

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee-of-the-Whole
October 15, 2013
4:00 p.m.

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

Members present: Jack Shattuck, Julie Calley, Scott Wirtz, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Larry Tiejema, Lynn Mason and Jim Banks

Others present: Curt Read, Dale Miller, Charlie Noll, Deb Thalison, JoAnn Eakins, Jim Valentine, Mel Haga, Bob Logan, Bert Gale, Rebecca McCafferty, Tony Smit, Ken Bowen, Ray Voet, Bob VanLente, Lynette Seiler, Ron Schafer, Stephanie Hurlbut and Janae Cooper

Public Comment

Rebecca McCafferty updated the Board on the 4-H Program.

Curt Read requested the County to consider establishing an internal controls program and requested more details on public comment be included in the minutes.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley noted no changes to the agenda. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. Tony Smit, Airport Manager, presented the Board with a Power Point presentation, discussing the improvements that were made to the airport in the past year and future projects. Smit reported that SMAT has 12 full-time staff and 30 students in the program, which are the maximum amount allowed. Smit also stated that this is the third year of their partnering with Heartlands.
- B. Departmental Reports
 1. Health Department – Ken Bowen, Interim Ionia County Health Officer presented the Board with several handouts. Bowen reported that there are no concerns with the government shut down.
 2. Building Codes – Bert Gale with the Ionia County Building Department introduced Bob Logan, as the new Building Inspector. Gale updated the Board with building permit numbers through the third quarter of this year. (A copy of this report is on file in the County Clerk's Office).
 3. Commission on Aging – Mel Haga, Commission on Aging Chairman and Lynette Seiler, Commission on Aging Director, informed the Board that the COA is celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. Haga further informed the Board that the COA's total services have increased by 5% in the past year.

4. District Court – Raymond Voet, 64-A District Court Judge, updated the Board regarding grants received for the Specialty Courts.
 5. Prosecuting Attorney – Ron Schafer, Ionia County Prosecutor, informed the Board that he has filled the vacant Assistant Prosecuting Attorney position. Schafer discussed funding the trend of specialty courts.
 6. Sheriff Department – Sheriff Dale Miller and Undersheriff Charlie Noll report on improvements made to the jail, the hiring of two new road deputies, issues with keeping part-time Jail Corrections Officers, the new canine training, deaths due to heroin, court security and the possibility of the board passing an ordinance regarding off-road vehicles.
- C. County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut discussed whether to have the County Health Officer report to the Board of Commissioners or to the County Administrator. Creating a Board of Health was also briefly discussed. The discussion on the Health Officer position will continue at a later date.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Mason reported that some rural areas of the Rails to Trails are experimenting with using crushed asphalt instead of limestone. Mason distributed handouts and discussed House Bill No. 4965, which discusses whether or not horse-drawn vehicles should be licensed, and that she attended the ICEA breakfast.

County Administrator's Report

Hurlbut stated that she will be meeting with Dan Skiver next week to finalize health insurance rates for 2014 and that she will be meeting with David Jager regarding the Equalization Department.

Moved by Mason, supported by Wirtz, to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Janae Cooper, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved on
