

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 23, 2022

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

Absent: Julie Wuerfel

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Mac Elliott, BOC Chairman
Robert Ray, Building & Grounds
Steve Pierangeli, Prosecutor

Others: Sheriff Bailey, BCSD

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:18 am.

Building & Grounds Update – Robert Ray

Ray reviewed the department update. The emergency generator at the jail requires a repair (waiver required). He stated it also needs regular maintenance. It is too costly to replace. He discussed the durability issues with the North door at the jail as well. He announced the retirement of Pixie Nitz and how dedicated and accurate she has been in her role and responsibilities for the past 20 years. Curran requested Ray fill out a recognition form for her. He discussed the roofing issue with the defective drain installation at the Courthouse. He discussed the current open positions as well as commending the additional work Porfirio Munoz does that is beyond his responsibilities. He discussed issues at the courthouse when rain comes in from the East. He noted the items on the ARPA list. It will go to electricians and plumbers for review and repairs.

Prosecutor's Update – Pierangeli

Pierangeli stated he appreciates everything Ray has done for his department and all the County buildings. He reviewed personnel. They are fully staffed with 22 attorneys and he is still involved in court cases. He reviewed the task force and specialty courts. He noted they have reviewed 4,333 felonies and 4,409 misdemeanors last year. 2,070 charges were denied (St. Joseph Courts). He did not include civil charges in these numbers.

He noted State troopers are getting body cameras and the time involved for redacting is only increasing. The State increased funds, but it's only a one-time infusion. Elliott noted this is a good use of general fund dollars. Pierangeli noted that, based on a PAM study, they should have 33-36 prosecutors. He is concerned about burnout of the attorneys as they are doing what paralegals typically do. He is looking to add 2 administrative and support staff that can do discovery and evidence collection. He is also looking to add 2 case managers for sexual assault and violent crimes. He is working with Dissette on the proposed positions and possible State funding. He would also like one more Victim Advocate. Curran requested to see the job descriptions and supports the additional positions. Sheriff Bailey noted the prosecutor's office used to have 2 investigators, but lost them due to budget cuts. The Indigent Defense Office has 3.

Q & A – Dissette & Elliott

Miscellaneous comments noted above.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Martin, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Honorary Resolution was signed by the Committee:

B2206191 – To rename the EOC to the Forrest “Nick” Jewell Emergency Operations Center.

Miscellaneous

Curran would like to see the format of the Colorado Prosecutor’s office that Pierangeli previously worked at.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

J Arent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary