

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 3, 2022

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson
Don Meeks Sr.
David Vollrath, Vice Chair
Julie Wuerfel

Absent:

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Mac Elliott, BOC Chairman
Sheriff Bailey, BCSD
Chief Deputy Boyce, BCSD

Others:

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:17 am.

Q & A – Dissette & Elliott

Dissette updated on the Public Defender's Office building that was hit 5 times by a vehicle. It appears random and not related to the Public Defender. There was minimal damage to the Defender's offices. Since it is a rented building, the property owner is going through the repair process. Jancha is going to have social workers work with the woman, but will use a contract lawyer to represent her. He noted they are making good progress on the Buchanan building. The City Zoning code will allow modifications through a Special Use Permit. The walk through is scheduled next week with the City Manager, Police Chief and Building Inspector. Pearson Construction has provided information on what can be done at different price points. The intention is to use ARPA funds and the Delinquent Tax Fund.

Regarding the juvenile center, Dissette stated they are working with the architecture team. He expects a proposal next week for the site planning. They intend to use a local contractor for both planning and construction. They are also actively pursuing having Sacred Heart located by the new juvenile facility.

Dissette reported the 911 dispatcher that had been battling COVID has passed. There will be a memorial.

Meeks requested that staff should be recognized. Discussions ensued.

Sheriff's Update – Bailey & Boyce

Bailey reviewed the February numbers, which included 303 lodged. There are zero COVID cases. He noted they have a separate dorm for 14 day quarantines. The employee that runs all the UV equipment and does the sanitizing has been a tremendous help. Bailey is working with Robert Ray to see about moving medical to a separate area, possibly switching out the gym into a medical wing. It will take approximately 4 to 5 years of planning and construction. Bailey discussed repainting of the entire facility due to rust. He noted the receiving area doors have been replaced. The old mobile command unit sold for approximately \$6,000. He will pick up the Paw Paw Lake boat soon. Discussions ensued regarding the juvenile center and Buchanan 911 tower facility. He announced he is retiring one year early, effective December 31, 2023.

Boyce reviewed the enforcement numbers from the February report. Niles Township is in discussions regarding an added millage to the ballot in either August or November to allow for 2 full time deputies. Boyce noted the State also sends police when they are located closer to the location. There is a new K9 that is in training. After the training is complete, there will be 4 K9s.

Jamie Zehm, Tactical Team Leader, is retiring after 23 years. He was presented with a retirement badge.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Vollrath, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2022 meeting. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were moved forward to the full Board:

A2203209 – Approve agreement with Riverwood for PT licensed Family Court/Community Liaison position.

A2203210 – Approve agreement with Riverwood for Multi-Systemic Therapy and Problem Sexual Behavior programs.

A2203211 – Approve agreement with Riverwood for Functional Family Therapy program.

Sheriff Funds Distribution

Curran has approved Berrien Community Foundation funding for the Sheriff's Department to use funds in the amount of \$340.00 for training for Chaplains.

Public Comments

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor – He is looking to connect Riverwood with the Berrien Community Foundation for COVID testing for mentally impaired people in the South County area.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – He had a conversation with David, the Sodus Township Supervisor, regarding the Road Department. David has been waiting since January for contracts. The Road Department has already set contracts for work to be done, but not with the Township. Since the Township millage pays a portion, the Township should be allowed to choose what roads are fixed with the millage funds.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

J Arent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary