

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

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairperson, via Zoom in Niles Charter Township
Don Meeks Sr., Vice Chair via Zoom in 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
Undersheriff Chuck Heit, Berrien County Sheriff Dept., via Zoom
Neil Coulston, Road Department, via Zoom

Others: Jennifer Arent, Recording Secretary via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:02am. Roll Call as follows: 4 PRESENT: Curran, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Wuerfel, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting. Roll Call Vote as follows: 4 YEAS: Curran, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel. Motion Carried.

Administrator Update – Brian Dissette

Arthur Havlicek, President of Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, will attend the meeting on March 24. John Axe and Caitlin Sampsell, 911 Director, will attend the March 31 meeting.

Dissette has asked Coulston, Interim Road Department Director, to prepare a report and would like to allow him a week to prepare it and present it at the next meeting. He reviewed the proposal for Resolution A2103188 with Abonmarche. He would like Coulston to stay on as a project manager. Coulston discussed the current openings for engineers. Discussions ensued. Dissette will work on a Director job description and posting. He will ask Chris Cook and his team to attend on the 31st to review the 2021 pouring plans. Curran requested a salary review.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were presented and approved to move forward:

A2103188 (discussed above)

A2103189 & A2103190 – These two resolutions are tied together as A2103190 is to discontinue services with Concierge on March 31st for the billing services and A2103189 is to contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield beginning April 1st. Heit discussed the contracts, which are for third party medical billing services for outside medical care. BCBS is able to get discounted insurance rates.

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – If Neal is being frozen out, then I wonder why the people that are doing so are not dealt with. They are getting paid an hourly wage and are not in charge.

Neal is. So why are those few still there? This seems like an ongoing thing from the original takeover. Seems like the employees rule the department, not the County Administrator. With all the issues at the Road Department, I would ask that a complete audit of funds be done as soon as possible.

Chairman Curran adjourned the meeting at 8:31am.

Respectfully Submitted,

JArent

Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary