

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2020

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

The Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

9 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Christopher Heugel, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, Dave Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

3 ABSENT: William Chickering, Robert Harrison and Jon Hinkelman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 27, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

1 ABSTAIN: Elliott.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

Administrator William Wolf stated that four have signed up to attend the 2020 Michigan Counties Legislative Conference to be held on April 15 – 17, 2020 at the Lansing Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws, those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C): None.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Health Department

Administrator William Wolf introduced Health Department Director Nicki Britten, who introduced Medical Director Frederick Johansen to discuss the coronavirus. Dr. Frederick Johansen gave the background and update on the coronavirus. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now it seems to be spreading from person-to-person. Dogs do not carry the coronavirus. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Many patients have pneumonia in both lungs. The best way to prevent the infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. Dr. Frederick Johansen discussed the following on the coronavirus:

- How contagious is it?
- How serious is it?
- Who are the targets?

Nicki Britten stated they have begun weekly contacts with their partners to get updates and share information on the coronavirus. Nicki Britten introduced Brandon Vallee who is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Health Department. Dr. Frederick Johansen recommended to go to www.cdc.gov/COVID19 for more information.

Nicki Britten gave an update on Papparazzi Tattoo & Body Piercing located in Niles that may have exposed former customers to the blood of other customers. They were using some tools that are used in certain piercing procedures that were not being properly sterilized between clients, that increased the risk of potential blood borne pathogen transmission. The Health Department has currently suspended their license. As a precaution, customers who have ever received a body piercing at this location through February 2020 are recommended to

receive blood tests for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV. Individuals seeking testing are encouraged to visit their healthcare provider, but are also able to get tested at the Health Department.

Discussion was held.

Animal Control

Animal Control Director Tiffany Peterson spoke about the Spaying/Neutering program for the overabundance of cats. She discussed the best way to help with the amount of cats is through the trap-neuter-return program. She stated the Alley Cat Allies' Feral Friends Network has been helpful. She spoke about the donations and local assistance they have received for the spaying and neutering program. She stated the first clinic will be held in a month.

Discussion was held.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on March 12, 2020.