

Berrien County Administration Committee
Minutes of May 16, 2019

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

Scheduled: Tiffany Peterson, Animal Control Director
Mac Elliott, Board Chair
Bill Wolf, County Administrator

Others: Virginia Holden, Oronoko Township
Tony Benhart, Sodus Township
Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Meeks, supported by Commissioner Heugel to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Animal Control Update

Tiffany Peterson reviewed her quarterly numbers for the department. She informed the Committee that this was the first year that Animal Control took part in an "Empty the Shelter" event in which the Bissel company reimburses the shelter for adoption fees. Tiffany said that preparing for the event is a lot of work, all must be spay/neuter, microchipped, and up to date on shots but it was worthwhile. She went over all the agencies that Animal Control works with now including Paws of Hope, who fosters animals, Noah Cremation Services, and the Noah program for spaying/neutering for shelters only. The department will be taking part in a training with the Michigan Humane Society, a training that Berrien County is hosting. They will be doing the June 1 Wine and Wags fundraiser again, they raised \$1,800 on this fundraiser last year. They will also be taking part in the Bids for Barks fundraising event. The department has been issued the Heart Speak Grant which will provide training on photography and how to advertise animals for adoption. The department will get a really nice backdrop and camera from the event. The department is working with individuals who are willing to play host to cats that have been trapped and neutered and then released back into the county to roam free. These individuals agree to allowing the cats on their property where housing, food, and water is provided. Tiffany said it will take a long time to get results for the spay/neuter of the cats but we will see results eventually. Discussion on the debate between Animal Control and the Road Department as to whose responsibility it is to pick up dead deer or animals in the road. When asked if all the officers had bullet proof vests, Tiffany said that her department was able to get in on a reimbursement program that the Sheriff

is doing, where he will be reimbursed for 50% of the cost of the vests. This will secure the rest of the vests needed for the department.

Q & A with Administrator/Chairman

Commissioner Elliott told the Committee that the transportation plan resolution was going to be moved to the full board for action on May 23, 2019. Commissioner Elliot spoke to a request from the Historical Association for a Commissioner to be appointed to their board. Commissioner Curran said that he would be willing to be the Commissioner appointed. If no other commissioner requests to be appointed, the appointment will be completed next week. Administrator Wolf added that the agreement with the Historical Association expires at the end of June. Bill said he met with their leadership to talk about strategic objectives. Being that their strategic objectives fit with our goals, he has drafted up a resolution to extend the agreement with little changes. Most notably, we are seeking to have them follow the same hours as Love Creek County Park, open Saturday and Sunday and closed Monday and Tuesday. In the near future, Bill will bring them to a Committee of the Whole meeting to present the strategic objectives along with a draft agreement to review. Bill updated the Committee on the Jail Intake Remodel Project.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were approved and signed:

A1905226 - Approve amendments to the Bylaws of the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Board Appointments

911 Advisory Board - Reviewed applicants for the citizen spot. The Committee will review them and discuss them at next week's meeting.

Public Comments

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township - Inability to reach Road Department employees.

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township- Commented on dead deer in the road and complimented the Animal Control employees.

Virginia Holden, Oronoko Township - Commented on Animal Control and the Transportation Plan. She would like cruelty/investigation numbers included on the Animal Control report form.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township - Commented on transportation plan.

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Meeting adjourned 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Christie