

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of January 27, 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
Judge Mayfield, Trial Court
Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Trial Court

Others:

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:24 am.

Trial Court Update – Judge Mayfield & Smietanka-Haney

Judge Mayfield noted the goals and opportunities are driven by the challenges and the number one challenge right now is employment, both hiring and retaining. She and Smietanka-Haney stated the Juvenile Center is critical with them operating at 50% staffing. Only the secure unit is in operation. Judge Mayfield noted the focus needs to get the Juvenile Center back to being a therapeutic center, not just detention, which is what can only be done now due to the staffing shortage. She would also like to see the truancy program reinstated. They discussed the reimagining of the courthouse and working to shift views of the courts being a negative place to realizing they provide justice. Smietanka-Haney discussed current opportunities including grants, the County Court Leadership Initiative which provides free technical assistance, and staff community service. They discussed the upcoming staff recognition and Wuerfel stated she would like the award presentations to be done at one of the BOC meetings. Regarding COVID, they have been able to manage wonderfully with collaborative efforts and trials are moving along smoothly. Smietanka-Haney reviewed Resolution P2201175 staff complement change of an Office Assistant to an Administrative Secretary. She noted the State will reimburse 2/3 of the position.

Q & A – Dissette & Freehling

Dissette stated there is a Committee on Committee meeting at noon regarding the General Hospital and Judge Mayfield will be in attendance so that the courts are familiar with the discussions and the staff can be educated on all the short term and long term options for the Juvenile Center. Regarding the Road Department's need of F-250 trucks, they did not receive any bids. They are presenting Competitive Bid Waivers to Finance at this time. They may also apply with MiDeal. Dissette reported assessments of all the County buildings have been completed and he will have the updates at the beginning of February. Curran requested workshops or specific meetings to allow the Board to review the information and be able to ask questions and discuss.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Meeks, to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2022 meeting. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were moved forward to the full Board:

A2202180 – Authorize the Sheriff to sell Mika to her handler, Deputy Jason Haskins, for \$1. This resolution was pushed back one week for presentation during the BOC meeting.

A2202187 – Approve County wide mileages for 2021. *Curran requested Stack email the total number of Subdivision miles to the Committee.

Miscellaneous

Staff distributed an updated copy of the Department Reporting Schedule.

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

J Arent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary