

BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Minutes of February 12, 2026

Roll Call Present: Jim Curran, Chairman
David Vollrath, Vice Chair
Sharon Tyler

Absent: Alex Ott (Assigned to PHSC)

Scheduled: Mike Sepic, Interim Administrator
Teri Freehling, BOC Vice Chair
Sheriff Heit, BCSD
Undersheriff Sanders, BCSD

Others: Mark Heyliger, Road Department
Thaddeus Hackworth, Corporate Counsel

Call to Order

Chairman Curran called the meeting to order at 9:18 am. He noted Ott has been assigned to PHSC to cover an absence.

Sheriff's Department Update – Sheriff Heit & Undersheriff Sanders

Sheriff Heit reviewed the January statistics, noting there are currently two inmates in the hospital. Discussions ensued regarding the daily count email and how to read the graph. They have two DOC Academy graduates this month. Undersheriff Sanders reviewed the enforcement numbers. There is one Animal Control officer on long-term medical leave. Heit will discuss with Sepic on a possible additional hire for Animal Control. SWET has had an increase in fentanyl and firearms. They are currently funded through the millage for 5 but currently have 4 on the team. February 20th is Rockey Adam's last day. Dave Albers is now Captain. They will be conducting interviews.

Q & A – Sepic & Freehling

Freehling verified the consent calendar. Tyler asked who employees should contact regarding benefits. Freehling stated the call center will be dedicated to both current employees and retirees. They are working on an agreement to add that benefit. She noted HR should provide the information once it is accepted. Discussions ensued regarding level of services.

****ADDED** Road Department – Heyliger**

Heyliger reported he will reach out to Wightman for an hourly cost to cover the County's required Engineer of Record duties. He provided additional information for the two resolutions on today's agenda. The MDOT project on M-139 is a multi-year project. The county will provide \$769,384 to MDOT for the resurfacing work to be completed so there will not be any duplication. The resolution for the county-wide mileage remains the same as the previous year. There was a road name change, but it did not affect the actual mileage.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Tyler, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026 meeting. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were signed by the Committee:

A2602134 – Approve contract #25-5544 with MDOT for asphalt reconstruction work along Napier Avenue.
A2602148 – Approve county wide mileages for 2025.

Sheriff's Funds Distribution Request

None.

Ott arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Property Use Request

Alex's Duck Duck Run – Saturday, June 13 from 5:30am to 11:00am. Arent reported she spoke with the contact at the organization that was already approved for this same date and time he agreed to defer this year to the next day. He stated he would appreciate a call from the Alex's Duck Duck Run organizer to coordinate subsequent years so that both groups are not vying for the same date. Curran approved the request. Arent will contact both groups with the approval and update.

No Kings 3 Rally – Saturday, March 28 from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Christie provided via email additional information, including their willingness to purchase insurance if required. Hackworth reviewed it due to the large number of people expected. Curran tabled the request for one week to give Sheriff Heit time to meet with City of St. Joseph Public Safety to verify and coordinate parking capacity. The request will be on the agenda for next week, February 19.

Miscellaneous

None.

Public Comments

Bill Hodge, Bainbridge Township – He has been digging into the Act 51 annual reports and 2024 is not available online. He would like some insight into the investment accounts. Who approved them? They should be by board approval and show where the investments are held. Curran will meet with Hodge to review his numbers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

JArent

Jennifer Arent