

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2011
3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason (arrived at 3:43 p.m.), Lower, Vroman, Tiejema, Banks, Calley Banks and Shattuck

Others present: Tom Thelen, Craig Wheeler, Jim Valentine, Mary Ellen Snyder, Robert Bennett, Nancy Hickey, Lisa McCafferty, Stephanie Hurlbut, Lynette Seiler, Don Ransom, Sug Pinnow, Dale Miller, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of additional items

The Chair noted one additional item to be added under New Business. Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

The Chair opened up the first Public Comment period. No one addressed the Board.

Consent Calendar

1. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
2. Approve Closed Session minutes from April 26, 2011.

Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to add item 2 under the Consent Calendar and approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

The Closed Session minutes from April 26, 2011 were presented and reviewed by the Board. Hearing no objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

New Business

- A. Ionia County Treasurer, Nancy Hickey, requested the approval from the Board to implement a one-time payment of \$25,000 per bond issue for the services of Ionia County regarding the City of Ionia Water & Sewer Project. Discussion took place on changing the wording from "Ionia Water & Sewer Project" to "Infrastructure Projects." Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Infrastructure Project Fees in the amount of a one-time payment of \$25,000 per bond issues. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. County Administrator, Mark Howe, stated that several years ago, Meijer, Inc. appealed their assessment and won at the Tax Tribunal, which resulted in a loss for

Berlin Township and the County. Howe stated that Lowes' may be appealing their assessment as well. Howe stated the Board may want to appropriate funds to work with Berlin Township in defending the property tax that is being assessed. It was the consensus of the Board to look into the matter further.

- C. Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Animal Shelter Application for License with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and authorize the Chairman's signature. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Craig Wheeler, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with the Health Department, stated that the Health Department received a grant for a new generator. The generator currently being used at the Health Department would be installed at the Commission on Aging. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, to approve the Consulting Engineering Proposal contract between Consumers Energy and the County of Ionia and authorize the appropriate signatures. Questions were asked concerning the need for a new generator. Wheeler stated that the current generator has not been dependable in the past and due to the number of vaccines that must be refrigerated, it is important to have a generator that will work when needed. Wheeler also explained that the Commission on Aging would greatly benefit from a generator due to the amount of food that is prepared and kept at the COA.

Commissioner Lower requested that the vote be taken by roll call. The motion carried by roll call vote, with Lower and Calley voting no.

Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to use the specifications and guidance provided by Consumer's Energy to bid the generator project to eligible vendors according to Ionia County Purchasing Policy and Procedure (300.300). Motion carried by voice vote, with Calley and Lower voting no.

- E. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve funding, not to exceed \$32,000, to install a generator at the Commission on Aging, and authorize appropriate signatures. Lower requested the vote be taken by roll call. The motion carried by roll call, with Lower and Calley voting no.
- F. The position of Manager for the Animal Care & Control Department was discussed. Commissioner Tiejema stated he would like to see a public aspect component included in the position description since this position will be responsible for interfacing with other organizations for the adoption of the animals. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Manager job description that includes a public aspect component in the description and further approve filling the position at 40 hours a week. Questions were asked concerning the weekly hours for this position. Motion carried by voice vote, with Calley and Shattuck voting no.
- G. Moved by Mason, supported by Vroman, to adopt the amended and restated 457 (b) Nationwide Retirement Plan. Motion carried by voice vote.

- H. The Board acknowledged the PA 116 Farmland Agreements filed by Gary Powell for property located in Sebewa Township.
- I. Howe stated that the Planning Commission would like to start meeting monthly to work on updating the Ionia County Master Plan. If the Commission will be meeting on a monthly basis, Howe indicated that it would be necessary to increase the per diem and mileage line items. Moved by Vroman, supported by Lower, to recommend to the Planning Commission to keep meeting quarterly and have Commissioner Mason bring back a time line for updating the Master Plan. Motion carried by voice vote, with Mason voting no.
- J. Undersheriff, Dale Miller, requested authorization to apply for the COPS Grant, which Miller explained is a hiring program that provides for 100% funding for 36 months, including fringe benefits. Miller stated that this could be beneficial if the Board is considering laying people off at the Sheriff's Department. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to authorize the Sheriff's Department to apply for the COPS grant. Motion failed by voice vote.

County Administrator's Report

- 1. Stated the audit that will be forthcoming and will be on the agenda at the June 14th and June 28th board meetings;
- 2. Discussed preliminary numbers from last year's budget

The Chair opened up the second Public Comment period. No one addressed the Board.

The Chair called for a brief recess at 5:03 p.m. and reconvened at 5:07 p.m.

Moved by Banks, supported by Lower, to enter into Closed Session to discuss union negotiations. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

Moved by Banks, supported by Vroman, to adjourn Closed Session at 5:10 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:
