

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 16, 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
Ashley Herr, Animal Control
Hon. Judge Mayfield, Trial Court
Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Trial Court

Others: Sheriff Bailey, BCSD

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:24 am.

Animal Control Update – Herr

Herr stated the consultant is reviewing procedures and is continuing to work remotely for the next 30 days. She is reviewing the pay and teaching how to co-house animals and play groups. The consultant has also provided input on equipment and the need for a Kennel Supervisor. Herr noted the next shot clinic is scheduled for February 26th. The licensing date changes are going smoothly and she has received positive feedback from owners. Discussions ensued regarding the number of animals (31) being held due to court cases and the length of time those cases can take. Bailey noted Herr is doing a great job with what she has to work with. She has talked to prosecutors regarding the court cases and they are meeting with Michigan attorneys, prosecutors and Hackworth in the coming weeks to review statutes. Curran suggested restitution be ordered to help cover the cost of the housed animals.

Trial Court Update – Hon. Judge Mayfield & Smietanka-Haney

Smietanka-Haney noted last year Juneteenth was ordered as a mandatory paid holiday, but now it is up to administration to decide. It is on today's PHSC agenda. They reviewed 2022 caseloads and a comparison to other large Michigan Counties. Discussions ensued regarding money received from fines. Judge Mayfield discussed FAN (Families Against Narcotics), which is a support group for families. They would like to establish a local Board and Advisory Board in the Tri-County area that would be Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph (MI) counties. Judge Mayfield is requesting a response from Commissioners. Smietanka-Haney gave an update on the Juvenile Center. Wightman and DLR have presented physical layouts and will have a final draft review on February 27th. They will publish the draft of services and develop an ongoing juvenile justice advisory council. The final building layout report will be available by April. They also discussed staffing levels. Smietanka-Haney noted most people move up, which leaves entry-level positions open. Wuerfel addressed Judge Mayfield and asked for them to work with Animal Control in the meetings with the State and prosecutors on the process for getting animals out of court cases faster.

Q & A – Dissette & Elliott

Elliott will verify the Juneteenth decision of PHSC. He noted that Ott needs to provide his proposed ordinance request to the full Board and discuss it with Corporate Counsel.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Ott, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2023. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were signed by the Committee:

A2302146 – Approve Contract #23-5002 with MDOT for East John Beers Road.

A2302147 – Approve Contract #23-5608 with MDOT for East Bertrand Road.

Public Comment

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

JArent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary