

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the March 12, 2020 Personnel and Human Services Committee Meeting.
Meeting held in Conference Room 4B. Attendance was as follows:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
William Chickering	X		Nicki Britten, Mac Elliott, Bill Wolf
Dave Vollrath	X		Brian Bailey
Teri Freehling	X		
			Shelley Jasper

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting called to order at 9:28 a.m.
- Motion by Vollrath, supported by Freehling to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020. 2 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstention due to absence on 3/5/2020, Motion carried.
- Resolution P2003003, a Resolution to approve the February per diem payments totaling \$5,228.07 was reviewed and signed by all Committee members.
- Resolution P2003204, a Resolution to approve the renewal of an agreement with Krasl Art Center regarding Sculptures at Silver Beach was reviewed and signed by all Committee members.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Health Officer Nicki Britten introduced and discussed the following Resolutions which were then signed by all Committee members:

- P2003190, a Resolution to enter into a partnership agreement with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission with a contract total of \$16,500 from April 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 to provide support for planning, assessment, and mapping activities related to the proposed expansion of the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail.
- P2003192, a Resolution to approve a partnership agreement with the City of Niles for \$2,000 from April 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020 for the launch of a historic bike route throughout the City of Niles.
- P2003193, a Resolution to accept a \$10,000 grant from the Michigan Public Health Institute to support the completion of a Community Health Improvement Plan. This is necessary to apply for national accreditation.
- P2003194, a Resolution to approve the grant application for \$10,000 from the Lakeland Health Foundation. The grant, if awarded, will support the Benton Harbor farmer's market.

Nicki updated the Committee on the Niles body art facility and mentioned that approximately 50 people did complete blood borne pathogen testing at the Health Department. She then discussed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The CDC is recommending gatherings of groups of 250 or more participants be postponed or suggests a using virtual option for meetings. The Health Department has a weekly conference call with all local partners in which they share information and keep everyone abreast of the latest COVID-19 information. When questioned, she mentioned that the Public Health Code would allow for closure of schools where closure would reduce transmission or if there was an imminent threat to public health. She mentioned that children fare quite well against the current virus, thus no current recommendation for closure. They are closely monitoring the situation.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Chickering asked that Parks Director Brian Bailey join the Committee to further discuss Resolutions P2003199 and P2003200. Resolution 199 involves a MNRTF grant application to develop 63 acres adjacent to Paw Paw River County Park, which was purchased in CY2019. Resolution 200 is a MNRTF grant application to purchase 33 acres bordering Madeline Bertrand County Park. Commissioner Chickering worried that the two submissions would be competing with each other. Brian said they would come from two different application tracks and would not directly compete. Commissioner Freehling was concerned for financial reasons. She questioned if the County match portion was a good use for Parks funds. Brian mentioned that there is no guarantee the grant

applications will be successful and if they are, the County could always decline the award. Both Commissioners then signed the Resolutions. Commissioner Vollrath previously signed both Resolutions.

ADMINISTRATOR/CHAIRMAN

Chairman Elliott mentioned that he appointed John Dewane's firm and John Dewane specifically as FOIA Coordinator and interim Corporate Counsel.

Administrator Wolf discusses the Corona virus and the County's response as an employer. He introduced the "Healthy Workplace Cautionary Period" idea. More details will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Adjourned 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director