

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of November 14, 2019

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

Absent:

Scheduled: Judge Bruce, Trial Court
Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Trial Court
Bill Wolf, County Administration
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

Others: Christopher Renna, Public Defender
Sheriff Bailey, BCSD

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:25 am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Heugel, to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 meeting.
Motion Carried.

Trial Court Update

Smietanka-Haney discussed the Equivant progress. It is still on schedule for phase 1 to go live in April 2020. Judge Bruce discussed the upcoming Adoption Day. There will be 11 children adopted on November 19 and Justice Markman will be in attendance. He also discussed the Drug Treatment Court celebration and noted over 100 people have graduated from it. The Mental Health Treatment program has also had over 100 graduates. Discussions ensued regarding the de-regionalization of the drug court with Cass County, which caused reduced funding. Judge Bruce reviewed Resolution P1911338, which allows for an additional Pretrial Services Officer that can assess risks in potential bonding and restrictions during pretrials. It is 100% grant funded. Judge Bruce also noted he is supportive of the Public Defender's office taking over the misdemeanor cases instead of them being contracted out.

Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott

Wolf reviewed Resolution A1911335 and stated the preliminary approval was in April. This brings on 5 additional attorneys and 1 office staff for the misdemeanor cases. Discussions ensued regarding funding. Wolf reported there is a location for space to lease and is still negotiating. The MIDC budget is sufficient to cover the cost of the additional office space. Renna stated the new positions will be implemented by January.

Elliott verified the consent calendar. Discussions ensued regarding the pension multiplier for the effected elected officials.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were approved and signed:
A1911335 – Approval of the MIDC grant agreement for FY2020.

A1911339 – Authorize procurement program with local units and EMS agencies for field paging equipment.

Miscellaneous

Sheriff Bailey discussed a proposal to assign a deputy to the FBI Task Force and will report on it December 5th. Curran requested the Marine staff budget to be available at the December 5th reporting as well, as the salary study show the current salary is too low.

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Showed a photo of a broken sign post at the corner of Napier Avenue and Broadmoor Road. He reported it 3 times to the Road Department and then once to Annette Krieger-Christie. He stated it has still not been removed. Curran stated he will look into it.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Arent