

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**January 26, 2023**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:36 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:

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 MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023 MEETING:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved and seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on January 19, 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 will be abstaining from Requisition #63192 for REV Excavating in the amount of \$61,025.00 on Resolution #B2301063 in abundance of caution during the BOC meeting.

**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):** None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**CLOSED SESSION - *Annual Evaluation of County Administrator Brian Dissette and Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth as requested - per MCL 15.268 (a) "To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed session:"***

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 8:40 A.M., to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed session.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 8:41 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Chairperson Elliott reconvened to Open Session at 9:15 A.M.

Commissioner Harrison read the following statement:

*The Berrien County Board of Commissioners completed its annual performance review for the County Administrator Brian Dissette and Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth on Thursday January 26, 2023.*

*The process for this review is outlined in the Board's Bylaws and Rules of Procedure. Each Commissioner was requested to individually complete a written review using the performance review form for these positions and return it to Administration. The results were compiled and submitted to the Board for consideration. These compilations were shared with Mr. Dissette and Mr. Hackworth and reviewed with each of them in Closed Session at the Board's Committee of the Whole meeting on January 26, 2023.*

*Dr. Robert Harrison, Chairperson of the Personnel and Human Services Committee of the Board stated, the results for each were very positive. "The County is lucky to have such talented and qualified individuals serving in these critical positions. Mr. Dissette joined the County in June of 2020 and Mr. Hackworth became Corporate Council in January of 2022. The Board looks forward to their continuing service in 2023 and beyond."*

Commissioner Freehling moved and seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the Closed Session minutes of January 12, 2023. Motion carried, no nays.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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