

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of July 28, 2022

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson
Jim Martin
Julie Wuerfel

Absent: David Vollrath, Vice Chair

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Teri Freehling, BOC Vice Chairwoman
Dr. Hamel, Spectrum Health Lakeland
Kevin Stack, Road Department

Others: Jessica Springer, Spectrum Health Lakeland
Melinda Gruber, Spectrum Health Lakeland
Tricia Johnson, Serenity Hills
Hon. Judge Mayfield, Trial Court
Elvin Gonzalez, Family Division

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:24 am.

Berrien General Hospital Presentation – Dr. Hamel

Dr. Hamel discussed the future of the hospital as well as Serenity Hills (Sacred Heart) being the only inpatient treatment facility in the area. He reviewed admissions by location which shows the highest concentrations in Benton Harbor, Niles, St. Joseph and Coloma. The numbers have been steady from 2019 through 2021. He discussed foundation support and subsidization, issues with the current facility and possible locations that would support their desire to locate where the need is greater, of a facility that is approximately 14,000sf and potentially close to the new Juvenile Center. He requested County support and help with identifying possible parcels and with grant writing. Due to the deterioration of the current building, they are looking to start planning and building this current year. Dissette discussed the infrastructure and the 6 hour water outage just experienced. He emphasized the urgency. Midwest Strategies is looking for possible funds through the State. Sacred Heart is going after federal funding. Dissette stated the opioid settlement funds and marijuana tax fund may help. Curran noted the Master Plan needs to be updated in regards to the Napier site. Judge Mayfield noted it's about the people we serve and to maintain focus. Gonzalez discussed the current contract with Sacred Heart. Dissette will have an engagement contract ready for Wightman & Associates at next week's meeting. Curran would like to see Family Court, Juvenile Center and Sacred Heart all co-located. He requested Dr. Hamel give this same presentation to the full board within the next couple weeks.

Q & A – Dissette, Freehling & Stack

Stack discussed the current issue with Japanese Knotweed and believes he has found a chemical that will kill it. He presented a bid waiver for a single source contract. The Committee concurred to allow the waiver.

Freehling verified the consent calendar. Wuerfel requested the Public Act 51 resolution be pulled for further discussion.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Wuerfel, supported by Martin, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following Resolutions were signed by the Committee:

A2207315 – Authorize Local Agency Force Account Agreement with CSX for work on Shedd Road.
A2207316 – Accept FY23 Traffic Enforcement grant for patrol enforcement.
A2207318 – Accept FY23 Traffic Enforcement grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety.
A2207320 – Acknowledge COVID-19 testing reimbursement grant extension through September 30, 2022.
A2207321 – Authorize agreement with Countryside Academy for a School Resource Officer.
A2207323 – Authorize submission of the Act 51 FY21 Annual Financial Report to the State.
A2207324 – Pledge to accept potential award through IJJA Bridge Improvement fund.

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – There is a 5' State Highway culvert that goes through the property on Napier and into a drainage lagoon. The location behind the Animal Shelter would be a better place. Discussions ensued.

Meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

JArent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary