

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2011
3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Lower, Vroman, Tiejema, Banks (arrived at 4:14 p.m.), Calley and Shattuck

Members absent: None

Others present: Marilyn Smith, Jim Patrick, Loren Gage, JoAnne Eakins, Craig Wheeler, Jim Valentine, Jason Eppler, Nancy Hickey, Cheryl O'Connor, Don Ransom, Stephanie Hurlbut, Aileen Waldron, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of additional items

The Chair noted that the approval of the Closed Session minutes from March 8, 2011 (2 sets), March 15, 2011 (3 sets) and March 22, 2011 (1 set) be added under the Consent Calendar.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Lower, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Snyder commented on the new animal shelter and the Pet Expo.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve Closed Session minutes from March 8, 2011, March 15, 2011 and March 22, 2011

The Closed Session minutes were presented to the Board for their review. Absent any objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

New Business

1. Marilyn Smith and Aileen Waldron discussed the Home Buyers Purchase Program, which is a federal program that provides loans in rural areas for modest housing to households at or below 80% of the adjusted median income. Smith and Waldron discussed the eligibility requirements for the loan and targeted areas around the County of Ionia. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a public hearing on this program.

2. Cheryl O'Connor, Equalization Director, appeared before the board to present the 2011 Equalization Report in compliance with the General Property Tax Act, Section 211.34 of the Michigan Compiled Laws of 1948 as amended by Act 6 of the Public Acts of 1981. The report indicates the assessed value of real and personal property in the county is \$1,868,534,514.

Moved by Banks, supported by Vroman, that the 2011 Equalization Report for Ionia County, which establishes the county's equalized value at \$1,868,534,514, be approved and further all commissioners be authorized to sign the report. Motion carried by voice vote.

3. Commissioner Lower stated he has been working with Jason Eppler, Ionia City Manager, and Jim Patrick, Orleans Township Supervisor, on getting ownership of a floating dock transferred from the City of Ionia to Orleans Township. Lower stated that the City of Ionia was given a dock for fishing, through a grant in the 1990's, to be installed on the Grand River. Due to the flooding issues on the river, the dock was taken off the Grand River and has not been used for many years. The City of Ionia would like to transfer ownership of the dock to Orleans Township to be installed at Long Lake, but because the township does not have a recreational plan, the County would have to take possession of the dock and then enter into an agreement with Orleans Township. Questions were raised on whether the dock could be given back to the DNR and have Orleans Township work directly with the DNR. Further discussions included who would be liable for the dock. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Lower, to approve the Letter of Intent from the County of Ionia to accept ownership of the dock from the City of Ionia, subject to approval from the DNR and further that any use of the dock will hold the County of Ionia harmless from liability. Commissioner Calley stated that legal counsel review should occur after the DNR has accepted the transfer of ownership. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Park Manager, Loren Gage, requested additional funds for a dump truck for the park. Gage stated that he has been unable to locate a dump truck for \$25,000 (amount approved in February 2011). Gage further indicated that an anonymous donation of \$2,000 was made toward the purchase of the dump truck. Moved by Mason, supported by Banks, to authorize an additional \$2000 from the General Fund Designated to be added to the already approved \$25,000, for the purchase of a dump truck, not to exceed \$29,000. Motion carried by voice vote, with Lower and Calley voting no.
5. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, stated that Congress has recognized the week of April 10th as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week and in honor of the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch, Valentine requested the Board to consider and adopt the following National Public Safety Telecommunications Week Resolution. Moved by Banks, supported by Calley, to adopt the Resolution. The

Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

**NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK RESOLUTION
2011-4**

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

WHEREAS, the week of April 10 – 16, 2011, has been designated as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in tribute to all public safety communications personnel; and

WHEREAS, Ionia County Central Dispatch is a vital link in the protection of life and property in Ionia County; and

WHEREAS, the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch 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 10 – 16, 2011 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Ionia County and expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the personnel of Ionia County Central Dispatch 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 Central Dispatch.

6. JoAnne Eakins, Personal Health Director, stated that Kay Houseman, RN, will retire this year at the end of June and requested to fill this position two months early in order to get the new employee trained before Houseman retires. Moved by Mason, supported by Vroman, to authorize the Health Department to hire the replacement for Kay Houseman. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Technical Assistance Participation Agreement with Altarum/Michigan Center for Effective IT Adoption and Ionia County Health Department and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
8. Moved by Banks, supported by Mason, to approve the Letter of Understanding between the County of Ionia and the IUE-CWA (Animal Control). Motion carried by voice vote.

9. The Chair acknowledged the filing of the two Farmland Agreements filed by Philip and Mary Seidelman.
10. Moved by Vroman, supported by Tiejema, to approve the tax allocation board request from the County of Ionia that will be submitted to the Ionia County Tax Allocation Board. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

Shattuck stated that the farmland lease went out for re-bid and there has been a great response.

County Administrator's Report

1. Gave a brief update on the status of the Greenview Point Park and the Rail Trail;
2. June 6th is the targeted completion date of the new animal shelter.

The Chair opened up the second Public Comment period. DeeJay Freeman introduced herself and stated she is an applicant for the animal shelter position. Lisa McCafferty stated that her daughter is at the White House this afternoon.

The Chair called for a brief recess at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

(Commissioner Vroman left during the recess)

Moved by Banks, supported by Calley, to enter into Closed Session to discuss union negotiations at 5:26 p.m. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

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

Moved by Lower, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:
