

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 7, 2019

Present: Jim Curran, Chair
Michael Majerek, Vice Chair
Chris Heugel
Don Meeks Sr.

Absent:

Scheduled: Jason Latham, Road Department
Bill Wolf, County Administration
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

Others: Marcy Hamilton, SWMPC
Bret Witkowski, Treasurer
Melissa Clapper, Public

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:24 am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Majerek, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 meetings. Motion Carried.

Road Department Update

Latham discussed the bridge bundling concept the State is looking into, which entails bundling like-style bridges with the same design under one contract. This is to include bridges in cities and villages. Discussions ensued regarding advance construction. He reviewed the current bridge inventory map and the links that will be added to the website. The Asset Management Plan should be complete and on the website tomorrow and will show both the upcoming three years plus the past 10 years. Discussions ensued with both Latham and Marcy Hamilton of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission regarding the non-motorized trails and barriers in regards to the TAP grant.

Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott

Wolf and Witkowski are working on a memo to the Michigan Association of Counties objecting to the proposed changes to the Property Tax Act through the introduction of HB 4219. Witkowski discussed the current foreclosure process and fund uses. If this bill goes through, his office will no longer be able to demolish blighted homes. Discussions ensued regarding ownership issues.

Curran requested that Elliott schedule more time during the COW when Latham is scheduled to present to allow more time for questions from the Commissioners. Meeks concurred. Elliott stated he will suggest adjusting the meeting times when Latham is scheduled.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were approved and signed:

A1903170 – Authorize Road Department Director to proceed with a TAP grant for a non-motorized facility in the City and Township of New Buffalo.

A1903182 – Authorize one year lease extension for six motorcycles for the Sheriff's Department.

Public Comment

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township – Regarding Curran's comment for a barrier for bike paths on Red Arrow Highway, she stated the plan for Napier Avenue would put bikers too close as well since the plan does not include removing curbs.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent