

Berrien County Administration Committee
Minutes of August 15, 2019

Present: Jim Curran, Chair Michael Majerek, Vice Chair
Chris Heugel

Absent: Don Meeks

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

Others: Tony Benhart, Sodus Township
Jerry Sirk, Benton Township

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:25 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Majerek, supported by Commissioner Heugel to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Animal Control - Tiffany Peterson

Tiffany provided the quarterly report to the Committee. She described her frustration with the stray/feral cat epidemic in the County and is seeking ways to work toward fixing that. She believes that if we could find a way to get a veterinarian to come in like monthly and offer free spay/neutering for cats, it could reflect a difference in about a year. She said one of things she hears from residents is that they cannot afford to have their cats fixed and that the lack of money is a stumbling block. Some discussion was held about the lack of staff, the turnover rate in the kennel, and the ordinance which she said needs to be updated. Discussion was held about the trap/neuter/release topic and Tiffany explained that it is against the law for her department to do that. She is excited about the new animal control software that was purchased.

Q & A with Chairman

Committee Chair Curran informed the Administrator that he told Tiffany to put her challenges down on paper, come up with a plan, and then through Bill, it could come back to the Committee if needed. He asked about his appointment to the Berrien Historical Association Board (the Board just recently appointed a Commissioner for the first time to their board). Chairman Mac Elliott said that Berrien County will notify the Berrien Historical Association Board informing them that Curran's position will be changed to a liaison effective immediately. Mac also said that he will look for another Commissioner to continue that appointment at the first of the year.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were approved and signed:

A1908288 - Contract with State of Michigan for a road project.

Public Comments

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township - Spoke about seeking grants to assist the Animal Control Department.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township - Spoke about the Animal Control Ordinance and his opinion on what should be included in it regarding individuals that dump animals.

Meeting adjourned 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Christie