

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
**July 24, 2012**  
7:00 p.m.

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

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

Members absent: Mason and Shattuck

Others present: Tom Thelen, Karen Bota, Loren Gage, John Bush, Jim Valentine, Chad Murphy, Shirley Austin, Lynette Seiler, Deb Thalison, Ken Bowen, Mark Novak, Lisa McCafferty, Stephanie Hurlbut and Janae Cooper

**Approval of Agenda**

- A. Consideration of additional items

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

**Public Comment**

No one addressed the Board.

**Consent Calendar**

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of June 2012 - \$1,303,596.07
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund bills - \$118,691.35

Hearing no objections, the Vice - Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

**Unfinished Business**

- A. Moved by Lower, supported by Calley, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the PA 116 Farmland Agreement filed by Mary Jo Crossman, for property located in Ionia Township (local file number 12-004FA). Motion carried by voice vote.

## **New Business**

- A. Loren Gage, Park Manager, advised the Board that the county's current rule pertaining to firearms at Bertha Brock Park is unlawful. State law does not allow local governments to regulate the carrying of firearms except to prohibit the discharge of firearms. Gage has met with the Prosecutor to revamp the wording of Park Rule #6 in order to be compliant with state law. Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners table this matter until the Board has had the opportunity to review the law. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Lower, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners authorize hiring a driver and four In-Home Respite Aides at the Commission on Aging. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Lower, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopt the Resolution of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners – Ranney Lake. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

### **RESOLUTION OF THE IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

#### **RANNEY LAKE**

**WHEREAS**, the Ionia County Board of Commissioners is in receipt of a petition signed by 2/3 of the owners of lands abutting Ranney Lake, as required by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act in Part 307 (Inland Lake Levels), MCL 324.30701 *et seq.* The petition requests that a normal lake level for Ranney Lake be determined and established; and

**WHEREAS**, the seasonable variations of inflow and evaporation or other losses, combined with a lack of suitable control over outflow, causes the water level of Ranney Lake to vary to a degree which is harmful to the property owners' interests; and

**WHEREAS**, MCL 324.30703 provides that the County Board of Commissioners may require that a preliminary study be conducted by a licensed professional engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, MCL 324.30711 provides that the County Board of Commissioners may determine that a whole or part of the cost of a project to establish and maintain a normal level for an inland lake shall be defrayed by special assessment of those benefited, including privately owned lands under the jurisdiction and control of the Department of Natural Resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ionia County Drain Commissioner shall serve as the delegated authority under the

provision of Part 307 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, and shall cause a preliminary study to be conducted by a licensed professional engineer. After the preliminary study is completed, a copy shall be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners, and the Board will determine whether to resolve to initiate an action in Ionia County Circuit Court to have determined and established the normal level(s) of Ranney Lake pursuant to MCL 324.30704.

- D. County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut, presented the Board with a request to waive the Pension Plan Requirement for Social Security Disability Determination for employee Rick Perry per the recommendation of the County Attorney. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners waive the Ionia County Pension Plan requirement as set forth in Article 6, Section 6.5 of the Ionia County Pension Plan Document for Social Security Disability Determination for Rick Perry, and authorize disability pension benefits, effective June 13, 2012, contingent upon Perry filing an application. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Hurlbut requested approval to sign a county-wide five-year agreement with Government Payment Services (GPS), which would allow constituents the ability to pay costs, fines, taxes and fees via credit or debit card. Hurlbut stated that several county offices use GPS currently, however, this is an enhancement to the current program which would allow the credit/debit card to be “swiped” rather than the credit/debit card information being input manually. With the enhancement of this program, the card swipe devices come at no cost to the county and the fees charged to the constituents is at a reduced rate from the current rates. Chief Deputy County Clerk, Janae Cooper, briefly discussed the program as well and showed the device to the Board. Moved by Lower, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve a five-year agreement with Governmental Payment Services and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners approve the amendment to the Mid-South Substance Abuse Commission agreement that will incorporate the additional change in funding allocations received by the MSSAC region, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. Lisa McCafferty, Health Officer, presented a handout to the Board, requesting to fill a vacant Environmental Health Sanitarian II position. McCafferty stated there is an employee that passed an examination that would qualify him to move up to a Sanitarian II position. County Administrator Hurlbut also presented a handout to the Board of the 2012 Personnel Allocations which does not show an allocation for a Sanitarian II

position. Hurlbut advised the Board that several employees have requested experience credit, education experience or reclassification and have been denied. Moved by Calley, supported by Lower, to table this matter until more information is available and until a full board is present. Motion carried by voice vote.

**Public Comment**

No one addressed the Board.

Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.  
Motion carried by voice vote.

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James Banks, Vice Chair

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Janae K. Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk