

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Michael Majerek gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

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

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023 MEETING:**

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of January 19, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

Chairperson Elliott introduced Oronoko Charter Township Supervisor Mike Hildebrand in the audience. Supervisor Hildebrand thanked the BOC for their support on Oronoko Charter Township's broadband grant.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Berrien County MSU Extension, an email on the Michigan State University Extension's Upcoming Events in Berrien County, received on January 18, 2023.
- Nicholas Gunn, St. Joseph Charter Township, an email sharing a Lifestyle of Unity video, received on January 23, 2023.
- Stephenie Jacobson, founder of Otsego County Liberty Rising, Gaylord, Michigan, a resolution opposing the expansion of the Michigan National Guard's Camp, Grayling training facility, received on January 23, 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: None.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

\*Commissioner Freehling will abstain from Requisition #63192 for REV Excavating in the amount of \$61,025.00 on Resolution #B2301063 out of abundance of caution.

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2301016	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
*B2301063	Weekly Requisitions
F2301122	Berrien Bus Vehicle Accessibility Plan
F2301123	Berrien Bus 2024 MDOT Budget
F2301124	Berrien Bus Cass County Shared Services Agreement
F2301125	Contract with DCS for Broadband grant writing services
A2301127	Retire K-9
F2301128	Apply for Blight Elimination Grant
A2301129	FES-PPL Contract 2023
A2301130	FES-STAR Contract 2023
A2301131	FES-JPADP Supplemental Services
P2301132	Renew agreement with Silver Beach Shadowland

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

12 YEAS: Curran, \*Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #A2301127 - Retire K-9

Sheriff Paul Bailey and Undersheriff Chuck Heit spoke about Berrien County Sheriff's K-9 "Maxx" who is nine years old and is retiring today from his public safety services. They spoke about the Canine Unit. Lieutenant Tom Dyer, who was Maxx's original handler, purchased Maxx for \$1.00 from the Sheriff's Office as his pet, per Resolution #A2301127. Lieutenant Dyer and Deputy Paul Grenon, who had been assigned to Maxx, spoke about Maxx and his service to Berrien County. BOC thanked Maxx for his service.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):** None.

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

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee 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 (including last name) and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9 B-C):**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about purchasing items made in America, when will the water fountain be fixed in the building and the BOC's room is too small.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, stated she is urging the BOC to have at least five night meetings.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 A.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***