

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 06, 2022

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson
David Vollrath
Julie Wuerfel

Absent: Don Meeks, Vice Chairperson

Others: Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator
Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Mac Elliot, BOC Chair
Kevin Stack, Interim Road Department Director
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes of December 16, 2020 Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Vollrath with support from Commissioner Wuerfel to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 meeting.

County Administrator Brian Dissette – spoke about the Abonmarche/Pearson facilities study – and was seeking input for the best way to receive that report. It was suggested that the Committee of the Whole meeting might be the best place with an adjusted or cancelled committee meeting schedule. He suggested that the Juvenile Center and the Berrien General Hospital are the two areas that will require in depth conversation. Discussion ensued.

Discussion about the Strategic Plan presentation from Jim Hettinger was held including the use of ARPA funds. The Administrator will be seeking an acceptance or adjustments to that plan in the very near future. There was also discussion about the OSHA rule regarding workplace requirements of vaccination, masking, and/or testing for COVID that is pending with the Supreme Court.

Kevin Stack addressed the Admin Committee about two drain projects that the Road Department will end up owing a good amount of funds on. A previous arrangement with the Drain Office will result in the Road Department owing \$250,000 for the work done on the Beebe Drain and a good amount for the work being done on the Sober Becker Drain. Kevin said he has put the payment on hold for the work to be completed so that we know what the actual cost is to us.

Resolutions

A2201166 – Authorizes grant application where funds would be aimed at reducing racial and ethnic disparities with a specific focus regarding youth in the Juvenile Justice system. Commissioner Wuerfel would like additional information on how the funds will be used if they are awarded to us. Annette will get additional information and provide it to all of the

Administration Committee. Commissioner Wuerfel will consider signing it before it goes to the full BOC next week.

A2201167 – Authorize grant application for mental health/substance abuse issues regarding youth in the Juvenile Justice system.

A2201168 – Contract with Chris Cook for consulting work related to the Road Department operations.

A2201169 – Authorizes changes in the functional classifications of a few alleys that are no longer maintained as public roads.

A2201170 – Authorizes changes in the functional classification of a public road not open.

A2201171 – Approve a traffic control order as a result of a previously approved speed study.

A2201172 – Approve a traffic control order as a result of a previously approved speed study.

Resolution A2201161 (Wellpath contract amendment #6) could possibly come before the Administration Committee with full BOC action on the same day next week. The requisition was already approved for funding of their services in 2022 but it is also necessary to have a resolution authorizing the amendment. A discussion ensued with Undersheriff Chuck Heit regarding the services.

Reporting Schedule

Chairman Curran led a discussion about the departments that report to the Administration Committee and the schedule for those reports. The consensus was that they would like to increase the Road Department reporting to monthly and make sure that everyone who is reporting to them comes before them at least comes once a year.

Public Comments

Michael Haskins - Pipestone Township: We have \$14 million dollars sitting in contingency for the Road Department. Please fix the roads. He also questioned Re-location of a garage.

Tony Benhart – Sodus Township: County Road Association says that you cannot put the County Administrator in charge of the Road Dept. He said the subdivision streets are part of the lane miles of Berrien County Roads and should be treated just like all others, deserve the same approach that all other roads do. He said it has been 6-7 years that sub-divisions were put last. Commissioner Wuerfel commented that they are getting to them faster and she is pleased with the time frame that her subdivision is being plowed during a snow event.

Meeting adjourned 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Christie