

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 6, 2020

Present: Jim Curran, Chair
Michael Majerek, Vice Chair
Chris Heugel
Don Meeks Sr.

Absent:

Scheduled: Sheriff Bailey, BCSD
Bill Wolf, County Administration
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

Others: Lt. Greg Sanders, BCSD
Ben Glynn, FBI
Tony Benhart, Public
Darren Schaer, Public
John Meyer, Public
Rich Vavra-Musser, Public
Jerry Sirk, Public

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Majerek, supported by Meeks, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting.
Motion Carried.

Sheriff's Update

Sheriff Bailey introduced Lt. Greg Sanders. They, along with Ben Glynn of the FBI, will be speaking to PHSC regarding the FBI deputy request. He reviewed the January jail statistics and discussed the current upgrades to the jail. He reported the kitchen area is complete and kitchen staff is happy. Due to the construction, the breathalyzer system in St. Joseph is down. If a deputy suspects someone is intoxicated, they have the choice of either taking them to the hospital for a blood draw or down to the Niles State Police station that has equipment. Most opt for the local hospital. While reviewing the snowmobile unit stats, he stated all equipment is ready for use. They also have a fully enclosed, heated ambulance snowmobile. They have had it for several years and is still in working order to be used if necessary.

Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott

Curran asked Wolf why the current resolutions have today's date for the full Board. Wolf reminded the Committee that these resolutions were discussed two weeks ago when Elvin Gonzalez addressed them. Discussions ensued regarding Senior Center funding and services. Elliott stated there was never any intention for the millage to be the single source of funding. Wolf will be asking the Chair to select an interview committee for the 911 Director opening. Elliott would like the same committee to interview for the Public Defender's position as well. Elliott informed the Committee there are copies of the draft resolution regarding the 2nd Amendment without case file references. Copies will be available for the public as well.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were approved and signed:

A2002153 – Approve agreement for sustaining the Functional Family Therapy Program for 2020.

A2002156 – Approve agreement for Family Empowerment Services to provide Parenting with Love and Limits/Reentry programs for 2020.

A2002157 – Approve agreement for Family Empowerment Services to provide the STAR program for 2020.

A2002160 – Authorize LEPC Chairperson to sign the FY19-20 grant application.

A2002165 – Authorize Forensic Lab Agreement with Andrews University for 2020.

A2002166 – Authorize Animal Control to submit grant application to MPFA for trap-neuter-return program for stray cats.

A2002167 – Authorize process to transfer ownership, operation and maintenance responsibilities of non-motorized path along S. Roosevelt Road in Lincoln Charter Township.

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – He met with the safety director with MDOT and the “no turn on red” sign at McDonald’s is not a legal sign. It was put there years ago at the request of the Mall owners. The safety director denied requesting to not build the bridge. The governor is putting us in debt for years with the road bonding and it’s all going to state trunk lines. \$60M has already been spent for a highway around Lansing.

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – He is concerned the Board is rushing into the Resolution on the 2nd Amendment. Will it affect residents, churches or businesses? We aren’t sure of the ramifications this will have. Why are we jumping in to it? He would like the Board to sit on it for 2 to 3 months to see what the State does.

John Meyer, St. Joseph Charter Township – He wrote a letter to the editor of the Herald Palladium two weeks ago regarding the 2nd Amendment Resolution. What is the benefit? It seems to just reiterate or restate what the County already does. Is this a compromise position? Assault weapons are not the biggest issue.

Rich Vavra-Musser, Lincoln Charter Township – He echoed the comments already said.

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township – He agrees with the previous comments as well.

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent