

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
March 20, 2012
4:00 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Lower, Vroman, Tiejema, Banks, Calley and Shattuck

Others present: Jim Valentine, Doug DeVries, Diane Adams, Lisa McCafferty, Jon Szerlag,
Barbara Trierweiler, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

A. Consideration of additional items

Moved by Vroman, supported by Lower, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

There was no public comment.

New Business

A. Doug DeVries, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, introduced himself and thanked the Board for their support.

B. Departmental Reports

1. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, discussed staffing at Central Dispatch, as well as, gave an update on the radio project. Valentine stated that as severe weather season approaches, his staff takes time to reacquaint themselves with the proper procedures/notifications.
2. Diane Adams, Register of Deeds, discussed the 2011 Annual Report for the Register of Deeds Office. Adams further discussed the recent project of scanning the deed books, the e-recording between the Treasurer's Office and Register of Deeds Office, working with the Equalization Department to put a process in place for putting parcel numbers on documents to be recorded; discussed gas leases, Sheriff Deeds and the Automation Fund as well.
3. Information Technology – written report only.

C. A lengthy discussion took place on whether the Board of Commissioners should continue taking the county's health insurance. Commissioners were given the opportunity to comment on this issue. Commissioner Lower supports eliminating the health insurance for Commissioners. Commissioner Vroman discussed the possibility of giving the Commissioners the option to buy in. Commissioner Tiejema stated that those Commissioners who have health insurance should be able to keep it (being grandfathered in) if the Board decides to eliminate the health insurance for incoming Commissioners. Commissioner Banks is in favor of keeping the health insurance and further stated he believes that this is an incentive to people who may choose to run as a Commissioner. Commissioner Mason concurred with Commissioner Bank. Commissioner Calley concurred with Commissioner Vroman. It was the consensus of the Board to put this matter on the next board agenda for Tuesday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m.

- D. Discussions took place concerning the Proposed Fund Balance Policy, which is being proposed to implement GASB 54. This issue will be put on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting as well.
- E. The Implementation of Fraud-Risk Policy was also discussed. Stephanie Hurlbut, County Administrator, stated that the two highlighted areas on the proposed policy were questioned by department heads. Commissioners commented on the proposed policy. Commissioner Shattuck requested that MMRMA take a look at the policy for any comments or suggestions they may have to offer.

Chairperson's Report

- 1. Will be absent for the Committee-of-the-Whole in April;
- 2. In the process of doing a group agreement concerning the gas leases, with the group agreeing to pay \$2 per acre toward a non-profit organization. This is still a work in progress.

Other Reports

Commissioner Lower commented on the newspaper article regarding the change in the law that now allows the county board to take over the local road commissions. Commissioner Lower would like to review this in Ionia County to see what the study comes up with.

Commissioner Vroman updated the Board on the Airport Board meeting and showed a picture of the new sign for the School of Missionary Aviation Technology.

County Administrator's Report

- 1. Property web information should be live by the end of the week.
- 2. Auditors are finishing up this week.
- 3. Scheduling interviews for legal counsel next week.

Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk