STANTON — If your New Year’s resolutions included attending more Montcalm County Board of Commissioners meetings — but you work a day job — you’re in luck.

Commissioners voted 8-1 during Tuesday’s annual organizational meeting to start meeting at 6 p.m. each month for full board meetings, instead of the usual 1:30 p.m. meeting time. All full board meetings take place the fourth Monday of each month, with the exception of December, which will take place the third Monday due to Christmas.

Commissioner committee meetings will continue to meet on second Mondays in the morning. All meetings take place on the third floor of the Montcalm County Administrative Building (old courthouse) in Stanton.

Commissioner Ron Baker of Howard City cast the lone opposing vote against changing the meeting time from afternoon to evening.

“I think half and half would make more sense,” he said. “I would support 1:30 half the time and 6 half the time. That might confuse some people, but maybe we could alternate on odd and even months. I would like to see some meetings available during the day so people who work here or people who want to visit . . . we’ve been down this road before and we had fewer people at night than we did during the day.”

“We had no people at night,” agreed Commissioner Patrick Q. Carr of Lakeview.

“I think we’re going to confuse so many people by saying it’s this time this month and another time another month,” observed Commissioner Ron Retzloff of Crystal Township. “We should do all one time or the other.”

The motion to move full board meetings from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. was approved 8-1.

“I really appreciate the time change,” said Commissioner Betty Kellenberger of Carson City. “I think as a public body we need to meet so people can come, which is really difficult when we meet at 1:30. I do think it’s a good move.”

Also during Tuesday’s organizational meeting, commissioners unanimously re-elected Carr as chairman and Retzloff as vice chairman for the next two years, adopted bylaws and rules of procedure, and approved appointments to the county’s five main committees as follows:

• Collective Bargaining Committee: Retzloff as chairman, Tom Linderman as vice chairman, Carr and Ron Braman as members, John Johansen and Kellenberger as alternates. This committee meets with bargaining units of county employees.

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At left, Patrick Q. Carr of Lakeview, seated, visits with Commissioner Ron Retzloff of Crystal Township, Robert Clinigerpeel and Commissioner John Johansen of Montcalm Township after Tuesday morning’s organizational meeting. At right, new Montcalm County Sheriff Mike Williams hands out his business cards to members of the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners.