

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of April 18, 2019**

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

**Absent:** Chris Heugel

**Scheduled:** Dave Agens, 9-1-1  
Christopher Renna, Public Defender  
Bill Wolf, County Administration  
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair

**Others:** Tony Dlouhy, Public  
Darren Schaer, Public

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:20 am.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Majerek, supported by Heugel, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meetings.  
Motion Carried.

**9-1-1 Update**

Agens reported the NextGen 911 project is slated to go live around August. He is still waiting for an updated on the fire department upgrade grant and is hoping to know if it's been accepted in May. Discussions ensued regarding the CAD Dispatch system.

**Approval of FY20 MiDC Budget**

Renna stated the budget deadline is the end of April and he must submit the FY20 renewal request. Due to a contract retirement, he would like to change from issuing another contract to bringing the attorneys in-house. It would be 5 full time public defenders and 1 legal secretary. Discussions ensued regarding housing of additional employees and office space needs. Renna stated the MiDC would pay for rental of office space and equipment. He is requesting to send the offer to Lansing and will have a resolution next week. Curran stated he preferred a hybrid approach, but the opposite of the request. He would prefer continuing with contract attorneys and having someone to manage them. He is cautious about hiring young attorneys and also concerned about the possibility of the State pulling funding in the future, which would cause layoffs of County employees.

**Q & A with Bill Wolf and BOC Chair Elliott**

Curran stated he wanted Renna to present his proposal to the entire Board for their approval. He discussed the Committee reporting order and Wolf will add Renna to present his proposal during the regular meeting.

**Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were approved and signed:

A1904215 – Authorize the Community Corrections Advisory Board to submit an application to continue funding of the program.

A1904218 – Approval of the abandonment and discontinuance of a portion of Fedore Road right-of-way in Buchanan Township.

A1904222 – Authorize Agreement for Services and MOU with CASA for serving Berrien County children under the court’s jurisdiction, retroactive beginning October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019.

**Miscellaneous**

None.

**Public Comment**

Tony Dlouhy, Lincoln Charter Township – In regards to the Defense request, he likes the discussion and bringing out facts. Everyone is entitled to a defense, but how far do you go?

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – How many attorneys are we going to end up hiring? We are a small County compared to some others. There needs to be a limit sometime and we can’t expect the State to pay for them.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jennifer Arent