

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2023

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

The 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, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Julie Wuerfel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Pitchford moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on January 12, 2023. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion. Commissioner Freehling stated she would like to pull Requisition # 63083 from Resolution # B2301062 until further review of cost.

PRESENTATION(S) – Chairman Elliott introduced Dan Fette, Community Development Director, who gave the Berrien County Master Plan presentation and discussed the following:

Master Plan

- Process
 - Phase 1 – Kickoff
 - Phase 2 – Data and Analysis
 - Survey results
 - Which of the following do you think are most important to quality of life in Berrien County?
 - Survey results
 - Types of housing
 - Survey results
 - Types of businesses
 - Phase 3 – Draft plan
 - Housing Goals
 - Economic Development Goals
 - Natural Features/Land Use Goals
 - Community Facilities, Transportation and Infrastructure Goals
 - Phase 4 – Review and Adoption

Discussion was held.

Commissioner Pitchford asked what Berrien County's most ambitious goal was.

Commissioner Freehling stated the Master Plan was a long process, it helps to guide the County and it keeps everyone moving in the same direction.

Commissioner Yarbrough stated the communities are all working together with us on the plan.

The Board acknowledged Katie Montoya's work on the Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws, 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, 3.9 B-C):

Melissa Clapper – St. Joseph Township, spoke on Berrien County's Master Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Kristene Walton, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.