

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
August 9, 2011
3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Mason, Lower, Vroman, Tiejema, Banks, Calley and Shattuck

Others present: Lisa McCafferty, Mary Ellen Snyder, Jack Elliott, Tom Thelen, Jason Eppler, Rick Norman, Mike LaVean, Don Lehman, Loren Gage, Darlene Thompson, Don Ransom, Brent Schipper, Bob Cusack, Jon Szerlag, Ken Thompson, Ron Schafer, Dwain Dennis, Jessica Wierckz, Suzanne Hoseth-Kreeger, Carolyn King, Anna Marie Bower, Stephanie Hurlbut and Tonda Rich

The Chair noted one additional item to be added under Unfinished Business. Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott addressed the Board concerning the single point of entry to the courthouse and the Land Bank Authority. Bob Cusack addressed the Board concerning appraisals/property values.

Consent Calendar

A. Approve minutes of the previous meeting(s)

Absent any objections, the Chair declared the Consent Calendar approved.

Unfinished Business

A. Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Officer, presented the Board with the proposed Ionia County Animal Control Ordinance. McCafferty discussed the changes to the ordinance that were requested at the last board meeting. McCafferty indicated that the county attorney reviewed the Ordinance and upon his feedback, as well as, other entities and individuals, she is therefore presenting the proposed ordinance as a final copy. Moved by Mason, supported by Banks, to adopt the Ionia County Animal Control Ordinance and to repeal any prior animal control ordinance. Commissioners' voiced their comments and concerns regarding different sections throughout the ordinance. Motion carried by roll call vote, with Commissioner Lower voting no.

McCafferty presented the Board with a handout on animal bite statistics in Ionia County.

- B. Suzanne Hoseth-Kreeger, Rick Norman and Dwain Dennis, on behalf of the committee for court security, presented a detailed cost breakdown to establish a single point of entry into the courthouse. Attached to the cost breakdown were two bids. Kreeger and Norman answered various questions from the Board, with Norman explaining that the proposal is to have the single point of entry located at the east entrance in the basement of the courthouse. Norman further explained that the front doors, both the Main Street and Washington Street doors, would no longer be used for entry or exiting of the building. Moved by Banks, supported by Lower, to approve the courthouse single point of entry, as proposed, at a capital cost not to exceed \$50,000, provided that the third quote that is forthcoming, if a lesser amount, will be used. Tiejema moved to amend the motion to include getting another bid for decoration purposes. Sheriff Dennis discussed staffing. Court security currently is made up of 1 ½ individuals, and it is likely that it will take up to three personnel, not only to work the single point of entry, but to also have an officer available for the courts.

Commissioner Tiejema stated he would not be voting in favor of the motion due to the County Policy requiring three bids. The Chair called for a vote on the motion. Motion carried by voice vote, with Tiejema voting no.

- C. Moved by Mason, supported by Lower, to approve the MSHDA Grant (homebuyer grant program), for homes located in the City of Ionia. Motion carried by voice vote.

New Business

- A. Carolyn King, Anna Marie Bower (DNR Rep) and Jason Eppler gave a presentation on the Rail Trail. Eppler stated that he is working on the grant for the Saranac/Lowell section of the trail. Bower explained how the funding works for the Rail Trail, which currently 27% are private funds from The Meijer Foundation, 71% comes from federal and state grants and 2% is from local match funds. The group stated they would need help with the 2% funding and discussed why local participation is so important to this project.
- B. Moved by Tiejema, supported by Calley, to approve the Speech Therapy Referral Service Agreement between the Ionia County Health Department and the school districts of Ionia County, and to authorize appropriate signatures. Motion carried by voice vote.
- C. Moved by Mason, supported by Vroman, to approve the budget amendment for the Sheriff's Department to establish a revenue budget for the Byrne Grant. Motion carried by voice vote.
- D. A discussion took place concerning the Planning Commission meetings. Commissioner Mason stated that the Board recommended that the Planning

Commission meet quarterly and to also work on updating the County's Master Plan. As of this date, the Commission has already expended \$200 more than their budget allowed. It was the consensus of the Board to hold off meeting for the rest of the year.

- E. Interim County Administrator, Stephanie Hurlbut, presented two budget recommendations to the Board for their review. Hurlbut answered various questions and stated that budget meetings will be scheduled with department heads soon.

Interim County Administrator's Report

- 1. Hurlbut stated that there is an open position in the Treasurer's Office, which the Treasurer and Equalization Departments are discussing the possibility of sharing an employee rather than filling the open position. In addition, Hurlbut stated that there is no plan to fill the receptionist position in Juvenile Court and the ICCFCC Coordinator has resigned her position effective August 15th.

Public Comment

Jack Elliott discussed the Planning Commission, court security and the dog ordinance. Bob Cusack gave a brief comment on the court security.

Moved by Lower, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:
