

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of April 25, 2019**

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

**Absent:**

**Scheduled:** Christopher Renna, Chief Public Defender  
Bill Wolf, County Administration  
Teri Freehling, BOC Vice Chair

**Others:** Tony Benhart, Public  
Darren Schaer, Public  
Tony Dlouhy, Public

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:23 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Majerek, supported by Meeks, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meetings.  
Motion Carried.

**Public Defender's Office Update**

Renna reviewed the quarterly expenses for the local share of the grant. He reviewed the resolution for the misdemeanor defense council positions to become in-house instead of contracted. Paul Jancha Jr will be starting as Chief Assistant Public Defender beginning in May. Discussions ensued regarding current and upcoming MiDC standards.

**Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Vice Chair Freehling**

Freehling verified the consent calendar. She noted one commissioner requested the Public Defender's resolution be pulled. Renna is currently in the Finance Committee and if the commissioner is satisfied with the answers, it may remain on the consent calendar. Wolf introduced the resolution to extend the contract for the Senior Center audits. It is a standard 3 year contract. He reviewed the increased costs.

**County Property Use Request**

Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade – request granted for use of the South (old courthouse) parking lot and the Administration building parking lot on May 4, 2019.

**Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were approved and signed:

A1905223 – Authorize the Sheriff's Office to apply for acceptance into the U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership program.

A1905224 – Authorize and direct the Chief Public Defender to submit the request for funding in the amount of \$1,128,804.00 for the period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

**Miscellaneous**

None.

**Public Comment**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Stated the morning meetings are for your board and wanted to know why Wolf has the right to interrupt. Discussions ensued regarding proper filing of complaints.

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – There's no place for the public to go to file complaints or get answers. Curran stated initial complaints should be filed with Wolf.

Tony Dloughy, Lincoln Charter Township – Regarding the Public Defender's office, the problem with the grant is that if it's not all used in one year, you get less the next year. You have the decision to accept the grant or not.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent