Barry County Board of Commissioners
March 17, 2020; 9:00 a.m.; Commission Chambers
MINUTES

1. Chair Wing called the regular session of the Barry County Board of Commissioners to Order at 9:00 a.m. in the Barry County Commission Chambers.


3. Those present stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4. Roll Call was taken. The following members were present: Vivian Conner, Ben Geiger, Howard Gibson, Dave Jackson, Dan Parker, and Heather Wing. Absent: Jon Smelker. Also present: Clerk Pam Palmer.

5. APPROVAL OF WRITTEN AGENDA: (including consent items & items for discussion)

The agenda was approved as written, without objection.

6. REPORTS FROM STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS:

7. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: (3 minutes per person)

- Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles, Deb Mousseau, Dave Van Houten, and Mike Cunningham from Yankee Springs Township introduced themselves and announced their candidacy as Supervisor, Trustee, Treasurer, Trustee, and Clerk, respectively.
- Rick Moore announced that Barry Roubaix has been rescheduled for October 10, 2020.

8. VARIOUS CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Wing received an email from Jack Miner that indicated that he would not be in attendance at the commissioner meeting today due to the COVID-19 virus, and requested protection for employees from the pandemic.

9. CONSENT ITEMS (voted upon at one time by roll call vote):

   a. Approval of March 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes. (roll call vote)

      Moved by Gibson, seconded by Geiger to approved the March 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, Smelker and Wing. Nays: None. Motion carried.


Recess at 9:49 a.m. Resume meeting with all commissioners present (absent Smelker) at 9:56 a.m.
11. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

12. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION (roll call vote indicated)
   a. Approval of claims in the amount of $115,161.12 (roll call vote)

   Moved by Conner, seconded by Parker for approval of claims in the amount of $115,161.12. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

14. NEW BUSINESS:
   a. Ines Straube – Appointment of Attorney-Magistrate. (roll call vote)

   Moved by Jackson, seconded by Geiger, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approval of the appointment of Jennifer Sheldon as attorney magistrate. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

   b. Lt. Nevins/Matt Houchlei – Request to Increase Cook Position from PT to FT (roll call vote)

   Moved by Gibson, seconded by Geiger to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to restore a full-time Corrections Cook position. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

   Recess at 10:54 a.m. Resume meeting with all commissioners present (absent Smelker) at 11:03 a.m.

   c. Kerri Selleck – Proposed FY2021 MIDC Budget Request (roll call vote)

   Moved by Gibson, seconded by Geiger to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval of the attached Proposed FY2021 MIDC budget Request that is due to MIDC/State of Michigan on or before April 30, 2020. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

   d. Jim Dull – Request to Purchase Hose for the Mini Dredge (roll call vote)

   Moved by Gibson, seconded by Jackson to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to spend $2,525.00 from the Capital Replacement Fund to purchase a 100 ft. floating discharge hose from Equipment Specialties Company, Inc., for use with the mini dredge purchased in 2019. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.
e. Chair Wing – 1. Re-appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals (roll call vote)

Moved by Parker, seconded by Gibson to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to re-appoint Shirley Barnum and Richard Patterson to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals for three year terms that begin on April 1, 2020 and end on March 31, 2023. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

2. Re-appointments to Mental Health Board (roll call vote)

Moved by Gibson, seconded by Geiger to recommend to the Board of Commissioners approval to reappoint Nora Hurst and Robert Nelson to serve on the Barry County Community Mental Health Authority Board for three year terms that begin on April 1, 2020 and expire on March 31, 2023. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

3. Discussion Regarding Future Meeting Dates (roll call vote)

Moved by Geiger, seconded by Conner for approval of an Order to prevent the spread of Covid-19, Barry County and Barry County Trial Court operations will remain available, however buildings will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 through Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Anyone requiring county services must call the respective office before traveling to a county building.

All services that can be conducted alternatively (online or phone) or delayed shall be handled in that manner.

Public shall contact the office or court in which they have business in order to determine whether such business can be delayed, conducted over the phone or online.

Public conducting business with or requiring Court services shall refer to the “Barry County Trial Court Local Administrative Order Limiting Access to Court Facility for Public Health Emergency” for details.

The County’s main telephone number is 269-459-1400. Using the directory, persons will be able to contact County and Court offices.

If business must be conducted in person, appointments shall be required to be scheduled in advance through the respective department.

Please visit www.barrycounty.org for information regarding department services and for updates on the status of Barry County operation.

Those with scheduled appointments may be screened upon entering the building.

Questions may be directed to County Administrator Michael Brown at 269-945-1284.

Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.
Moved by Geiger, seconded by Conner to approve the Chairman of the Board be authorized to modify the previously approved COVID-19 Operations Plan if necessary up until the Board of Commissioners meets again. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

Moved by Geiger, seconded by Gibson to approve cancelation of the March 24 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting and the April 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting, pursuant to federal, state and local COVID-19 directives, orders and recommendations, and approval to authorize the County Administrator to approve pre-paids, claims and commissioner reimbursements until such time that the Board of Commissioners reconvenes. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

Moved by Geiger, seconded by Jackson to allow 80 hours of sick leave for county employees to use during this unprecedented time to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Discussion. Roll call vote. Ayes: Conner, Geiger, Gibson, Jackson, Parker, and Wing. Nays: None. Absent: Smelker. Motion carried.

15. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT: Thanked the commissioners for their patience and willingness to address the county concerns.

16. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT: Local Emergency Planning Commission Committee met on Friday. Eaton County has already opened their emergency operations, and Heather will be talking with Jim Yarger regarding Barry County. Most of her other meetings are being cancelled.

17. VICE CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT: Commissioner Conner attended the District Conservation meeting last week, as well as the Yankee Springs Twp. meeting and the Solid Waste Oversight Committee meeting. The public hearing for Area Agency on Aging meeting was cancelled yesterday, but Gun Lake Improvement board will be meeting tonight.

18. COMMISSIONER REPORTS (FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA): Each commissioner reported on their various committees, boards, events and meetings.

19. LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES PER PERSON):

- Rick Moore indicated that an infrared temperature gauge can be obtained through Harbor Freight.

20. OTHER BUSINESS:

21. ADJOURNMENT: at 12:28 a.m.

Heather Wing, Chair
Barry County Board of Commissioners

Pamela A. Palmer, County Clerk

Approved: 4/14/2020 PPalmer