

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Commissioner Tim Barnes, Commissioner Brian Droscha, Commissioner Brandon Haskell, Commissioner Mark Mudry, and Commissioner Dairus Reynnet

ABSENT:

Vice-Chairman Commissioner Wayne Ridge and Commissioner Jane Whitacre

ALSO PRESENT:

Chairman Jeremy Whittum, Controller John Fuentes, Undersheriff Jeff Cook, Deputy Dispatch Director Kelly Cunningham, Emergency Management Coordinator Ryan Wilkinson, Community Corrections Director Melanie Achenbach, and Jerri Nesbitt

The November 4, 2021 regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Barnes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all, led by Commissioner Mudry.

AGENDA ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

There were no additions or changes to the agenda. Commissioner Haskell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Mudry moved to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2021 Public Safety Committee Meeting. Commissioner Reynnet seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

The following citizens came forward expressing support of an ORV ordinance: Mark Goodrich, Bellevue Village President; Dennis Dingman, Bellevue Township resident; Wayne Root, Assyria Hwy; Dan Loughan; and Theresa Root.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE UPDATE

Undersheriff Cook highlighted the major incidents that occurred in October 2021.

Controller Fuentes stated that bids for the Jail Security Enhancement and Upgrade project are due November 10, 2021. Further information will be reported at the next meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Controller Fuentes presented the monthly reimbursement, jail census, and court security reports. Billings have been sent to the State for Michigan Department of Corrections and Parole Violator housing programs. There were no significant changes in the jail census. WRAP program participant numbers and MDOC inmate numbers decreased slightly. There were no unusual incidents to report from court security.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS APPOINTMENT

The Advisory Board has a vacancy that is held by representation from either the Circuit Court Probation Office or District Court Probation Office. The Advisory Board is recommending the appointment of Clinton Auer, Circuit Court Probation, to fill the vacancy. Commissioner Droscha made a motion to recommend approval of Mr. Auer to fill the vacancy to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Haskell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BYLAWS

Community Corrections Director Achenbach addressed the committee explaining recommended changes to the Bylaws. Presently the Bylaws state that the election of new officers would be held at the January meeting. Based on the current meeting scheduled, the recommended change would be to clarify that election of new officers take place at the first meeting of the calendar year. The recommended changes also include updates to comply with changes made to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Haskell recommended approval of the proposed changes to the Bylaws to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Droscha seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CENTRAL DISPATCH UPDATE

Central Dispatch Deputy Director Cunningham thanked Chairman Commissioner Barnes for the recent Air Med Transportation training and onsite demonstration. Law enforcement, Fire and EMS radio updates are continuing. Interviews for the new Deputy Director of Central Dispatch position are scheduled for November 19, 2021.

EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Emergency Management Coordinator Wilkinson reported the Campus Connections Group met and together have begun networking Emergency Services program efforts. The Active Assailant Conference was well attended and included briefings on incidents across the globe. Preparations are continuing on the Operation Silver Thaw 2021 Exercise that is scheduled for Tuesday, December 7, 2021. The exercise is all virtual with field operations being simulated. Participants include Eaton, Clinton, and Ingham Counties, Delta and Delhi Townships, Michigan State University and Lansing Police Departments.

ORV ORDINANCE UPDATE

Controller Fuentes reported that responses from the letter Chairman Commissioner Barnes sent to Township and Villages after the October meeting were received from Bellevue Township and Village, Brookfield Township, and the City of Lansing. Information received from the Road Commission is that they will exercise their authority to exempt certain roads throughout the County based on factors including traffic volumes, speed limits and other safety considerations.

The actual roads to be exempted would need to be identified prior to scheduling a public hearing. Differences in the ordinances of Barry and Ionia Counties treatment of designated roads were noted and discussed. In order to proceed, a proposed ordinance must be developed for purposes of conducting the required public hearing. Once a draft has been finalized, a Public Notice of the hearing by the Board of Commissioners must be posted for 45 days. Commissioner Droscha provided documentation from various sources not supporting the use of ORV's on roadways. Ms. Jennifer Dingman addressed the committee citing the safety features of ORV's and the requirement for obtaining an ORV Safety Course certificate. Discussion Held. Commissioner Droscha stated he did not feel the County should consider adopting an ORV ordinance for traffic safety reasons.

The Committee directed a draft ordinance, including proposed roads to be exempted by the Eaton County Road Commission, be prepared for consideration at the next regular meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

It was reported the 2020 Annual Report from the Medical Examiner's Office was included in the materials for the Committee's review. The Medical Examiner can be scheduled to attend an upcoming meeting to review the report and answer questions.

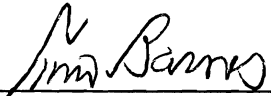
LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

The following citizens addressed the committee expressing their support for an ORV ordinance, Danny Dunn, Nashville resident; Jessica and Dakota Angus, Bellevue Township; Dillon Walls, Bellevue Township; Ken, Bellevue Township. Dennis Dingman, Bellevue Township; Theresa Root, Assyria Hwy; and Mark Goodrich, Bellevue Village President readdressed the committee re-stating their support for an ordinance and responding to concerns expressed by the Committee during its discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Commissioner Barnes adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room of the County Courthouse located at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI 48813.



Commissioner Tim Barnes
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee