

Berrien County Board of Commissioners

Finance Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023

Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 9:26 a.m.

Attendance:

Commissioner Mamie L. Yarbrough-Chairperson	Present
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman - Vice-Chair	Present
Commissioner Teri Freehling	Present
Commissioner Rayonte Bell	Present

Others Present: Annette Christie, Brian Dissette, Mac Elliott, Chris Smith, Scott Kuchta, Abonmarche, Lentz Becraft, Ignyte

Q & A - Administrator/Chair

Commissioner Freehling asked the Chairman about scheduling night meetings to finish the calendar for the year. She suggested scheduling four, with the locations to be MSU, Administration Center, and one each in the areas of the two new Commissioners. There was some discussion about the invite from Three Oaks Township to host another one this year. Also discussed was cancelling the July 6 meeting with that being a holiday week. The final on this discussion was an agreement that it would be completed during other business at the BOC meeting. (*The BOC did not push this matter forward for approval at their meeting as discussed).

The Administrator told the committee that he would have representatives from Abonmarche and Ignyte come to their meeting to provide an update regarding the jail generator project (they were also going to Administration Committee). Following the smoke stack fire that occurred in December, we have been renting a backup generator for the jail at \$8,000 a month. The current shipping time for a replacement generator order is approximately one year, therefore, getting all the details worked out to move forward with this project is very important. Brian said he would bring forward a waiver to Finance Committee and a resolution out of the Administration Committee to secure Abonmarche and Ignyte as consultants on the project for next week's meeting.

Kuchta and Becraft then came in to provide further information on the jail generator project. Discussion included a recommendation for Berrien County to purchase the generator direct using MiDeal which could help save time, and then just contract the

labor for the installation. The Administrator came back and was asked by Commissioner Yarbrough how this project was going to be funded. He reminded the committee that the BOC set aside \$15.8 million from ARPA funds to be used for facility projects. In the spring he plans to initiate a transfer of the funds from ARPA for lost revenue into the general fund, with plans to use the funds for capital projects. At the time that the BOC earmarked those funds, the estimate was \$200 sq. ft. for work and now it is currently estimated to be around \$600 sq. ft., which likely means that we will only get to some of the work that was identified as a need. The jail generator replacement, however, is an urgent need.

Committee Business

Commissioner Freehling motioned to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting, supported by Commissioner Bell. Motion carried.

The following resolutions were signed by the committee:

F2301016 - Approval of Weekly Bills and Road Payables

F2302135 - Approve County Master Plan

B2302136 - Honorary

B2302137 - Honorary

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Christie

Executive Assistant to the Administrator