

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
Minutes of February 18, 2021**

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson, via Zoom in Winter Haven, Florida
Don Meeks Sr., Vice Chair, via Zoom Benton Charter Township
David Vollrath, via Zoom in Coloma Township
Julie Wuerfel, via Zoom Royalton Township

Absent:

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator via Zoom
Annette Christie, County Administration via Zoom
Caitlin Sampsell, 911 Director

Others: Jennifer Arent, Recording Secretary via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:02am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Vollrath to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting. Roll Call Vote as follows: 4 YEAS: Curran, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel. Motion Carried.

Caitlin Sampsell – 911 Equipment – Intrado Maintenance Contract

Sampsell reviewed the 911 internal phone service contract. This is the second year for the fiber network. The resolution for the whole board will be ready at the next meeting. She gave an update on the status of the 800MHz transition, which will be discussed thoroughly at the next 911 meeting. Discussions ensued regarding the towers, which are currently all on individual frequencies. It would be beneficial to simulcast so all towers are on the same frequency. The estimated cost is \$4M to simulcast and \$2M to build another tower. To finance this, it would most likely need to be a millage approved by the voters. Discussions ensued regarding a new tower vs using a water tank. A Commissioner wrote in and asked if retired AEP poles can be used. Sampsell stated they are most likely not tall enough, but she will look into it.

The grant has been submitted by the Fire Chief for portable radios. Mobile units will most likely need to be individual applications submitted by each department.

Dissette stated General Obligation bonds are currently very low – approximately 1% to 2%. He will make arrangements for John Axe to give a presentation on funding. Christie will reach out to the Fire Chief Association to fill the 911 board vacancies. Discussions ensued regarding new towers vs current towers.

Annette Christie – Board Appointments

Christie reviewed the 911 Advisory Board appointments as follows, which will be recommended to the full board:

- Re-Appoint Marvin Pschigoda to the 911 Advisory Board for a 3 year term – Term expires 12/31/2023.

- Appoint First Lt. Ryan Schoonveld to the 911 Advisory Board in the Michigan State Police position for a 3 year term – Term expires 12/31/2024
- Appoint Lt. Jeremy Carlisle as the Michigan State Police alternate – 3 year term – 12/31/2024

Christie discussed a current board member that has an attendance issue. In the past 5 meetings, he made it to 1. He wants to continue serving on the board, but is not able to attend online. Curran and Vollrath will look into it and the reappointment will be held.

Brian Dissette – Administrator’s Update

Due to the State of Michigan COVID orders affecting small businesses, Dissette has made arrangements for Arthur Havlicek with the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber to attend next week’s meeting to discuss local restaurants and what the Chamber is working on.

Resolution A2102165 – Hazmat Grant Application

Christie presented the resolution that allows the Sheriff to apply for the grant. If the grant is approved, there will be another resolution to accept the funds. The resolution was approved.

Chairman Approved Distributions

The following distributions from Berrien Community Foundation to the Sheriff’s Department were signed and approved by Chairman Curran:

\$7,477.24 – Cycles

\$150.00 – Crime Prevention Advertisement in Michigan Lutheran Winter Sports Program

\$200.00 – Liability Coverage for Polar Plunge at New Buffalo Township Marina

\$2,460.00 – Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge for Special Olympics

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Ask why the ones that got the late e-mail on the shots were never notified about an appointment, or is it that we all were put on a no show list? Something else, there is nothing more important than the police and fire communications in this county. I have seen good improvement in plowing all over the local areas since the new director.

Chairman Curran adjourned the meeting at 8:54am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary