

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
VIA ZOOM
Minutes of March 31, 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 Charter Township
Julie Wuerfel, via Zoom in Royalton Township

Absent:

Scheduled: Brian Dissette, County Administrator via Zoom
Annette Christie, County Administration via Zoom
Kevin Stack, Road Department via Zoom
Chris Cook, Abonmarche Consultant
Caitlin Sampsell, 911 Director
John Axe, Clark Hill, PLC Bond Counsel
Bill Irwin, Motorola
Dan Fette, Community Development Director
Lex Winans, GIS Director

Others: Jennifer Arent, Recording Secretary via Zoom

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm. Roll Call as follows: 3 PRESENT: Curran, Meeks, Wuerfel. 1 ABSENT: Vollrath.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meeks, supported by Wuerfel, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting. Roll Call Vote as follows: 3 YEAS: Curran, Meeks, Wuerfel. 1 ABSENT: Vollrath. Motion Carried.

Road Department Project Update – Kevin Stack

Stack reviewed construction projects. Bids have been opened and he reviewed the maps of local road. He noted HMA costs came in lower than expected. The primary road bids will come in tomorrow. He reviewed the types of materials to be used. Discussions ensued regarding Federal Aid projects and Asset Management. He is not seeing any issues with availability of contractors with the US-31 extension going on.

**Vollrath entered the meeting at 12:05pm.*

911 Capital Improvement Discussion – Caitlin Sampsell & John Axe

Sampsell gave a brief review of the 800 MHz and enhancements. Irwin explained the coverage areas on the map. The state will help with small coverage areas. Axe discussed Capital Improvement Bonds to build additional structures and the repayment options. One is a general election to raise the millage, or a specific surcharge for phone users. The Federal Communications Act is developing guidelines. Discussions ensued regarding the FCC vs State rules. Wuerfel asked Fette about Recovery Act funding. Fette stated it is currently not eligible, but he is waiting for clarification on expansion of infrastructure from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Resolution A2104204 – Sampsell discussed the 911 grant program available to use the GIS address point layer. Winans discussed the benefits of saving storage space in the 911 system and it is a way to directly link to an exact address instead of ranges. Sampsell noted that currently calls routed by GPS are to road lines. The Committee agreed to move the resolution forward.

**Vollrath left the meeting at 1:07pm.*

Resolution B2104193 – Release Federal COVID Funding

Christie reviewed the changes in verbiage. Discussions ensued. The Committee approved putting it on the BOC agenda tomorrow.

County Property Use Request

Christie reviewed the request from The Alex Mandarino Foundation for June 19. The annual event was cancelled last year. They have received approval from the City, but this request is for use of the property by the river at the bottom of the Courthouse property. Discussions ensued regarding outside restrictions and Curran requested to add “comply with current CDC and State guidelines” to the contract.

Public Comment

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Why is Hillandale still on the Sodus list after the Township has told Kevin two times now they do not want it done as they are doing other projects? I feel that the funding needs to be looked into as it is not fair from what I am hearing. Does every Road Department vehicle now have the GPS units in them and working? Also, why are employees allowed to talk on cell phones while driving a vehicle that requires a CDL license?

Administrator Notes – Brian Dissette

Dissette noted that Chris Cook of Abonmarche was on during the Road Department presentation and that he will be working three days per week at the Road Department. Cook has been working on communications to be sent out to the Townships.

Curran noted that Resolution B2103179 that Wuerfel and Freehling have been working on will not be moved forward yet.

Chairman Curran adjourned the meeting at 1:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Arent
Recording Secretary