

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of November 7, 2019**

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

**Absent:**

**Scheduled:** Christopher Renna, Public Defender  
Bill Wolf, County Administration  
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

**Others:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:21 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Majerek, supported by Meeks, to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting.  
Motion Carried.

**Public Defender's Update**

Renna reviewed FY2019 statistics. He explained the arraignment process and services prior to arraignment. He reviewed the quarterly financial status reports for the year, in which the department came in slightly under budget. The Michigan Indigent Defense Commission approved the Compliance Plan. He reviewed state funding and support. He reviewed the process for recruiting and methods of evaluating both potential new staff and interns as well as current staff performance reviews. Discussions ensued regarding office space.

**Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott**

Elliott verified the consent calendar. He requested cancelling the December 26 meeting, in which the Committee concurred. Curran requested that parks prioritize their projects as the Silver Beach concession stand was not included in the Capital Projects for FY2020. Wolf discussed all the pieces needed to proceed with the Silver Beach project and that it is not listed in the budget because it is not ready to move forward. There would need to be engineering designs first and the project is not currently considered to be urgent.

**Resolutions**

The following Resolution was approved and signed:

A1911337 – Authorize placement of “STOP” signs on Flynn Road at Elm Valley Road; Avery Road at Elm Valley Road; and Leeds Road at Napier Avenue.

The following Board of Commissioners Resolutions were signed:

B1911332 – Terms of Appropriations for Senior Centers.

B1911333 – Honorary Resolution for retiring Donna Nowostawski for 27 years of service.

**Public Comment**

Mike Haskins, Pipestone Township – The Road Department still reports to this committee. Regarding upcoming capital purchases, do they plan to replace machines or add staff? There are a total of 4 garages. How big a fleet do we need? He suggested getting year and hourly usages of the current machines.

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – He keeps hearing “our money” and “their money”. That is not correct. It is the taxpayers’ money. Silver Beach wants a new pavilion, but if the water keeps coming up, the shoreline will be gone anyway. Curran replied “our money” refers to County money and “their money” refers to state and federal funds.

Dick Bertog, Benton Charter Township – He constantly sees trucks filled with debris coming down the road and there is the smell of diesel with smoke from burning wood. The dust coming up will go into the sewer at the Yellow Creek drain. He also has observed MDOT trucks bringing debris.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – He asked if any of the Commissioners have gone to Silver Beach recently. He reviewed close up photos of the concession stand showing the lack of maintenance and suggested some items that would restore it with a cost of no more than \$2,000. He also suggested adopting an ordinance that any sale of merchandise at the park should be bid out.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent