

IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Committee-of-the-Whole  
**March 15, 2011**  
3:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Vroman, Tiejema, Banks, Calley, Mason (arrived at 3:37 p.m.) and Banks

Members absent: Shattuck

Others present: Tom Thelen, Joel Palmer, Sr., Lisa McCafferty, Brent Schipper, Loren Gage, Diane Adams, Gregg Yeomans, Stephanie Hurlbut, Don Jandernoa, Mark Howe and Tonda Rich

### **Approval of Agenda**

#### **A. Consideration of additional items**

1. County Administrator, Mark Howe, requested three items be added under Executive Session: 1) discuss attorney-client letter 2) Union negotiations for Deputies and 3) Union negotiations for District Court

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

### **Public Comment**

- Joel Palmer, Sr., commented on the Road Commission.
- Mark Howe updated the Board on Chair Shattuck and stated that he was doing much better and hopefully will be released from the hospital this week.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Planning Commission Report**

Gregg Yeomans discussed the duties that the Planning Commission is charged with. In addition, Yeomans discussed the Master Plan and future plans for the Commission. No written report was given.

#### **B. Parks and Recreation Report**

Loren Gage, Park Manager, updated the Board on the Park. Items of discussion included reservations at the park, the park maintenance position, purchasing of a dump truck and forestry management. No written report was given.

#### **C. Register of Deeds Report**

Diane Adams, Register of Deeds, presented an overview of revenue that was taken in at the Register of Deeds Office since the year 2000. Adams discussed projects and

upcoming projects her office is working on and answered questions from the Board. Copies of the report are on file in the Clerk's Office.

**D. Information Technology Report**

Brent Schipper, Ionia County IT, discussed projects and upcoming projects that are being worked on around the County including the fiber optic project, BSA software upgrade and the phone system upgrade at Central Dispatch. Copies of the report are on file in the Clerk's Office.

**E. Buildings & Grounds Report**

Physical Plant Director, Don Ransom, gave a brief update on maintenance being done around the county facilities and answered questions from the Board. No written report was given.

**F. Central Dispatch Report**

The written report was presented to the Board from Central Dispatch. Due to the absence of the Director, no discussion took place. A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

**G. Community Mental Health Report**

Susan Meager, Chairperson and Bob Lathers, Chief Executive Officer from Ionia County Community Mental Health presented the Board with the 2010 Report and answered questions from the Board. A copy of the report is on file in the Clerk's Office.

**County Administrator's Report**

A. Howe indicated that the County Auditors are here for the annual audit.

Vice Chair Lower called for a brief recess at 4:33 p.m. and reconvened at 4:40 p.m.

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to enter into Closed Session at 4:40 p.m. to discuss an attorney-client letter. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

(Commissioner Vroman left at 5:05 p.m.)

Moved by Mason, supported by Banks, to adjourn Closed Session at 5:47 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Mason, supported by Banks, to enter into Closed Session at 5:49 p.m. to discuss union negotiations regarding the deputy unit. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes –all.

Moved by Banks, supported by Calley, to adjourn Closed Session at 5:50 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Tiejema, supported by Banks, to enter into Closed Session at 5:50 p.m. to discuss union negotiations regarding District Court. Motion carried by the following roll call vote: yes – all.

Moved by Banks, supported by Tiejema, to adjourn Closed Session at 5:55 p.m. and return to regular session. Motion carried by voice vote.

Moved by Banks, supported by Calley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote.

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James Lower, Vice Chair

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Tonda Rich, Clerk

Minutes approved on:

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