

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:37 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott, Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

1 ABSENT: R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 5, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Bell moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the BOC Organizational meeting minutes of January 5, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

Vice Chairperson Freehling stated that during the Committee of Whole (COW) meeting, the BOC went into Closed Session and the Closed Session minutes of October 27, 2022 were reviewed. The minutes of the Closed Session need to be approved.

Motion

Commissioner Curran moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Closed Session minutes of October 27, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS:

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) the following communication:

- A resolution from Branch County Board of Commissioners, strongly objecting to the reclassification of the Prairie River and recommends that the DNR disapprove the reclassification or pause their decision, received on January 11, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS – Public comments at this portion of the meeting must be related to resolutions listed on today's agenda only. Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9 B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about Resolution #F2301116 - Set Mileage Reimbursement for 2023.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2301014	Weekly Bills & Road Payables

B2301061	Weekly Requisitions
P2301110	Contract Strategic Planning Services
P2301113	BOC Bylaws & Rules of Procedure
P2301114	WIC Services Facility in South County
F2301116	Set Mileage Reimbursement for 2023

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Administration, Finance and Personnel & Human Services

Committees:

The Administration, Finance and Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org. Discussion was held.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS - Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9 B-C):

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, asked the BOC to use their microphones and to speak louder. Mr. Pelzer spoke about the high cost of eggs. Commissioner Hinkelman stated the high cost of eggs is due to the chickens having the avian flu, which reduced the supply of egg-laying hens.

Victory Woodall, Stevensville, spoke about a 7th grade teacher at Coloma Community Schools gifting a book to her students at the teacher's expense with mature context. She wants the Coloma Community Schools to hold an emergency meeting to address this issue and to have zero tolerance on sexual explicit material.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Vice Chairperson Freehling, Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie and Administrator Dissette spoke about Resolution #B2301119 – Support for Parks Grants county-wide that will be on the Agenda next week. Discussion was held.
- **Motion to Authorize**
Vice Chairperson Freehling stated at the COW meeting, a Closed Session was held regarding the Road Department.

Motion

Commissioner Curran made a motion to authorize Administration to pursue suitable real estate for the Road Department needs and to negotiate and bring back to the BOC option agreements for approval. Supported by Commissioner Vollrath.

The Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Freehling. Motion carried, no nays.

- Commissioner Hinkelman spoke about the resolution approved by Branch County Board of Commissioners, strongly objecting to the reclassification of the Prairie River. He would like more information on the subject. Administrator Dissette will acquire further information on the issue.
- Vice Chairperson Freehling spoke about the outside BOC Appointment Request form, the Conflict of Interest Waivers and the calendar of meetings which will be discussed next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- County Facilities will be closed Monday, January 16, 2023, in observance of a holiday.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.