

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
**April 13, 2010**  
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: Joel Palmer, Sr., Nancy Hickey, Tom Thelen, Fred Chapman, Jack Elliott, Diane Adams, Jim Valentine, Cheryl O'Connor, Deb Thailson, Bob Cusack, Dorothy Pohl, Lisa McCafferty, Ron Schafer, Wayne Schoonover, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Banks stated that there were no additions or deletions to the agenda. However, item #10 concerning the elimination of furlough hours would be moved to Unfinished Business. Moved by Vroman, supported by Powell, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Banks opened up the first Public Comment period. Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning furlough hours. Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning the Health Department.

**Consent Calendar**

- 1) Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

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

**Unfinished Business**

1. County Administrator, Mark Howe, stated that the 2010 budget includes language indicating that payroll costs had been reduced through furlough hours to begin May 1, 2010. Howe discussed the balances at the close of the financial records for 2009 and recommended the elimination of furlough hours for 2010. Moved by Vroman, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners eliminate the planned use of furlough hours for 2010 and direct the County Administrator to prepare a budget amendment for presentation to the Board that reflects the restoration of these hours. Motion carried by voice vote.

**New Business**

1. Nancy Hickey, County Treasurer, presented the Treasurers Quarterly Report. Hickey distributed handouts and answered questions from the Board.

2. Dorothy Pohl, Managing Director and Fred Chapman, Chairman of the Ionia County Road Commission, presented the 2009 Supplemental Annual Report and discussed funding, revenue and projects.
3. Cheryl O'Connor, Equalization Director, presented the 2010 Assessments of the sixteen townships and three cities in Ionia County. In addition, O'Connor, presented the Board with the 2010 taxable value of the sixteen townships and three cities in Ionia County, and answered various questions from the Board.
4. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, discussed the transition costs for Belding Dispatch to be consolidated with Ionia County Central Dispatch. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve an amount not to exceed \$75,000 for the consolidation costs. Valentine explained that the costs will be associated with radio upgrades, telephones, computers and indirect costs. Motion carried by voice vote.
5. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the National Public Safety Telecommunications Week Resolution. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The resolution is as follows:

#### **NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK RESOLUTION**

We gather here to pay tribute to the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch and Belding Dispatch Center for their faithful and dedicated service to our community.

**WHEREAS**, the week of April 11 – 17, 2010, has been designated as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in tribute to all public safety communications personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, Ionia County Central Dispatch and Belding Dispatch Center are vital links in the protection of life and property in Ionia County; and

**WHEREAS**, the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch and Belding Dispatch Center are a vital and highly valued part of Ionia County; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of their excellent and dedicated service to Ionia County, it is fitting and proper that they be highly commended and praised.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, by this Resolution, declares the week of April 11-17, 2010 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Ionia County and expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch and Belding Dispatch Center for their faithful and dedicated service; and that this Resolution be entered

into the records of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and a copy be forwarded to each center.

6. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the request from the County of Ionia to the Tax Allocation Board. A short discussion took place concerning a fixed millage rate. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Moved by Vroman, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the budget amendment for Emergency Management as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the Byrne Memorial Formula Grant Program – Subcontract for FY 2010 that partially funds a deputy position for CMET and authorize the Chair to sign the contract. Motion carried by voice vote.
9. Moved by Mason, supported by Powell, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the Support of the Final Report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates. Howe stated that the Michigan Association of Counties is asking all counties for their support. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

#### **SUPPORT OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON STATUTORY MANDATES, DECEMBER 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the electorate of the State of Michigan passed an amendment in November 1978 to the State’s Constitution that required the State to fund mandates imposed on local units of government (often referred to as the “Headlee Amendment”) and

**WHEREAS**, the Headlee Amendment (Article IX, Section 29) states: “The state is hereby prohibited from reducing the state financed proportion of the necessary costs of any existing activity or service required of units of Local Government by state law. A new activity or service or an increase in the level of any activity or service beyond that required by existing law shall not be required by the Legislature or any state agency of units of Local Government, unless a state appropriation is made and disbursed to pay the unit of Local Government for any necessary increased costs. The provision of this section shall not apply to costs incurred pursuant to Article VI, Section 18” and;

**WHEREAS**, the Headlee Amendment became effective on December 23, 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature established the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates (LCSM) through P.A. 98 of 2007, as amended by P.A. 356 of 2008 and assigned the LCSM to identify mandates (including those involving reports) and the related cost of the mandates to local units of government, along with recommendations to resolve the unfunded mandates; and

**WHEREAS**, the LCSM worked with the Citizens Research Council (issued an analysis of other state's statutes and constitutional requirements similar to the Headlee Amendment) and local units of government associations, including:

- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Township Association
- Michigan School Business Officials and Michigan Association of School Administrators
- Michigan Community College Association
- County Road Association of Michigan

**WHEREAS**, the LCSM issued a report in June 2009 entitled, "Interim Report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates" that indicated, among other matters, that the State had failed to enact legislation enabling the Headlee Amendment and has not complied with Headlee Amendment since its adoption in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, the LCSM has completed its report in December 2009 entitled "Final Report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates" that reaffirms the Interim Report results and provides recommendations, including by not limited to:

- Drafted legislation and court rules that would mitigate unfunded mandates imposed on local units of government in the future.
- Proposed procedures that will prevent new unfunded mandates from being imposed on local units of government.
- Proposed procedures that would be corrective should unfunded mandates be imposed that include, among other requirements:
  - A submission of an action before the Court of Appeals to be heard by a special master in order to rule on whether the matter is a mandate and if the mandate is underfunded.
  - Require the Court of Appeals to rule on the above within six months of the filing.

Should the Court of Appeals not rule on the above within six months, the local unit of government would have no obligation to continue to provide the services until such time as the State complies with the Headlee Amendment.

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Association of Counties adopted a resolution of support for the recommendations contained in the final LCSM report in December 2009.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners support the findings and recommendations in the interim and final reports of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates and encourages the Governor, Legislature and Supreme Court to adopt and enact the recommendations cited in the final report.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approves the release of this resolution to be distributed to the Governor, Legislators,

Supreme Court and local units of government legislative boards and executives located within Ionia County.

10. The County Administrator discussed the draft Inter-local Agreement for the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawasee Trail. Commissioner Tiejema questioned some of the language in the agreement.

**County Administrator's report:**

1. Met with the Orleans Township Supervisor to discuss Pitsch Landfill;
2. "Kudos" to Jim Valentine for the work he has put into the transition of Belding's Dispatch to Central Dispatch;
3. Ionia County received the Platinum Award from United Way;
4. Discussed future meetings/workshops and reminded the Board that the budget season is quickly approaching for 2011. In addition, Howe asked the Commissioners to bring their calendars to the next meeting.

**Reports**

Banks stated that he and Commissioner Powell will be attending a meeting at Orange Township to discuss/update them on the animal shelter.

Banks opened up the second Public Comment period. Jack Elliott and Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning the Health Department.

Moved by Vroman, supported by Powell, to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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James L. Banks, Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk