

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of March 16, 2023

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

Absent: Julie Wuerfel

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair
Robert Ray, Building & Grounds
Dan Fette, Community Development

Others:

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:13 am.

Building & Grounds Update – Ray

Ray discussed attrition and the projects that are continuing forward. The roof bid has been accepted. He discussed the water lines in the jail and that the new toilets will be pneumatic. This is a much needed upgrade that will increase water savings. The jail painting bids should come back next week. Ray will also report back which items from the temporary generator will be covered by insurance as soon as he has that information. He reviewed all open positions. He is getting applicants, but they are not qualified. His department can fulfill needs, but will be prioritizing. Curran asked about coop opportunities. Discussions ensued regarding utilizing Bacchiocchi under the new contract as well as custodial companies. Ray noted custodial companies can only be used in non-sensitive work areas.

MDNR Trails Grant – Fette

Fette reviewed Resolution A2303163, which integrates the Harbor Shores trail with Whirlpool. The grant from MDOT is \$1.6M, which covers a majority of the construction. Whirlpool is granting \$400,000 as a match, which leaves the project short \$300,000. This MDNR Trails Grant would cover the shortfall. If the resolution is approved, they will move forward with submitting the grant on April 1st. We will know if both the MDOT and MDNR grants are approved by September. This project includes approximately 2.5 miles from Higman Road to Monte Road on the east side of M-63. It will be a 10' to 12' paved path of which Whirlpool will maintain.

Q & A – Dissette & Elliott

Elliott discussed the mileage taxation issue. He also noted Finance is working on a purchasing policy for the Drain office.

Dissette reviewed Resolution A2303159 for the WMed contract. He noted there were 116 autopsies performed in 2021 and 138 performed in 2022. This jump has been attributed to more drug overdoses. Discussions ensued regarding expert testimony and safeguards to ensure there will not be any future issues. He recommends the Committee move the resolution forward.

Approval of Minutes

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

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were signed by the Committee:

A2303159 – Approve agreement with WMed through December 31, 2026

A2303163 – Authorize submission of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund application for the M-63 Lakeview Trail Development
A2303168 – Authorize Trial Court to apply for the Justice for All Commission Legal Self-Help Centers Grant Program

Public Comment

None.

Miscellaneous

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

J Arent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary