

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2020

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:31 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Curran gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

12 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the BOC meeting minutes of January 9, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communications:

- An email from Jim Walker, Baroda, requesting the Board to consider a resolution to declare Berrien County to be a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 10, 2020.
- The following emails were received on January 14, 2020, requesting the Board to introduce and pass the resolution to protect the second amendment (2A) rights:
 - William Freier, St. Joseph.
 - Danielle Bell, Watervliet.
 - Lorrie Brink, Benton Harbor.
 - Nan Griffiths, Stevensville.
 - John Billington, Galien.
 - Chris Evans, Buchanan.
 - David and Flora Oosterhouse, Berrien Springs.
 - Bret Arrans, Benton Harbor.
 - Kristopher Rich, St. Joseph.
 - Kristene Walton, Coloma.
 - Kevin Schneider, Benton Harbor.
 - Jack Park, Benton Harbor.
 - Donald McAlhany, St. Joseph.
 - Linda VanderVeen, St. Joseph.
 - Ted Ellis, Baroda.
 - Ronald Nowell, Jr., Stevensville.
 - Kenneth Conner, unknown.
 - Scott Kosachuk, St. Joseph.
- The following emails were received on January 15, 2020, requesting the Board to introduce and pass the resolution to protect the second amendment (2A) rights:
 - Bruce Cole, Berrien Springs.
 - Conner Vladic, unknown.
 - Adrianna Burkhard-Ayala, Bridgman.

- Mathew Sherwood, Niles.
- Brad Mann, Watervliet.
- The following emails were received on January 16, 2020, requesting the Board to introduce and pass the resolution to protect the second amendment (2A) rights:
 - Corey Teed, St. Joseph.
 - Jacob LaVanway, Eau Claire.
 - Emily Bee, St. Joseph.
 - Kevin Merrill, Stevensville.
 - Peter Fister, St. Joseph.
 - Anthony Duis, unknown.
 - George Spafford, St. Joseph.
 - Andrew Zachary, Stevensville.
 - Mary Sue Enders, Coloma.
 - Suzon Pearson, Benton Harbor.
 - Terry Elrod, 22266 Dutch Settlement.
- An email from Matt O'Donnell from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names and U.S. Geological Survey, regarding a proposal from a resident of Hagar Township to apply the new name Damon Lake to an officially unnamed lake north of Damon Drive, dated January 14, 2020.

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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Darin Schaer, Pipestone Township, supports Resolution #P2001146 - Approve MSUE Work Plan and would like the amount to be increased.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott recommended Resolution #P2001146 - Approve MSUE Work Plan and Resolution #P2001150 - Contract with OnBase for Promotional Services be moved from Added Resolutions to the Consent Calendar.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to include the Added Resolutions #P2001146 and Resolution #P2001150 to the Consent Calendar and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2001001	Monthly Per Diems
F2001015	Weekly Bills
B2001062	Weekly Requisitions
P2001142	Public Health Accreditation Readiness Grant Application
P2001145	Berrien Community Foundation Grant Award
A2001147	Approve the Act 51 Annual Maps
P2001146	Approve MSUE Work Plan
P2001150	Contract with OnBase for Promotional Services

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

12 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Added Resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar.

PARENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Personnel and Human Services, Finance, and Administration Committees presented their Parent Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioners presented their Commissioner Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: None.

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

Jim Walker, Baroda, presented the Board with a resolution to declare Berrien County to be a second amendment sanctuary county and discussed the Second Amendment and Article 1 Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution.

The following individuals spoke regarding the resolution to protect their second amendment (2A) rights:

- Christopher Rich, St. Joseph.
- Todd Erb, Lincoln Charter Township.
- John Straszewski, Buchanan.
- Melissa Lester, St. Joseph.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the MDOT meeting to discuss the future cul-de-sac of Empire Avenue on either side of the future U.S. 31, instead of constructing a bridge as part of project to connect U.S. 31 to I-94.

Eric Lester, St. Joseph Charter Township, has concerns about the resolution regarding second amendment (2A) rights.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, asked who is the Road Department, who is the chair, and who do you direct your comments to for the Road Department?

Sheriff Paul Bailey, Berrien Township, stated he supports the Second Amendment, the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Michigan.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

Commissioner Heugel left the meeting at 11:12 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- County Facilities will be closed on January 20, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- No Board of Commissioner meetings will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 (5th Thursday).

Administrator William Wolf announced the EDC meeting has been cancelled for today.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on January 23, 2020.