

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Committee of the Whole

May 18, 2010

3:30 p.m.

Vice-Chair Vroman called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Mason, Powell, Shattuck, Vroman, Tiejema, Calley, Banks (arrived at 4:20 p.m.)

Members absent: None

Others present: Tom Thelen, Lisa McCafferty, Stephanie Hurlbut, Jim Valentine, Don Ransom, Don Sult, Mark Howe and Janae Cooper

Vroman noted the following additions to the agenda: Added item #6 under New Business and item #1 under Executive Session. Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Vroman opened up the Public Comment period. No one addressed the Board.

New Business

1. "Temporary Fun, Permanent Consequences" was presented to the Board by three Lakewood Middle School students. The presentation focused on the effects of peer pressure and underage drinking.
2. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, updated the Board on his department. Ransom stated he is temporarily short staffed. Ransom further discussed upcoming re-roofing projects, as well as, projects at the airport and animal shelter.
3. Don Sult, with the Building Codes Department, presented handouts regarding permits issued in the first quarter. Sult further stated that condemnation letters have been sent out regarding the Honor House in Palo.
4. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, updated the Board on his department. Valentine discussed the expanded tower. In addition, Valentine stated that Belding Public Works has contracted for tornado sirens in Belding and two in Orleans Township, that will be up and running in mid-June and controlled by Central Dispatch. Central Dispatch is also waiting for the final contract for the PSIC Grant.

5. Public Health Officer, Lisa McCafferty, presented the Board with the Public Health Report (a copy of this report is on file in the Clerk's Office). McCafferty further noted that a financial review by Mid-South was conducted and the National Guard has been invited to Ionia from June 16-19 to conduct an exercise. In addition, McCafferty stated that open burning in the State may possibly be eliminated.
6. Commissioner Tiejema gave the Pension Advisory update. It has been recommended by Paul Spoelstra to invest in non-traded Real Estate Investment Trusts to be more in line with the credit market. There is a potential of a 7% return. The recommendation was voted 3-1.

County Administrator's report

- 1) Discussed the County's credit rating;
- 2) Discussed the animal shelter;
- 3) Been working with Rick Norman and other members from the Sheriff's Department on Court Security;
- 4) The Finance Department has enrolled 67 new participants in the Flex program since the county has offered to give \$150 back to each employee who is enrolled in the county's health care program.

Reports of Special or Ad Hoc Committees

Commissioner Powell stated she has found cat cages for approximately one-third less than originally planned.

Chair Banks called for a recess at 5:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:25 p.m.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Shattuck, to enter into Closed Session. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: Yes – all. (Calley absent)

Moved by Powell, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn Closed Session at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Vroman, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

James L. Banks, Chair

Janae Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk