

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
August 13, 2013  
4:00 p.m.

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

**Members present:** Lynn Mason, Larry Tiejema (left at 5:55 p.m.), Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

**Others present:** Ken Bowen, Sug Pinnow, Alva Fewless, Ron Cooper, Sue Cooper, Tom Thelen, Chris Kilgore, Mark Novak, Lacey Bull, Doug DeVries, Chris Gavitt, Mari Droste, Sharyn Overton, Julie Zeigler, Janice Ransom, Joe Cusack, Kathleen Rubie, Don Ransom, Karen Bota, Nancy Miller, Robert Cusack, Paul Spoelstra, Eric Cerling, Rhonda Lake, Christy Ray, Janae Cooper, Shirley Austin, Monte Starkweather, Juanita Mills, Jim Garrison, Jim Valentine, Dan Skiver, Barb Trierweiler, Ron Schafer, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

#### Approval of Agenda

Moved by Banks, supported by Mason, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### Public Comment

Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning an article in the Daily News. Juanita Mills and Christy Ray commented on the County Pension Plan. Jim Garrison, a resident, addressed the Board concerning a renting issue.

#### Consent Calendar

A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

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

#### New Business

A. Chair Calley presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Corrections Officer Ron Cooper who retired from the Ionia County Sheriff's Department after 28 years. Moved by Banks, supported by Mason, to adopt the Resolution of Appreciation. The Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The Resolution is as follows:

**RESOLUTION**  
2013 – 13

We gather here to pay tribute to Ronald Cooper who retired from the Ionia County Sheriff's Department as a Corrections Officer on July 24, 2013.

**WHEREAS**, Ron Cooper has served the Ionia County Sheriff's Department and the citizens of Ionia County with the highest degree of honor and distinction for twenty eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Cooper was chosen by his peers in the years of 1992 and 2012 as Corrections Officer of the Year; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Cooper was dedicated to his profession and highly respected as a Corrections Officer; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of his outstanding service to Ionia County, it is fitting and proper that Ron Cooper be highly commended.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners, by this Resolution, expresses its deep appreciation to Ron Cooper for his faithful and dedicated service and wishes him well in his future endeavors; and, that this Resolution be entered into the records of the Ionia County Board of Commissioners and a copy forwarded to Ron Cooper.

- B. Paul Spoelstra and Eric Cerling discussed the proposed changes to the County Pension Plan. The proposed changes included reducing the annual investment management fee to .37%, provide quarterly communication to employees via paycheck inserts for the next four quarters and provide the county employees with a Pension Estimator (excel based computer program). Former county employee, Barb Trierweiler and current county employees Shirley Austin, Monte Starkweather, Chris Gavitt, Connie Nash and Rhonda Lake voiced concerns regarding the current Plan. The Board was also given the opportunity to ask questions and voice their comments. After a lengthy discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to review the proposed changes and bring the discussion back to the table at the August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- C. Juvenile Court Referee, Monte Starkweather, discussed the Child Care Fund and requested \$800,000 again for 2014. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to approve \$800,000 for the Child Care Fund for 2014. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Dan Skiver, Vice-President of Public Employee Benefit Solutions (PEBS), discussed the latest update on the Health Care Reform Affordable Care Act and answered questions from the Board.

- E. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to approve the EGram Budget Amendment and authorize the signature of Ken Bowen, Acting Health Officer. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut, stated that the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund was paid more interest than what was earned by the Fund and because of the overpayment, the Michigan Department of Treasury requires a Deficit Elimination Plan be filed with the deficit being eliminated over a three year period. Moved by Banks, supported by Wirtz, to adopt the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund Deficit Elimination Plan. The resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote: yes – all. The resolution is as follows:

**Resolution To Adopt the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund  
Deficit Elimination Plan  
2013-14**

WHEREAS, the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund has a \$5,646 deficit fund balance on December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Act 275 of the Public Acts of 1980 requires that a Deficit Elimination Plan be formulated by the local unit of government and filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners adopts the following as the Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund Deficit Elimination Plan:

	2013	2014	2015
Fund Balance (Deficit January 1)	\$(5,646)	\$(3,646)	\$(1,646)
Revenue			
Investment Interest	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Total Revenue	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Expenditures			
Expenditure Control	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance (Deficit) December 31	\$(3,646)	\$(1,646)	\$354

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ionia County Treasurer will withhold Cemetery interest payments until the fund's corpus has been fully restored.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ionia County Board of Commissioners submits the Deficit Elimination Plan to the Michigan Department of Treasury for certification.

G. Budget Amendments

1. Marine Safety Budget – Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the budget amendment as presented for the Marine Safety Budget (2013). Motion carried by voice vote.
2. Alcohol & Tobacco Compliance Grant Budget – Moved by Mason, supported by Wirtz, to approve the budget amendment as presented for the Alcohol & Tobacco Compliance Grant. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson’s Report

1. The Board needs to start scheduling dates and times for the budget workshops.
2. The Equalization Director position is still open.

County Administrator’s Report

1. Updated the Board on FEMA regarding the flooding this past spring.

Other Reports

- Commissioner Mason updated the Board on the Rail Trail.
- Commissioner Cowling-Cronk went on an inspection with the Health Department.
- Commissioner Wirtz attended a MSU Extension meeting and stated that there is information and many programs available when buying a house.
- Commissioner Shattuck commented on the Facilities Study that was done.

Public Comment

Ron Cooper thanked the Board for the recognition on his retirement.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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Julie Calley, Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk

Board Minutes approved on: