

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 18, 2011
Committee-of-the-Whole
3:30 p.m.

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

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

Others present: Don Lehman, Stephanie Hurlbut, Tom Thelen, Nancy Hickey, Don Ransom, Jim Valentine, Lisa McCafferty, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

Approval of Agenda

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Vroman, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comment

Shattuck opened up the Public Comment period. No one addressed the Board.

New Business

1. MSU Extension Director, Don Lehman, discussed the land-grant mission at MSU and answered questions from the Board.
2. Lehman stated that rather than having a MSU Council in every county, the Councils are now being formed district wide and requested a county commissioner be a part of the District 8 Council. Commissioners' Tiejema and Lower voiced an interest in serving on this council. The appointment to the MSU District 8 Council will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
3. County Treasurer, Nancy Hickey, reviewed quarterly reports and stated she was looking for suggestions from the Board on how to make the reports easier to understand. Hickey further noted that she is required by statute to report quarterly; however, Hickey stated that if her reporting date was moved, it would give her a little more time to have all of the information in, which would make her reporting to the Board more accurate.
4. Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, discussed going to a different gas supplier as a cost savings to the County, and further noted he was in the final phase of switching the light bulbs throughout the county buildings as another cost savings to the County.
5. Central Dispatch Director, Jim Valentine, updated the Board on the status of the PSIC Grant project; discussed the Automatic Vehicle Locator System for all marked police patrol units in the County; discussed the Radio Base Replacement project, as well as, the fiber optic connectivity project.
6. Commissioners' began a discussion concerning information the Board would like from Department Heads when they report at the Committee-of-the-Whole meetings. County Administrator, Mark Howe, referred to the list of suggestions that were in the Board packet.

After some discussion, Howe stated he would re-vamp the suggestions and send them out to department heads.

Chairperson's Report

1. Commissioner Mason had surgery on a finger and was not feeling well to attend today's meeting.
2. Would like to see the board meetings go in a more orderly fashion and made a suggestion on how to achieve this by giving each Commissioner the opportunity to speak once before being allowed to speak again on the issue.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Lower requested a discussion be put on the next agenda concerning putting the county budget and the Board's By-Laws on the website.

Commissioner Tiejema would like to discuss/recognize a Commission on Aging employee who worked on a food service grant for the Commission on Aging and would like this on the next agenda.

County Administrator's report:

1. Discussed the Budget Plan and sent out a copy of a worksheet to each member;
2. MMRMA discussion;

Commissioner Lower requested that the \$180,000 budget proposal be done for next meeting.

3. A comprehensive board update is forthcoming that will list things that were accomplished in 2010 and the things that are still outstanding;
4. Discussed the Veteran's Counselor position and the possibility of Commission on Aging taking this over;
5. A County Finance Committee is not required; however, in his research, Howe stated that the Board can create this Committee and designate them to make the Board's financial decisions.
6. Howe stated that he would not be at the next board meeting.

Moved by Lower, supported by Vroman, to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jack Shattuck, Chair

Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on: _____