

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 19, 2013
Committee-of-the-Whole
4:00 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Tiejema, Banks, Cowling-Cronk, Wirtz, Shattuck and Calley

Others present: Don Lehman, Dale Miller, Jim Valentine, Lisa McCafferty, Paul Spoelstra, Ken Bowen, Nancy Miller, Juanita Mills, Joan Nummer, Karen Bota, Mari Droste, Sharyn Overton, Don Ransom, Deb Thailson, Diane Adams, Barb Trierweiler, Ron Schafer, Judy Clark, Michael Tackett, Michael Overley, Eric Cerling, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

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

The Chair opened up the Public Comment period. Don Lehman with MSU Extension invited the Commissioners to a basketball game at Michigan State University.

Unfinished Business

A. Pension Discussion

Commissioner Tiejema created a spreadsheet to share with the Board that shows the differences between the current County Pension Plan and the MERS Pension Plan.

As a recap, Ron Schafer, who sits on the Pension Advisory Committee, stated the Committee has put many hours into meeting and discussing the pension plan. The Advisory Committee submitted a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners a while ago and Schafer requested the Board to take action on this matter soon.

An opportunity was given to Mike Tackett and Mike Overley with MERS and Paul Spoelstra with Milestone Wealth Management, and Eric Cerling, with Watkins, Ross & Co. to discuss each of the Plans and to touch on any of the areas/differences that Commissioner Tiejema set forth in his spreadsheet. The Commissioners were given the opportunity to ask questions. The Board thanked the representatives for the discussion.

The Chair called for a brief recess at 5:11 p.m. and reconvened at 5:16 p.m.

New Business

A. Department Reports

1. Buildings and Grounds – Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, presented a handout listing the 15 county owned buildings, the square footage of each building and the year each building was built. Included in his report, Ransom gave a brief background on the upkeep of these buildings. (A copy of this report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

2. Treasurer – Judy Clark, County Treasurer, discussed the Cash Balances General Ledger Report and the Cash Balances Balanced to Bank Accounts Reports found in the Commissioners’ board packets. Clark further stated that the transition period in the office is going smoothly and she would be coming back before the Board soon to discuss staffing in the office. Other areas of discussion included the Stabilization line item, forfeitures and foreclosures.

3. MSU Extension – Don Lehman was not present to give a verbal report. However, his written report could be found in the Board packet.

4. Sheriff’s Department – Sheriff, Dale Miller, introduced Denise Deschaine, Crime Victims Services Unit Coordinator. Deschaine discussed the services provided by the Crime Victims Services Unit and stated that in 2012, the unit received 54 calls. Provided in the Board packet was a listing of the types of calls the volunteers are asked to go out on. Deschaine stated that the volunteers in this group do not get paid a wage or reimbursement for mileage. The Sheriff continued discussions on a new law PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) and stated he was uncertain on how this new law will impact the jail. Miller further commented on new mandates for newly hired corrections officers and that things were moving forward in Community Corrections.

5. Health Department - Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Officer, discussed the Agency Report for February 19, 2013 Board of Health meeting (a copy of the report is on file in the Clerk’s Office). Deb Thailson discussed the Substance Abuse Initiative and Ken Bowen discussed restructuring fees and the need to clean up the Sanitary Code as many things are redundant throughout the Code.

Chairperson’s Report

The Board will need to start thinking about a permanent position for Animal Care and Control as the temporary position that is currently in place is only good through the end of March.

County Administrator’s Report

- 1) The Airport expansion is very nice;
- 2) The County Auditors will be coming this week;
- 3) Is preparing a Capital Fund presentation

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on: