

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of December 5, 2019

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

Absent:

Scheduled: Sheriff Bailey, BCSD
Mike Sepic, Prosecutor
Bill Wolf, County Administration
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

Others: Ben Glynn, FBI
Undersheriff Heit, BCSD
Bill Chickering, Commissioner
Darren Schaer, Public

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:18 am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Majerek, supported by Heugel, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2019 meeting. Motion Carried.

Sheriff's Update

Sheriff Bailey reviewed November stats and recognized Deputy Kelly Laesch. He reviewed the Marine Division Wage and requested to increase part time positions to \$15 per hour. The Sergeant is currently paid \$18 per hour. Undersheriff Heit discussed the requirements and training necessary for the Marine Division. Discussions ensued. Motion by Majerek, supported by Meeks, to recommend an increase to \$15 for part time positions. Motion Carried.

Sheriff Bailey discussed the need for an additional employee that would be assigned specifically to the FBI office in St. Joseph. The employee would have security clearance and access to confidential information. The FBI would provide a car and gas and would pay overtime. Glynn summarized the roll of the position and supervision. The position is part of the Violent Crimes Task Force. Discussions ensued regarding funding for the position out of the Public Safety Millage. Curran stated he would like to have a discussion with Wolf prior to making a motion. Curran requested information on how much to raise the millage and the justification. The Committee concurred. Heit discussed the special teams providing public safety and Bailey will provide the requested information.

Prosecutor's Request for Full Time Position

Sepic updated the Committee regarding the resolution passed in August approving the new position. It stalled in PHSC. He stated the need for this position originated from the onset of the Public Defender's Office as their position is to delay plea deals to acquire more information. The impact is additional pre work prior to the defendant pleading. He discussed the difference with

family court lawyers and adult criminal lawyers. Curran stated he would like to have discussions with Wolf prior to deciding. The Committee concurred.

Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott

Elliott verified the consent calendar. Wolf discussed resolution A1912364 and reviewed the lease agreement with Fiskars for the additional office space for the Public Defender.

Wolf discussed his hesitation of additional personnel due to funding and the lack of new revenues. Curran agreed. Elliott suggested waiting to see what comes back into the FY2020 budget at the end of the year and take a look at the past 5 years for a historic perspective.

In regards to the COW presentation by Chickering, Curran suggested designating a secondary person for resolving a complaint if the Chairman has a conflict of interest. Chickering agreed and will come back to the full Board with a suggestion.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were approved and signed:

A1912352 – Authorize State of Michigan Dept of Corrections grant.

A1912354 – Approve lease agreement with the Village of Three Oaks.

A1912360 – Approval of Family Court/Community Liaison for FY2020

A1912364 – Approval of lease agreement with Fiskars Properties for additional Public Defender office space.

Berrien Community Foundation

The following Grant requests were signed:

Carol's Hope in the amount of \$2700.00

Shop with a Cop in the amount of \$5250.00

Public Comment

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – It's going to be hard justifying a tax increase to the public for all the additional positions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent