

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of May 19, 2022

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson
David Vollrath, Vice Chair
Julie Wuerfel
Jim Martin

Absent:

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Mac Elliott, BOC Chairman
Ashley Herr, Animal Control

Others: Sheriff Bailey, BCSD

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:57 am.

Animal Control Update – Herr & Bailey

Dissette introduced Ashley Herr, Interim Shelter Manager. Herr stated she began at the County in 2018 as a Vet Tech and became Kennel Supervisor in 2019. She reviewed upcoming adoption events, including the Brookfield Adoption event on May 20th and Wine & Wags on June 5th. They are partnering with Honor Credit Union for sponsored adoptions and conducting Lunch & Learn training sessions for staff. She reviewed the numbers on the current report.

Sheriff Bailey spent a week on the road attending to animal calls. He noted the AC officers are very good working with dogs. He will include the officers on his monthly Sheriff's report and Herr will provide reports specific to the shelter.

Discussions ensued regarding staffing. There are currently 5 part time staff working in the kennel and they are in need of 5 more.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wuerfel, supported by Vollrath, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting. Martin abstained. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were moved forward to the full Board:

A2205276 – Authorize grant application for Swift & Sure Sanctions Probation Program.

A2205277 – Authorize grant application for Drug Court Grant Program.

A2205278 – Authorize grant application for Mental Health Court Program.

The Swift & Sure Resolution as well as the Mental Health Court Resolution have specific goals and percentage attainment. The committee requests to see the results from the past two or three years to evaluate the success of the programs in attaining the goals identified.

Public Comments

Christine Wilke, Lincoln Charter Township & Lynn Schlender, St. Joseph – They, along with Kelly Sebrechts, run the Bids for Barks Committee, which holds annual fundraisers for local animal shelters. In 2019, they fundraised for Paws of Hope and invited Animal Control to the event. They liked working with Tiffany Peterson. They also appreciated all the promotions and social media Peterson implemented and decided to contribute \$35,000 through the Friends of Animal Control. They are now looking to implement a low cost spay/neuter program. They are very invested in Berrien County Animal Control and are

concerned about the speed and lack of communication regarding the transition of officers to the Sheriff and the assigning of Herr to Shelter Manager. They want to make sure whomever is in the position of administering the shelter is given training and support.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Hearing word on the street that the gas chamber at Animal Control may be reinstated. Administrator Dissette advised the committee the gas chamber will be destroyed along with the old animal control building and the gas chamber will not be used prior to destruction.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

JArent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary