

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of July 8, 2021**

**Roll Call Present:** Jim Curran, Chairperson  
Don Meeks Sr., Vice Chair  
David Vollrath  
Julie Wuerfel

**Absent:**

**Scheduled:** Brian Dissette, County Administrator  
Mac Elliott, BOC Chairman  
Tom Watson, Friend of the Court  
Lisa Jardine, Friend of the Court  
Sheriff Bailey, Sheriff's Department  
Greg Trail, Road Department

**Others:** Jennifer Arent, Recording Secretary  
Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:13 am.

**Resolution A2107275**

Resolution A2107275 – allow for the temporary speed limit of 45 MPH on county roads being used as a detour route during construction on portions of Linco Road, Hollywood Road, Scottsdale Road, and John Beers Road and allow for signage indicating said limit.

Greg Trail introduced himself. Sheriff Bailey stated the highway project required speed signs and a resolution to be able to enforce the lower speed. He is requesting a temporary stop light at the Hollywood Road detour and the State will do a study next week. Trail discussed the detour and bridge concerns and the need to use Linco Road for heavy trucks. He noted that MDOT will repair any road issues caused by the detoured traffic. Sheriff Bailey stated the resolution is strictly for the detour and allows for ticketed enforcement. The Resolution was moved forward to the full Board.

**Friend of the Court Update – Watson & Jardine**

Watson announced his retirement and introduced Lisa Jardine, his successor. Watson reviewed the pandemic staff levels. All staff has been back in the office since July 2020. Jardine reviewed the State child support statistics and noted paternity establishment is now through the Friend of the Court. It had previously been through the Prosecutor's office. Watson discussed the previous amnesty program and community engagement. He reviewed support collections, noting arrearages collected from Stated and Federal unemployment and intercepted taxes have amounted to 53% for the first 3 quarters of FY21. Watson also commented on the salary study and suggested letting staff know it's not forgotten.

**Q & A with Dissette and Elliott**

Dissette reported the issues with the jail security doors has been addressed. The installation of the replacement doors at the contractor's cost is scheduled for July 19. He noted that Robert Ray with Building & Grounds noticed the issue and took extensive photos. The Committee requested Ray's attendance at the next scheduled reporting for Building & Grounds so they could meet him.

Meeks asked to hear from the people wanting the marijuana tax money. Elliot stated these are general fund tax dollars generated by statute and may have some restrictions. Discussions ensued regarding legalities; Curran would like something in writing.

Dissette reported a woman was swept off the North pier this morning and was saved. He will have more information soon.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Meeks, to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2021 meeting. Motion Carried.

**County Property Use Request**

The Berrien County Riders has requested use of the Courthouse parking lot on September 12, 2021 from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The Committee approved the request.

**Public Comment**

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – Since we're getting marijuana tax dollars, will we not be taxed?

**Miscellaneous**

None.

Chairman Curran adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*J.Arent*

Jennifer Arent  
Recording Secretary