

**BERRIEN COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Board of Commissioners Room – Admin Center**  
**Held Virtually Due to Covid-19**  
**Minutes of September 24, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Mamie Yarbrough, Chairperson (Via Zoom)  
Robert Harrison, Vice Chairman (Via Zoom)  
Ezra Scott (Via Zoom)  
Jon Hinkelman (Via Phone)

**Others present:** County Administrator Brian Dissette, Executive Assistant Annette Christie, Building and Grounds Superintendent Todd Johnson, Undersheriff Chuck Heit, Automotive Fleet Manager Tod Rainey, and Community Development Director Dan Fette.

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

**Building & Grounds Superintendent Todd Johnson** – Current work is being done on the roof at the Courthouse. While the work was being done, core samples were taken and through that process, they discovered some wet areas where the ISO board needed to be replaced. It will add an additional amount of \$17,023 to the repair. Motion by Commissioner Scott, supported by Commissioner Harrison to authorize the additional funds for the Courthouse roof repair in the amount of \$17,023. Roll call vote, (4) yays, (0) nays. Motion carried.

**Undersheriff Chuck Heit** – At the request of the Finance Committee, the Undersheriff came to Finance to update them on the Marine Division inventory. There are currently (2) lake boats operational – a 2005 Sea Ark that was 100% grant funded, however, it will need new motors next year and that is a 2021 capital project request; a 2011 25' Safe Boat that was 50% grant funded; the 17' Boston Whaler that was being used on Paw Paw Lake but is out of service; a 1994 Carolina Skiff that was a gift from Cass County and most recently a 2018 Rescue 1 River boat – a water rescue boat that was a 100% capital project through the public safety funds. They also have (4) personal watercraft that were 100% donation and a Mercury dinghy that was a gift from Wolf's with a motor that the Sheriff's office paid for. The Sheriff noted that the Safe Boat received through donations from the Cook Plant.

**Automotive Fleet Manager Tod Rainey** – Due to an accident, the fleet is one more squad car down. In a follow up from a previous discussion with the Finance Committee, production times are taking much longer on vehicles and therefore, he requested that they order the replacement now with an estimated delivery date sometime in February. In addition, Tod asked if Finance would consider ordering a seventh patrol vehicle now that would provide a spare vehicle for when there is service being completed, etc. Commissioners Harrison and Hinkelman expressed support for ordering (7) vehicles now. Commissioner Harrison made the motion to purchase a total of (7) squad cars for the fleet, supported by Commissioner Scott. Roll call vote, (4) yays, (0) nays. Motion carried.

**Minutes approval:**

Motion by Commissioner Harrison, support from Commissioner Scott to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

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**County Administrator Brian Disette** – Brian spoke to the discussion that would take place at the BOC meeting regarding broadband. He will be looking for action to contract with Merit Network for a survey study on internet in Berrien County. The cost is \$28,500. He also spoke to the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held the day before where they will be recommending to the Board of Commissioners that Edgewater Resources be selected to put together a design concept for addressing the shoreline erosion problem at Silver Beach County Park. Commissioner Scott wanted it noted that the owner's wife is appointed to the Land Bank Authority.

**Resolutions:** Community Development Director Dan Fette addressed the Finance Committee about Resolution F2010333 which would be coming before the full board next week. The resolution is to accept Community Development Block Grant funds related to the CARES Act. A public hearing will be held prior to the vote of the BOC.

The Commissioners reviewed the following resolutions:

- F2009048 Weekly Bills

**Public Comments:**

Commissioner Teri Freehling asked about the BUILD Grant for Transportation. Dan Fette addressed that discussion.

Tony Benhart of Sodus Township asked about the process for releasing funds connected to road work that is completed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Annette Christie*