

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 20, 2020

Present: Jim Curran, Chair
Michael Majerek, Vice Chair
Chris Heugel
Don Meeks Sr.

Absent:

Scheduled: Tiffany Peterson, Animal Control
Bill Wolf, County Administration
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

Others: Lisa Mattson, Public
Jerry Sirk, Public
Julie Swidwa, Public
Mike Haskins, Public

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:07 am.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Heugel, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 meeting.
Motion Carried.

Animal Control Update

Peterson reviewed the 2019 4th Quarter statistics. They took just under 6,000 calls during the year. They are using a managed intake system to keep cats moving to other organizations to allow for more room. They are currently inundated with pit bulls. She reported the new software is making it easier to track everything, with the exception of miles driven. She has applied for a grant for Trap-Neuter-Release, which is a program that allows for community cats to be released as long as a person signs an agreement that they will feed the cats and provide shelter. Peterson is working on educating the public on this new program. She currently has 7 vets that are willing to donate their time for the neutering. They will focus on the male cats first as the female cats need to be put under general anesthesia and the current machine works, but is old. She is working on getting quotes for a newer, used machine and will provide the quotes to the Committee when they are available. There is a shot clinic planned for Sunday that will be held at the Eau Claire Fire Department that will include microchips. Peterson reported all uniform officers have vests and new firearms.

Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott

Elliott confirmed the consent calendar. He noted the application deadline for an Administrator was set for tomorrow, but would like it to be extended until the end of the month. He would also like the post for Corporate Counsel to be open for 30 days. When Judge Dewane returns from vacation, the Board can appoint him as interim Corporate Counsel until the position is filled. Discussions ensued regarding hiring vs contracting. The Committee concurred an in-house position is needed.

Meeks requested an honorary Resolution for Art Fenrick with the Community Action Agency as he will be retiring soon. Elliott would also like to recognize Sheriff Nick Jewell and Don Ryman for their years of service. The Committee concurred.

Wolf let the Committee know that Commissioner Harrison has asked to have all the Commissioners put on a census T-shirt at next week's meeting for a photo and to promote the census.

Resolutions

None.

Public Comment

Lisa Mattson – Asked Peterson if there were any current legal cases. Peterson discussed one case where an owner watched her chained dog get killed by two neighbor dogs that were loose.

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township – He may have access to some funding for the Animal Control anesthesia equipment and requested to receive the quote. He noted the Hallmark Channel showcases dogs and wondered if it is something that can be done locally as well. Peterson discussed some of the different promotions they use.

Julie Swidwa, Herald Palladium – She would like to feature an article on the Trap-Neuter-Return program.

Mike Haskins, Pipestone Township – In regards to the anesthesia machine, cats aren't the best with anesthesia so the sooner Animal Control can get an upgraded machine, the better.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent