

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

September 10, 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, Jim Banks, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Scott Wirtz, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Others present: Tom Thelen, Bob VanLente, Ken Bowen, Melissa Eldridge, Paul Spoelstra, Jim Valentine, Joan Nummer, John Bush, Karen Bota, Joe Cusack, Barbara Trierweiler, Judy Clark, Kim Courtney, Christy Ray, Don Ransom, Juanita Mills, Walter Barnes, Adam Eisenman, Sharyn Overton, Frank Berrodin, Dale Miller, Ken Bowen, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

Chair Calley noted that item A. under New Business may have to be heard as the last item under New Business. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes from previous meeting(s)

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

Unfinished Business

- A. Paul Spoelstra discussed proposed amendments to the current Ionia County Pension Plan, which includes clarifying the death benefit by inserting the following phrase to the third sentence under Section 7.5: *(the monthly amount payable to said spouse shall be the amount that would have been payable had the participant survived until the chosen commencement date, elected the 100% survivor annuity with his/her spouse as the named beneficiary, and then died).*

In addition, Spoelstra further proposed amending the first sentence of Section 7.8 to read as follows: *If no death benefit is payable under any other section of the Plan, then upon the death of an active participant, a late retired participant, or a terminated participant, a death benefit in a lump sum will be paid to the participant's beneficiary.*

Discussion among the Board took place with concerns being voiced regarding the spouse receiving the death benefit rather than a child or another person.

Barb Trierweiler voiced her concern regarding the wording of the death benefit revision.

Moved by Shattuck, supported by Tiejema, to approve the proposed changes to Sections 7.5 and 7.8 of the Ionia County Pension Plan concerning the death benefit, subject to legal review. Motion carried by voice vote, with Cowling-Cronk voting no.

The next proposed amendment to the County Pension Plan was the retirement age of 62. Spoelstra proposed amending Article 7.2 of the Plan to add the following sentence at the end: *Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, if a participant has at least 8 years of Vesting Service, and retires from active employment under this Article 7.2 on or after attaining age 62, then he shall receive 100% of his Normal Retirement Benefit. This amendment is effective as of _____, 2013.*

Barb Trierweiler voiced her objection to this amendment.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to approve the proposed change to Article 7.2 of the Ionia County Pension Plan concerning the retirement age, subject to legal review. Motion carried by voice vote, with Banks and Calley voting no.

New Business

- A. County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut, introduced the Board to attorney Frank Berrodin and requested that the Board appoint Berrodin as the pension attorney. Hurlbut stated that the appointment is a one-year term. Moved by Mason, supported by Banks, to appoint Frank Berrodin as the County's pension attorney for a one year term. Motion carried by voice vote.

- B. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to approve the engagement letter with Watkins Ross & Co. relating to the services that will be provided in regard to the Ionia County Pension Plan. Commissioner Mason stated that Watkins, Ross & Co. should be attending meetings regardless of whether or not a representative is requested to attend. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the Resource Recovery Services Agreement between the County of Ionia and the Ionia Conservation District for resource recovery services for a three year period at a cost of \$20,000 annually, and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Tiejema, to approve the Grant Agreement between Michigan Department of Community Health FY 13/14 and Ionia County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Ionia County Health Department and authorize the signature of Ken Bowen, Acting Health Officer. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, introduced Adam Eisenman with Smart911, which is a public safety service that allows citizens to provide additional information to public safety officials during an emergency by creating a Safety Profile. Eisenman presented a Smart911 Power Point and answered questions from the Board. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Wirtz, to approve an agreement with Rave Wireless Inc. d/b/a Rave Mobile Safety to provide Smart911 service to the residents of Ionia County contingent upon approval of the county attorney and to further authorize the signature of the Chairperson. Motion carried by voice vote.
- F. Ionia County Sheriff, Dale Miller, requested to increase bed space at the jail by adding nine more beds as recommended by the Department of Corrections. Miller stated that the jail is overcrowded and even though the nine beds will not eliminate the overcrowding, the additional bed will help. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Wirtz, to increase the jail capacity to a total of 141 beds as recommended by the Department of Corrections. Motion carried by voice vote.
- G. Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Mason, to approve the Sheriff's Department budget amendment as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Calley reminded the Board of the upcoming budget meetings.

County Administrator's Report

- 1) Thanked the Board for approving the amendments to the Pension Plan.
- 2) Gave a brief flooding update
- 3) Reminded the Board of the County Employee picnic
- 4) The last meeting in September will be at the Belding Museum

Commissioner Shattuck stated that the townships are discussing a road millage.

Moved by Cowling-Cronk, supported by Banks, to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

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| Minutes approved on |
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