

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of February 9, 2023**

**Roll Call Present:** Jim Curran, Chairperson  
Alex Ott  
David Vollrath, Vice Chair  
Julie Wuerfel

**Absent:**

**Scheduled:** Brian Dissette, County Administrator  
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair  
Mark Heyliger, Road Department

**Others:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:23 am.

**Road Department Update – Heyliger**

Heyliger reviewed the monthly update. The CDL hiring program has been successful with 8 out of 8 people completing it. There are 2 more open positions. He reported they just finished assessing 265,345 ft of guard rail with 41% in good condition, 54% in fair condition and 5% poor. He discussed the accidents at the intersection of Linco Road and Lincoln Avenue. Based on Michigan statute, if one more happens by May, it is required to be turned into a 4-way stop. Discussions ensued regarding engineering needs and recruiting. Dissette discussed possibly hiring retirees from other municipalities. Discussions ensued regarding the budget for new hires and salaries.

**Q & A – Dissette & Elliott**

Dissette announced Berrien County received the SPARK grant for the playground at Silver Beach. This grant will allow for the replacement of all the equipment. Dissette provided a Facilities Needs Overview handout and requested feedback. Senator Nesbitt and Rep. Huizenga toured the jail for the capital project and had requested the handout. He will continue asking the legislature for maintenance and capital needs including funding for engineering. Curran noted the need for an updated Master Plan. Wuerfel asked for an overall priority list and strategy. Discussions ensued regarding the costs. Dissette reported they are still working on a change order for the tower and Motorola is doing soil sampling for the adjacent site. Dissette is also actively working with Heyliger on the Road Department garage plans. Curran stated the Committee would like to see future plans.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Wuerfel, supported by Vollrath, to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2023. Motion Carried.

**Resolutions**

The following Resolution was signed by the Committee:

A2302145 – Execute annual Service Agreement with Intrado.

**Sheriff Funds Distribution**

Curran has approved the corrected Berrien Community Foundation funding form for the Sheriff's Department to use funds in the amount of \$1,900 for V. Kiser. The Foundation will make the check payable to Coloma FOP #147 and the FOP will forward the funds to V. Kiser.

**Public Comment**

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township – Asked if the purpose is to get things going now for new buildings in 20+ years. Wuerfel replied that she's asking for a vision of priorities.

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township – Road Department is spending \$1.5M on township roads with 1/3 of total road improvements. That's less than 20% of the budget. They aren't matching township funds. They should be spending more money on fixing the roads.

Barb Lackner, Lincoln Charter Township – Are employees looking for getting paid proper salary?

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*J Arent*

Jennifer Arent  
Recording Secretary