

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Committee-of- the-Whole

October 18, 2011

3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Lower, Vroman, Tiejema (left at 5:35 p.m.), Banks, Calley and Shattuck

Others present: Mel Haga, Lynette Seiler, Kevin Heinlein, Joann Eakins, Sugandha Lowhim, Deb Thalison, John Bush, Diane Adams, Sug Pinnow, Raymond Voet, Lisa McCafferty, Dwain Dennis, Don Ransom, John Szerlag, Stephanie Hurlbut and Janae Cooper

Approval of Agenda

1. Consideration of additional items

Shattuck noted the following amendments to the agenda: Added item D under New Business. Moved by Lower, supported by Mason to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

A. Departmental Reports

1. Dr. Sugandha Lowhim presented a Powerpoint of the *Ten Great Public Health Achievements* on behalf of the Department of Public Health, as well as, a YouTube clip promoting a “This is Public Health” sticker campaign. Lisa McCafferty, Director of Public Health, presented a monthly report and answered questions posed by the Board.
2. Sheriff Dwain Dennis reported an increase in false alarms (due to obsolete security systems) and an increase in suicide and suicide attempts. Dennis reported that numbers of inmates housed in the jail are down. Ionia County is currently housing Kent County state prisoners, in which the Sheriff’s Department was able to bill \$8100 to Kent County for providing this service. Sheriff Dennis and Lieutenant Jones are working towards installing a kiosk in the lobby of the Sheriff’s Department to deposit money into inmates’ accounts’ rather than using a corrections officer to complete the transactions. The County will charge a small fee to use this service.

Dennis was selected as a voice to the Liquor Control Advisory Board. The Sheriff reported that they are trying to handle situations by phone in order to reduce mileage.

3. John Bush, Drain Commissioner, presented the 2011 Annual Report to the Board. (report on file in the Clerk's Office). The Annual Report was discussed at length. Bush reported that 84 drains were assessed this year, dams are inspected every 3 years (staggered) and that the Dam at Long Lake was inspected this year. In addition, Soil Erosion Permits are up this year.
4. Lynette Seiler, Director of the Commission on Aging, was accompanied by Mel Haga, Chairman of the Board for the Ionia Commission on Aging. Requests for service continue to increase, with meals being the highest service requested. A waiting list for services has been implemented. The Commission on Aging is looking into placing a Senior Millage on the ballot in August 2012. Through an M-DOT grant, COA was able to get four new vans, two being handicap equipped. The request for random drug testing for COA drivers and staff was discussed. COA updated the Board on the status of the repayment to the County on their \$90,000 loan.
5. No report was given for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.
6. District Court Judge Raymond Voet discussed specialty courts. Veterans' Court for Treatment and Recovery of Ionia (VCTRI) and Ionia Treatment and Sobriety Court (ITASC) and answered various questions from the Board.

The Chair called for a brief recess at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

B. Paid Time Off Accrual

Interim County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut, presented a handout to the Board discussing the lack of enforcement of county employees' paid time off since approximately 2002. Hurlbut presented a recommendation to the Board which would reduce the County's liability of compensated absences.

Commissioners' Banks, Tiejema and Mason were appointed to the Personnel Policy Committee. The committee is to research and bring back a recommendation to the Board before the first of the year.

C. Facilities Committee

Commissioners' Shattuck, Vroman and Banks were appointed to the Facilities Committee.

D. County Administrator Position

Discussions took place concerning the County Administrator position. The Board discussed whether to leave the position as an Administrator or change it to a County Controller or Chief Financial Officer. Further discussions included what the statutory requirements are for each position and if the Board should advertise for the position and go through the hiring process.

Interim County Administrator's Report

- 1.) Distributed information to the Board regarding a banquet and fundraiser for SMAT;
- 2.) Reported that ICEA is still looking for space in the Courthouse;
- 3.) Working on the 2011 Budget Amendment;
- 4.) Gave a brief update on the IT Department;
- 5.) Ron Schafer was appointed to the State Board Committee to ensure that the justice system is consistent across the state.

Moved by Banks, supported by Vroman to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on:
