

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the July 25, 2019 Personnel and Human Services Committee Meeting.

Meeting held in Conference Room 4B. Attendance was as follows:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
William Chickering	X		Lee Lull, Brian Bailey, John Matusak
Teri Sue Freehling		X	Mac Elliott, Bill Wolf
Dave Vollrath	X		
			Shelley Jasper

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting called to order at 9:21 a.m.
- Motion by Commissioner Vollrath, supported by Commissioner Chickering to approve the minutes of July 18 as presented. 2 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.
- The following Resolutions were reviewed, discussed and signed by all Committee members present:
 - P1907007, Per diem payments for the month of June totaling \$4,157.04
 - P1908272, Trial Court complement change (eliminate CCAB Manager; create Specialty Court Manager)
 - P1908278, Approve a new vendor for the flexible spending plan

VETERAN'S SERVICES

Lee Lull, Veteran's Affairs Administrator, presented his second quarter 2019 report. Lee detailed outreach efforts including attendance at various meetings and visits to legion posts and senior centers. He also attended the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers conference and completed year one of a three-year process to become a certified veteran's advocate. Lee then reviewed the quarter activity for burial claims, DAV Transportation trips, in office veteran count and claim processing.

Lee advised that the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran Act of 2019 was signed in to law on June 25, 2019. This extends the Agent Orange presumption to Navy vets who served offshore during the Vietnam War. Lee also discussed the Funeral Expenses of Veterans (Act 235 of 1911). The \$300 burial benefit would be \$8,088.73 using an inflation calculator. Lee is hopeful that the Act will be updated to reflect meaningful assistance to the veterans who qualify. Finally, Lee provided a chart showing the geographic distribution of VA expenditures for all Michigan counties.

PARKS & RECREATION

Brian Bailey, Parks and Recreation Director, provided the monthly report. Highlights included:

Report of Collections: Fee income for the period ending June 30, 2019 totaled \$263,144, which represents a year over year decrease of \$72,818.

Environmental & Recycling Programs: Upcoming "Community Recycling Events" August 14th at Love Creek and September 21 at Silver Beach County Parks.

Love Creek County Park: Park Naturalist, Pat Underwood retired on July 20th. Lamanda Hilty was hired to fill the vacancy. Lamanda was a temporary hire naturalist at Love Creek for two and one-half years and has a degree in natural science. She is experienced with nature interpretation, birding and teaching. The July 9th presentation to Berrien Township trustees regarding the DNR prescribed burn for Indian Bowl Preserve to help restore the fen and eliminate invasive species went well. No public comment. Waiting for confirmation from DNR that the grant will carry over to spring 2020. Mountain Bike rentals have been well received. Naturalist are currently working on a shorter easier beginning kids bike loop. Naturalist are enrolling with PAMF (phragmites adaptive management framework) to collaborate and get advice with other organizations and landowners working on phragmites control. Fifty-five people attended the Lake Milton Raptor Center program on Birds of Prey presentation on Saturday, July 13th.

Madeline Bertrand County Park: Due to rain/weather, picnic rentals and schedule conflicts the cement pad for picnic tables, broken slab under Topenebee Shelter and replacement of two broken Disc Golf Tee Pads has been delayed until after Labor Day. The Summer Heater Doubles Disc Golf Tournament occurred on July 13, and had a total of 92 golfers on two person teams. This even generated \$1,272 after expenses (trophies/food/drinks). PDGA Sponsored Tournament is scheduled for October 12.

Silver Beach County Park: July 4th parking stats were reviewed and are attached to the minutes. Other upcoming events include July 26-27 Symphony play/event; August 3 Country concert; August 10 Symphony event. Brian will review 2020 Special Event Agreements with PHSC in August.

Galien River County Park: Park is open daily.

Rocky Gap County Park: Park is open daily.

Paw Paw River County Park: Gates have been ordered for the Park entrance. This will add to security and the overall appearance of the park.

1839 Courthouse: Windows planned to be installed next month.

2020-2024 Five Year Plan: Public meeting will be held Wednesday, August 21st at New Buffalo Township hall. Draft will be presented to Parks Commission at October meeting.

Brian then reviewed the Parks millage and provided a draft document showing potential projects under three different funding scenarios:

- Maintain .10 mil
- Increase to .15 mil
- Increase to .20 mil

The Parks millage will be a Committee of the Whole discussion topic on August 22, 2019.

CHAIRMAN/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Chairman Elliott discussed an appeal to a drain apportionment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Adjourned 10:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director