

Berrien County Administration Committee
Minutes of September 12, 2019

Present: Jim Curran
Michael Majerek
Don Meeks
Chris Heugel

Appointments Scheduled: Jason Latham
Bill Wolf
Mac Elliott
Dave Agens

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Road Department Update - Jason Latham

Distributed the Asset Management & Roads pamphlet and the contact info business cards with Road Department information. The Berrien County Road Department now has almost 10,000 followers on Facebook, up 22%, his goal is to get to 20,000. Discussed other social media platforms. Year to date the department has had 2,260 service requests placed. All are closed except for 75 still in progress. Updated the Committee on the Napier and Red Arrow projects. To answer an inquiry, Jason said that some smaller projects assigned to Rieth-Riley are being completed by either non-union employees or those who crossed the picket line. He discussed the Asset Management Plan- Really pleased with the data they have been able to obtain and put to use. In December he expects to have the next round of Transportation Plan available. The Road Department will do a roll out to the BOC and then receive their approval.

The department sent letters to townships about the fall meeting schedule. He explained that the Act 51 funds provide 2/3 on primary roads and 1/3 on local roads. The problem is that after paving, snow plowing, striping, etc., there isn't any funds left for local roads. Jason took \$1.5 million out of primary road funds and based on population and the # of miles, he made it available to townships if they match it and then local roads would be repaired. He said the focus is on primary and local roads first and then a long term plan for sub-divisions will be developed. He said that one process that a lot of Road Commissions are using is the Special Assessment District for sub-division work - the vision is special assessment for the people living in a sub-division, township $\frac{1}{4}$, and county $\frac{1}{4}$. Jason noted that townships can, with a board vote, assess up to 3-mills without a vote of the public. Commissioner Meeks commented about Napier Avenue and is in favor of 3 lanes.

Administrator/Commissioner Q & A:

Bill & Mac - Discussion on the Prosecutor resolution requesting another (1) APA and Bill's memo about the request. He would like to the BOC to wait to act on the resolution until the 2020 budget overview which will happen at their October 3 meeting. He stated that the Sheriff has one that he thinks is just as important but he has agreed to wait to ask for a new position. Chairman Curran asked about communications and who responds. Bill said that he and Jason will respond to the letter from Bainbridge Township officials. Further, Bill suggested the Commissioners read his update

which will provide some clarification on the other communication regarding "No-Kill" in the State of Michigan.

911 Resolution Discussion - Dave Agens

Dave Agens was present to discuss the CAD Update resolution (#A1909296). The Committee had no questions about the resolution and was aware of what it was about.

Resolutions

Commissioners signed the following resolutions:

A1909296 - Authorize CAD Upgrade for 911 PSAP

A1909292 - Accept Emergency Management Grant

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Meeks to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2019 meeting, supported by Commissioner Heugel. Motion carried.

Public Comments

Tony Benhart, Sodus Twp. - Discussed the Napier bridge and the sale of the Berrien Hills Golf Course.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township - He has a different view on the roads than what we heard this morning about township roads and the funding to repair them.

Meeting adjourned 10:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Christie