Two Rivers Counseling and authorize appropriate signatures.

- Substance Abuse Treatment Agreement between the County of Ionia on behalf of the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative and Run2 Recovery and authorize appropriate signatures.

Thailson gave a brief overview of each counseling service. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Moved by Powell, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Substance Abuse Agreement between the County of Ionia on behalf of the Ionia County Substance Abuse Initiative and contracted clinician, Rosemary McCallum-Herbert and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Agreement for Services between Ingham Health Plan Corporation (DBA: Ionia Health Plan) and Ionia County Health Department and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Moved by Powell, supported by Mason, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the contract with Northpoint Counseling Services, Inc., for services provided to Ionia Treatment and Sobriety Court clients, and authorize appropriate signatures on the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
6. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize an agreement for participation in the Bing Maps for Enterprise Partnership with the State of Michigan for an aerial flyover of the county. After a brief discussion on the bidding process, it was the consensus of the Board to waive the bidding policy on this matter. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Moved by Mason, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve filling the Deputy County Clerk position at Grade 7, Step 1. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. The Chair acknowledged the filing of a PA 116 filed by Ionia Grain, LLC. for property located in Ionia Township.
9. County Administrator Mark Howe presented a Michigan Department of Transportation contract for the operation and maintenance of an Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) at the Airport. The County's annual costs are estimated at \$1,667.89 and will be in effect for 15 years.

Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Ionia County Board of Commissioners for the Operation and Maintenance of an Automated Weather Observation System at the Ionia County Airport, MDOT Contract No. 2009-0760, and authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

Howe further presented a Michigan Department of Transportation contract for the Airport's weather dissemination system maintenance. The County's

annual share is estimated at \$900, and will be in effect through July 31, 2012.

Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Ionia County Board of Commissioners for the operation and maintenance of a system for long line dissemination of aviation routine weather reports from an Automated Weather Observation System at the Ionia County Airport, MDOT Contract No. 2009-0759, and to authorize the appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

10. Howe updated the Board on the current telephone system being used throughout county offices, as well as, installing an IPFlex line to the Courthouse rather than using a PRI in the future. Other discussions included the county internet. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve a three-year agreement with AT&T for an ISDN/PRI and for local and long distance telephone services and authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried by voice vote.
12. Moved by Vroman, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution Opposing a Veto of MSUE and MAES Funding from the State. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The resolution is as follows:

Resolution for County Commissioners Opposing a veto of MSUE and MAES funding from the State

Whereas, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) have had a valued partnership with county, state and federal government for 86 years; and

Whereas, state budget decisions related to our partnership are of extreme concern, with the potential of a line-item veto resulting in zero funding for MSUE and MAES; and

Whereas, the impact of our state partner's decision has devastating consequences for MSUE and our county partners, as more than 80 percent of state funding supports the staff members of MSUE; and

Whereas, every county and every legislative district will be affected by a veto of MAES and MSUE funding, which are outreach programs that make a significant impact on people's lives; and

Whereas, if funding lines are vetoed, MSUE will be forced to cancel all county- and campus-based programs and meetings immediately, and the MAES will immediately close 17 research stations across the state; and

Whereas, MAES and MSUE are providing the research for the green economy and translating that research into the creation of new jobs for Michigan; and

Whereas, in 2008, MAES and MSUE funds generated a total economic impact for the State of Michigan of \$1.062 billion; and, for every \$1 provided by the state, MAES and MSUE generated another \$2.33 for research and Extension work in Michigan, and, with a veto, this income would be lost, with much of it going to other states; and,

Whereas, the reputation of MSU will be damaged, and it will take years to restore the faith of federal and foundation funders and private donors. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that on this 27th day of October in the year of Two Thousand Nine, that Ionia County urges the Governor to sign the Higher Education budget as passed by the Legislature.

The County Administrator passed out budget workshop schedules to the Board.

County Administrator's report:

1. Briefly touched on the issue of Community Mental Health Services providing services to the mentally ill inmates at the jail and stated that he was able to receive a free copy of an attorney opinion on this issue.

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committees

Commissioner Powell updated the Board on the animal shelter project.

Banks opened up the second Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the County Administrator, Chair Banks, Commissioner Mason and the County Clerk. James Lower addressed the Board concerning the aerial flyover. Lisa McCafferty presented the Board with an update on the H1N1 vaccinations.

Moved by Powell, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk