

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

September 24, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Belrockton Community Center - Belding

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, Jack Shattuck and Julie Calley

Members absent: Scott Wirtz

Others present: Jack Elliott, Judy Clark, Jim Valentine, Karen Bota, Bob VanLente, Roland Self, Diane Adams, Dale Miller, Don Ransom, Ken Bowen, Frank Bednarek, Derek Elliott, 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

Jack Elliott commented on the demolishing of historical buildings. Derek Elliott commented on preserving historical buildings.

Did You Know?

Commissioners' Mason, Tiejema and Cowling-Cronk stated facts of interest.

Consent Calendar

- A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)
- B. Approve per diem and mileage
- C. Approve payment of General Fund payroll and accounts payable for the month of August 2013 - \$1,613,010.82
- D. Approve payment of Health Fund Bills - \$122,673.34

Commissioner Tiejema requested to pull the September 17, 2013 board minutes from the Consent Calendar for discussion. Hearing no further objections, the Chair declared the remaining items on the Consent Calendar approved.

Commissioner Tiejema requested that the September 17, 2013 board minutes under the Departmental Reports for the Park reflect that Easton Township donated \$5,000 to the Park Fund. Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the amended September 17, 2013 board minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

Unfinished Business

- A. Commission on Aging Board – Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to appoint Mel Haga and Ojar Smits to the Commission on Aging Board for three-year terms. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. As previously discussed at the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting, Stephanie Hurlbut, County Administrator, requested approval for the redesign of the County’s website. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve the bid from Bevelwise for the amount of \$14,119 for the redesign of the County website and to approve offsite hosting of the website at a cost of \$19.95 per month, and further to authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. Moved by Shattuck, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the amended agreement for the electronic monitoring services that extend the contract through September 30, 2014. Motion carried by voice vote.
- B. Sheriff, Dale Miller, discussed the purchase of a new canine for the Sheriff’s Department. Miller stated that funds have been raised through contributions to purchase the new canine and to provide basic training for the K-9 team. Sheriff Miller recognized the following individuals for their contributions: Jack Shattuck/Shattuck Farms, Jessica Nagle Wilson Charitable Fund, Michigan One Community Credit Union, Thomas and Barbara Fagerlin of Belding, Belding Elementary students who sold “puppy chow” and TRW from Portland. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve an agreement between the County of Ionia/Ionia County Sheriff’s Department and Vigilant Canine Services International, LLC to provide a police canine and training for the K-9 team. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Commissioner Tiejema, also a member of the Address Appeal Board, stated there have been a considerable number of county residents that have been required to change their address in accordance with the Ionia County Address Ordinance. Tiejema advised the Board that approximately 50 residents have appealed the change of their address and a few have complained about having to purchase a new reflective address sign because of the change in their address. Tiejema proposed having the County purchase the replacement signs for \$20 per sign contingent upon the resident turning in their old address sign to the Equalization Department. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, to authorize the County of Ionia to replace the numbered address signs at \$20 per sign for all residents that have been required by the County to change their address, upon the resident submitting proof to the Equalization Department. Commissioners were given an opportunity to voice their comments and concerns. Chair Calley called for a vote by a show of hands: Yes votes: Mason, Tiejema and Banks. No votes – Cowling-Cronk, Shattuck and Calley. The motion died due to a tie vote.
- D. Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the budget amendment for the Health Department that adjusts the FTE for the Social Worker position. Motion carried by voice vote.
- E. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, discussed the two buildings on the Main Street Property (county owned) that for safety and liability reasons, need to be demolished. The State of Michigan has obtained quotes for the removal of the buildings with the bid

award going to Superior Environmental Corp for \$13,006. Ransom stated that an additional \$1,400 will be added on if Superior has to return to the site, which he does not foresee happening. In addition, Ransom stated that there could be further costs due to asbestos and abatement costs. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Mason, to authorize the demolition of the two buildings on the Main Street property at a cost of \$13,006, with additional costs for asbestos and abatement costs, with funds to come from the General Fund Designated and to authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

- F. Frank Bednarek who has been working as the facilities planner, presented and discussed the Ionia County Space Planning Summary and Draft. According to the Summary, the short term plan would be to relocate the Friend of the Court to the garden level of the courthouse. The second option would be to build a new office building located between the Sheriff's Department and the Health Department that would house the administrative operations of the County as well as the Drain Commissioner, Equalization and Maintenance. The third option presented would be to remodel the former jail building. Ransom was asked for his comments and recommendations.

Moved by Banks, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adopt option two from the recommendation of the Facilities Committee, which is outlined in the Facilities Committee minutes from September 10, 2013, to remodel the former jail into offices. Commissioner Tiejema voiced his concerns regarding the budget and stated he was not in favor of voting for this until a budget analysis was done. Commissioner Banks discussed his motion and then moved to amend the motion, supported by Cowling-Cronk, that the Board of Commissioners take a position on the recommendations presented by the Facilities Committee and to approve option 2 which would be to remodel the former jail into offices, subject to further costs such as floor level and asbestos abatement. Chair Calley called for a vote on the amended motion by a show of hands: Yes votes: Mason, Banks and Cowling-Cronk. No votes: Tiejema, Calley and Shattuck. Motion died due to a tie vote.

Chair Calley stated that the Board needed to make a decision on the location in order to give Bednarek a starting point. Moved by Mason, supported by Shattuck, to have the facilities planner, Frank Bednarek, provide to the Board a plan for remodeling the former jail and a plan for a new building on the former jail site. Motion carried by a show of hands.

- G. Hurlbut informed the Board that there are approximately 300 property appraisals that still need to be done in order to complete the annual sales study and requested the approval of a contract with David and Brian Jager for the appraisals. Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to approve the contract with David and Brian Jager for equalization consultant, assessment and administration services for the completion of the annual equalization reports and authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- H. Hurlbut stated that the State of Michigan requires counties to employ Equalization Directors that are certified by the State Tax Commission as Level 3 Assessors or are overseen by a Level 3 Assessor. The County is still in the process of filling the Equalization Director position and in the interim, Hurlbut requested the Board to contract with David Jager, who is certified as a Level 4 Assessor, for Equalization Director Services. Moved by Mason, supported by Tiejema, to approve the contract with

David Jager for the Equalization Director services at an amount not to exceed \$14,400 and to authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairperson’s Report

- 1) Discussed the meeting with the State regarding the vacant Equalization Director position.

County Administrator’s Report

- 1) Reminded the Board of the budget workshop meeting on September 25th

Public Comment

Jack Elliott commented on the court security and the old jail building.

Moved by Mason, supported by Cowling-Cronk, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Julie Calley, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on