

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 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: Lynn Mason, Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Members absent: Larry Tiejema

Others present: Robert VanLente, Doug DeVries, JoAnne Eakins, Laurie Brinks, Jim Valentine, Judy Clark, Sug Pinnow, Alva Fewless, Diane Adams, Karen Bota, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

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

New Business

A. Departmental Reports

1. **County Treasurer** – Treasurer, Judy Clark, presented the Cash Summary report. Clark stated that tax payments are coming in about the same as last year. Other items of discussion included tax rates, properties sold at auctions and the delinquent tax assistance program offered through MSU Extension.
2. **Central Dispatch** – Director, Jim Valentine, discussed the Smart911 Program. Valentine stated that a press conference is scheduled for November 21st at 9:00 a.m. at the Sunfield Fire Department.
3. **Emergency Management** – Doug DeVries with Emergency Management, discussed the recent storm that has left several Ionia County residents without power. DeVries also discussed the flooding that took place back in the spring and advised the Board that FEMA will not pay the full 25% match. Other items of discussion included Homeland Security activities, updating 41 hazmat sites in the County and flood plan mapping projects. (A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office).

- B. Stephanie Hurlbut, County Administrator, discussed a proposed 2% wage increase for non-union employees and those union employees that have not received an increase as well. Hurlbut stated that during the 2014 budget process, the BCBS health insurance expense was budgeted for \$2 million, which the actual expense is going to be \$1,780,519. Hurlbut recommended using the difference for the 2% wage increase. Each commissioner was given an opportunity to comment and voice their concerns, with Commissioner Banks and Shattuck voicing

concerns about using fund balance. Hurlbut stated that this issue will be brought to the November 26th meeting for further discussion and action.

Chairperson's report

- A) Reminded the Board that the County Administrator Evaluations are to be turned into the Chair.

County Administrator's report

- 1) The Cleveland Street Bridge will be re-opening this Friday and a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m.
- 2) There will be a Free Adoption Day for cats on November 27, 2013 at the animal shelter.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Shattuck, to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 p.m.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on
