

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2020

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

Jail Division Chaplain Russ Simonson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Clerk Sharon Tyler 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:

10 PRESENT: William Chickering (arrived at 11:07 A.M.), Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath (arrived at 10:37 A.M.), Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman and Don Meeks.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the BOC meeting minutes of January 23, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- An email from Kurt Swanson, Coloma, request the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated January 24, 2020.
- An email from Lew Burchard, Stevensville, request the Board's support to become a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 27, 2020.
- The following emails received on January 27, 2020, request the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights:
 - Jason Grimm, Sodus Township.
 - Alex Barlow, St. Joseph.
 - Adam Rochefort, St. Joseph.
- An online Comment and Suggestion form was received from Julia Macknight Williams on January 27, 2020, opposes becoming a second amendment sanctuary county.
- An email from Danielle Leavitt, Berrien Springs, request the Board's support to become a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 28, 2020.
- The following emails received on January 28, 2020, request the Board's support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights:
 - Christopher Russell, St. Joseph.
 - Lee Hornanck, St. Joseph.
- An email from Vicki Schroeder, Benton Harbor, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 28, 2020.
- A resolution from the Mackinac County Board of Commissioners, declares Mackinac County to be a second amendment sanctuary county, adopted on January 23, 2020 and received on January 29, 2020.

- A resolution from the Menominee County Board of Commissioners, requests the Great Lakes Shoreline to be declared a disaster area and seeks assistance, adopted on January 28, 2020 and received on January 29, 2020.
- A resolution from the Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners, declares Cheboygan County to be a second amendment sanctuary county, adopted on January 28, 2020 and received on January 29, 2020.
- A phone message from Sue Peterson, Chikaming Township, concerned about cut backs or blocks to further rules or restrictions on guns, received on January 29, 2020.
- The following emails were received on January 29, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Sharon Gillespie, St. Joseph.
 - Doreen Bartoni, Lakeside.
 - Michael Bottigliero, New Buffalo.
 - Patricia Leonard, Benton Harbor.
- An email from Mathew Sherwood, Niles, requests the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated January 29, 2020.
- An email from Thomas Brown, Dowagiac, supports becoming a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 29, 2020.
- The following emails received on January 30, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Laura Goos, St. Joseph.
 - Roberta Betts, St. Joseph.
 - Andrew Graeber, Lincoln Charter Township.
 - Michael Wood, Benton Harbor.
 - Diane Nye, Stevensville.
 - Jennifer Tomshack, St. Joseph.
 - Paul Vicari, New Buffalo.
 - Paula Tucek, Niles.
 - Neal Moran, Watervliet.
 - Josephine Cassar, St. Joseph.
 - Jerry Geiger, St. Joseph.
 - Marnie Heyn, St. Joseph.
 - Bruce Banghart, St. Joseph.
 - Sue Hertog, Benton Harbor.
 - Angie Johnson, St. Joseph.
 - Kay Hartmann, New Buffalo.
 - Kelly Roche, St. Joseph.
 - Molly Browndorf, St. Joseph Charter Township.
- The following emails received on January 30, 2020, request the Board to support the resolution to become a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Brad Mitzefeld, Coloma.
 - Kristene Walton, Coloma.
- An email from Jason Boulanger, St. Joseph, request the Board's support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated January 30, 2020.
- The following emails received on January 30, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Jennifer Gardiner, Berrien Springs.
 - Sarah Strait, St. Joseph.
- An email from Bob Krueger, New Buffalo, request the Board to support the resolution to become a second amendment sanctuary county, dated January 31, 2020.

- The following emails received on January 31, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Carly Hubers, St. Joseph.
 - Glyn Durston II, Stevensville.
 - Cindy Durston, Stevensville.
 - Rev. Jeffrey Hubers, St. Joseph.
 - Rev. Dr. Sid Mohn, Baroda.
 - Donna and Mike Dumke, St. Joseph.
 - Jean Domer, Sawyer.
 - Constance Slater, St. Joseph.
 - Cynthia Joho, Baroda.
 - Deanna Birchmeier, Benton Harbor.
 - Jill Underhill, Harbert.
 - Bridget Lorenz, St. Joseph.
 - Robert Burgess, Lincoln Charter Township.
 - Patrick Davarn, St. Joseph.
 - Mike and Connie Magnuson, Three Oaks.
 - Hannah Grace Huggett, Fennville.
 - Patricia Curtner, Lakeside.
 - Anita Nagler, Buchanan.

- The following emails received on February 1, 2020, oppose to becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Debbie Gillespie, Stevensville.
 - John Searles, Harbert.
 - Dale Van Doornik, Hagar Township.
 - Robert Yampolsky, St. Joseph.
 - Vicki Rosenbluth, Three Oaks.
 - Bill Rodgers, Three Oaks.
 - MaryJo Broderick, Three Oaks.
 - Karen Moll, Buchanan.
 - Judy Scully, Lakeside.
 - Mary Keefe, Baroda.
 - Karen Laetz, St. Joseph (Attached is a petition with signatures.)

- The following emails received on February 1, 2020, request the Board to support the resolution to become a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Wayne and Natalie Johnson, Benton Harbor.
 - Tonja Walker, Baroda.
 - Tanya Rochefort, St. Joseph.

- An email from Eugene Lowell Herrman, Jr., Bridgman, requests the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated February 2, 2020.

- An email from Debra Heckathorn, Niles, supports becoming a second amendment sanctuary county, dated February 2, 2020.

- An email from Robert Schripsema, St. Joseph, requests the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated February 2, 2020.

- An email from Leslie Grimm, Stevensville, regarding the second amendment sanctuary county, dated February 2, 2020.

- The following emails received on February 3, 2020, oppose becoming a 2nd amendment sanctuary county:
 - Kathleen Hogan-Garrett, Stevensville.
 - Connie Schreiber, Benton Harbor.
 - Judy Mondello, Three Oaks.
 - Catherine Doll, Sawyer.
 - Ellen Hatfield, St. Joseph.
 - Ashley Schulte, Benton Harbor.
 - Michael Nixon, Berrien Springs.

- John Meyer, St. Joseph.
 - Chuck Jager, Stevensville.
 - Raelene Stickney, St. Joseph.
 - Rosalie Ferris, Buchanan.
 - John Jarpe, Niles.
 - Ted Hartzell, Benton Harbor.
 - Emily Sicard Nickerson, St. Joseph.
 - Barbara Pellegrini, Benton Harbor.
 - Jacquie Blackwell, Bridgman.
 - Rev. Adam Bohland, St. Joseph.
- An email from Casey Darda, Baroda, supports to become a second amendment sanctuary county, dated February 3, 2020.
- An email from William Hodge, Bainbridge Township, regarding the disbursement of the funds to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office and patrolling Berrien County. He would like a response, dated February 4, 2020.
- The following emails received on February 4, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Sheran Wallis, Benton Harbor.
 - Michael Braun, Coloma.
 - Jeannette Holton, Benton Harbor.
 - Tom Thornburg, St. Joseph.
 - Nancy Braun, Coloma.
 - Marry Anne Anselmino, St. Joseph.
 - Diane Davidson, St. Joseph.
 - Elaine Thomopoulos, Bridgman, IL.
 - Marilyn and Bradford Frey, St. Joseph.
 - Mary Swant, Harbert.
 - Virginia Washburn, Grand Beach.
 - Roger Batton, Three Oaks.
 - Katie Burdett, Lakeside.
 - Amy Cottingham, Sawyer.
 - John VonderHaar, St. Joseph.
 - Alice Mow, Coloma.
 - Patricia Lauth, New Buffalo.
 - Ellyn Parcels, Hagar Township.
 - Jenny Frey, St. Joseph.
 - Marie Sineni, Coloma.
 - Larry Feldman, Lakeside.
 - Rev. Diane Pike, Niles.
 - Peggy Getty, St. Joseph.
 - Richard Burd, Bridgman.
 - Penny Duff, Galien.
 - Walt Polsky, Lakeside.
 - Virginia Burd, Bridgman.
 - Rev. Susan Greenwood, Berrien Springs.
 - Betsy Lozoff, St. Joseph.
 - Johanna Welter, Three Oaks.
 - Diane VonderHaar, St. Joseph.
 - Collette Kemper, New Buffalo.
 - Hillary LaGattuta, Galien.
 - Danielle Barnard, Berrien Springs.
 - Joe Hinman, Three Oaks.
 - Mary Brown, Lakeside.
 - Jim Wessendorf, Sawyer.
 - Nancy Depondt, Sawyer.
 - Jennifer Gardner, St. Joseph.
 - Rev. Darlene Kuhn, St. Joseph.
 - Kay Van Patten, Bridgman.
 - June Bowman, St. Joseph.

- Shirley Myers, Lake Township.
 - Elaine Gold, Lakeside.
 - Jennifer Drilon, Benton Harbor.
 - Nancy Buckleitner, St. Joseph.
 - Garth Taylor, Harbert.
 - Perry Heppler, St. Joseph.
 - Alice and Dick Ford, Benton Harbor.
 - Ayla Batton, Three Oaks.
 - Elizabeth Meister, Three Oaks.
 - Peggy McTigue, Sawyer.
 - Marcia Cyr, St. Joseph.
 - Karen Stringer, New Buffalo.
 - Dan Collison, Three Oaks.
 - Fran Alcantara, New Buffalo.
 - Brendan Wagner, Three Oaks.
 - Emily Strayhorn, Stevensville.
 - Charles Cozzolino and Christine Timmons, Benton Harbor.
 - Karen Nason, Benton Harbor.
 - John Gallagher, New Buffalo.
 - Rev. Susann Pangerl, New Buffalo.
 - Charalambos Papadopoulos, St. Joseph.
 - Brandi Cardwell, Three Oaks.
 - Cindy Ellis, Sawyer.
 - Bette Pierman, Benton Harbor.
 - Robert Schodorf, Stevensville.
 - Cynthia Miller, Benton Harbor.
 - Jean Sussman, Buchanan.
 - Karen Laetz, St. Joseph.
 - Jill DiFranco, St. Joseph.
 - Julie Steinberg Marton, Three Oaks.
 - Doug and Rhonda Hinman, Three Oaks.
 - Barbara Davies, St. Joseph.
 - Donna Westley, St. Joseph.
 - Cheryl Mitchener Barry, St. Joseph.
 - Marg Gignac, St. Joseph.
 - Shirley Myers, Lake Charter Township.
 - Stanley Michael Kozubek, Harbert.
- The following emails received on February 4, 2020, support becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Brent Baldwin, Benton Harbor.
 - Brad Mann, Watervliet.
 - George Spafford, St. Joseph.
 - Eric Mann, Galien.
 - Jill Chapman, Benton Harbor.
 - Adam Crouch, Watervliet.
 - Brett Arrans, Benton Harbor (Hagar Township).
 - Michael Gaul, Baroda.
 - Robert and Norma Oman, Stevensville.
- The following emails received on February 4, 2020 addressing the second amendment:
 - Karen Joy Kelly, Three Oaks.
 - Donald McAlhany, St. Joseph.
 - Greta Hurst, Baroda.
- An email from Angela Darda, Baroda, requests the Board to support the resolution by Jim Walker to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated February 4, 2020.
- A resolution from Sanilac County Board of Commissioners, affirms the second amendment of United States Constitution, adopted on February 4, 2020 and received on February 5, 2020.

- The following emails received on February 5, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Nancy Gilpin, Stevensville.
 - Deborah Carter, St. Joseph.
 - Erin Salvagione, St. Joseph.
 - Katherine Kwon, St. Joseph.
 - Beth Kenagy, St. Joseph.
 - Jennifer Jacobs, St. Joseph.
 - Stephanie Blommel, Stevensville.
 - Diane Barella, Benton Harbor.
 - Nancy Thompson, Benton Harbor.
 - Nicolas Rojas, Bridgman.
 - Jacqueline Alcantara, New Buffalo.
 - Carol Purdy, Benton Harbor
 - Sherry Meyer, Coloma.
 - Carmen Marti, Three Oaks.
 - Robert Murphy, Jr., Three Oaks.
 - David Shane, Stevensville.
 - Helen Mullins, Lakeside.
 - W. Clark Gilpin, Stevensville.
 - Dan Brake, Sawyer.
 - Mercedes Moran, Buchanan.
 - Barbara Englebert, Three Oaks.
 - Patrick Mullins, Lakeside.
 - Beth Denton, Galien.
 - Karla DonnellBragg, Coloma.
 - Preston Stell, Bridgman.
 - Emily DelFiandra, Sawyer.
 - Michael Eliasohn, St. Joseph.
 - Jennifer Ream, Three Oaks.
 - Janet Schuttler, Three Oaks.
 - Ginger Piotter, Harbert.
 - Karl Piotter, Harbert.
 - Doris Higgins, Niles.
 - Darlene Heemstra, Three Oaks.
 - Patricia Bernstein, New Buffalo.
 - Patricia Jordan, Sawyer.
 - Carol Svebakken, Three Oaks.
 - David Pydle, Sawyer.

- An email from Carl Landwehr, Michiana, Michigan, regarding the second amendment sanctuary county, dated February 5, 2020.

- The following emails received on February 5, 2020, request the Board to support a resolution to become a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Robert Shepard, Watervliet.
 - Adam Crouch, Watervliet.
 - Lorrie Brink, Benton Harbor.
 - Scott and Irene Hansen, Coloma.
 - Jerry Collins, Coloma.
 - Eric Reitz, Coloma.
 - Kent Retterbush, Stevensville.
 - Brooks Bouwkamp, Benton Harbor.
 - Julie Lewis, Benton Harbor.
 - David and Flora Oosterhouse, Berrien Springs.
 - James Jungblut, Stevensville.
 - Kyle Herbstreit, Stevensville.
 - Tyler Fecho, St. Joseph.
 - Jeff Jaske, Lincoln Charter Township.

- The following emails received on February 5, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Ann Ingersoll, Lakeside.
 - Celia Barnes, Stevensville.
 - Kirstin Riley, Three Oaks.
 - Katie Maroney, New Buffalo.
 - Alene Valkanas, Union Pier.
 - Jaime Frankle, New Buffalo.
 - Sandra Thurlow, Benton Harbor.
 - Bonnie Pollack, Three Oaks.
 - Lily Padgett, Three Oaks.
 - David Pollack, Three Oaks.
 - Robert Kemper, New Buffalo.
 - Vickie Wagner, Three Oaks.
 - Paula Kachoris, Union Pier.
 - Robert Wagner, Three Oaks.
 - Janet Blake, Sawyer.
 - Bill Wagner, New Buffalo.
 - Michael Tapia, Buchanan.

- The following telephone calls received on February 5, 2020, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:
 - Patricia Jordan, Sawyer.
 - Beverly So, St. Joseph.

- An email from Jeff Boyle, Coloma, requests the Board to support a resolution to protect the second amendment (2A) rights, dated February 6, 2020.

- An email from Mark Moreno, St. Joseph, oppose becoming a second amendment sanctuary county, dated February 6, 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): None.

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Chairperson Elliott recommended moving the Honorary Resolutions and Presentations of the Honorary Resolutions next on the Agenda.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to move and read the Honorary Resolutions and the Presentations of the Honorary Resolutions next on the Agenda. Motion carried, no nays.

HONORARY RESOLUTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Honorary Resolution #B2002163

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2002163:

WHEREAS, for three decades Glenn Zerler served as a member of the Berrien County Public Works Board, a number of them as Chairman; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure on the Board of Public Works, Glenn Zerler's leadership was instrumental in initiating and completing over \$40,000,000 of local infrastructure improvements in more than a dozen local Berrien County communities; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with his service on the Board of Public Works, Glenn Zerler also served as a member and Chairman of the St. Joseph Recreational Harbor Authority; and

WHEREAS, in this leadership role he partnered with the Berrien County St. Joseph River Harbor Authority to spearhead a number of recreational waterway improvements in the St. Joseph and Benton Harbor region; and

WHEREAS, Glenn Zerler passed from this world on January 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Glenn Zerler's leadership, wisdom, experience, kindness and commitment to the citizens of Berrien County will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners extends their sincerest condolences to the family of Glenn Zerler.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Glenn Zerler's life, actions and contributions to this community reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, the City of St. Joseph, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve Honorary Resolution #B2002163 as presented.

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott presented Kathy Zerler with the Honorary Resolution.

Honorary Resolution #B2002169

Commissioner Yarbrough read the following Honorary Resolution #B2002169:

WHEREAS, Marilyn Booker is a native of Benton Harbor, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn began working at Berrien County in February of 2000, with the majority of her employment as a Court Investigator in the Friend of the Court office, and

WHEREAS, in that role, she was a dedicated advocate for children, in getting them the financial support they deserved from non-custodial parents; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn most recently transitioned to the Legal Secretary position in the Public Defender's Office where she was currently working; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn passed from this world on January 28, 2020; and

WHEREAS, a very special lady, she was a caring individual with a pleasant disposition who will be missed by all who knew and worked with her; and

WHEREAS, she provided exemplary service to the citizens of Berrien County in all departments she served in for just shy of 20 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes the many years of exemplary service provided by Marilyn Booker and extends their sincerest condolences to her family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Marilyn Booker's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon herself, her son, her extended family, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

Commissioner Yarbrough moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve Honorary Resolution #B2002169 as presented.

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

9 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott presented the family of Marilyn Booker with the Honorary Resolution. Chief Public Defender Chris Renna and Friend of the Court Director Tom Watson spoke about Marilyn Booker and her exemplary service to the County.

Honorary Resolution #B2002168

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2002168:

WHEREAS, *Eric Braley began his residency in the State of Michigan in 1979 as an employee of the Whirlpool Corporation, where he remained until the plant closed; and*

WHEREAS, *with vast printing equipment experience he came to be employed as an Imaging Technician in the Printing Department of Berrien County in July 1996; and*

WHEREAS, *over the years, the excellent quality of his work has been noted in the superior service he has provided to all County departments; and*

WHEREAS, *Eric passed from this world on January 26, 2020; and*

WHEREAS, *Eric Braley's experience and dedication will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED *that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes the many years of dedicated service provided by Eric Braley and extends their sincerest condolences to his family.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *that Eric Braley's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.*

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve Honorary Resolution #B2002168 as presented.

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

10 YEAS: Harrison, Heugel, Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Freehling requested Resolution #B2002064 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion and to be presented separately.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to pull Resolution #B2002064 from the Consent Calendar and to present it separately, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2002017	Weekly Bills
F2002109	Road Payables
P2002144	Approve parking agreement with Silver Beach Center
A2002153	Approve Riverwood FFT Agreement
A2002154	Approve Riverwood MST Agreement
A2002155	Approve Riverwood Psychiatric Services
A2002156	Family Empowerment Services PLL
A2002157	Family Empowerment Services STAR
A2002158	Correctional Healthcare Juvenile Center
A2002160	LEPC HMEP Grant Application

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

10 YEAS: Heugel, Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #B2002064 - Weekly Requisitions:

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve Resolution #B2002064 as presented:

*Commissioner Freehling abstained from the following due to possible conflict of interest:

- #42353 \$10,650.00 Rev Excavating
- #42355 \$5,895.00 Rev Excavating
- #42362 \$9,980.00 Rev Excavating
- #42366 \$9,175.00 Rev Excavating

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

10 YEAS: Majerek, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, *Freehling, Harrison, Heugel and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Added Honorary Resolutions and Presentations were moved on the Agenda before 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.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Elliott discussed conflict of interest and the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. Chairperson Elliott asked each Board member if there were any changes to their Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. The following Commissioners had nothing new to change to their forms: Vollrath, Harrison, Heugel, Curran, Majerek, Scott, Yarbrough and Chickering.

Commissioner Freehling read the following amendment that has been attached to her Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form: *Since Patrick's death in 2019, Baroda Valley Farms LLC's shares were transferred and are owned by the other LLC's partners, which includes Patrick's father. My daughters and I received no compensation for the transfer of these shares and we hold no interest in Baroda Valley Farms. I have knowledge that Baroda Valley Farms LLC does intend to rent equipment to REV Excavating in 2020. This equipment might be used for County Drain projects. Therefore, I intend to abstain from all contracts between REV and the County. I will also abstain from voting on any contract if I learn that Baroda Valley Farms Equipment may be used on the county work. I will continue to apply the practice that if I have any reason to believe anyone close to me is directly or indirectly associated with County business, I intend to research all the facts and will opt to abstain if there is any doubt about their participation for any matter brought to this Board.*

Chairperson Elliott stated that his daughter works for the Prosecutor's Office. She is not a resident of his home.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the conflict of interest disclosures. Motion carried, no nays.

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, spoke about the resolution he introduced to the Board to declare Berrien County to be a second amendment sanctuary county.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:

- Larry Bennett, Galien.
- David Terhune, Watervliet.

- Harold Bragg, Coloma.
- Tracy Cummings, Shoreham Village.
- Thomas Rosenbluth, Three Oaks.
- Mr. Beldorf, Three Oaks.
- Nathan Ruedinger, Watertown, Wisconsin.
- Larry Feldman, Lakeside.
- Judy Corak, Pipestone Township.
- Katherine Gaul, Sawyer.
- Vicki Schroeder, Benton Harbor.
- Karen Laetz, St. Joseph.
- Betsy Lozoff, St. Joseph.
- Jacquie Blackwell, Bridgman.
- Shirley Meyers, Bridgman.
- Ken Moyer, St. Joseph.
- Karla DonnellBragg, Coloma.
- Marlene Stamenkovich, Sawyer.
- John VanderHaar, Lincoln Charter Township.
- Richard Vavra-Musser, Lincoln Charter Township.
- John Schnable, Village of Shoreham.

The following individuals spoke to support becoming a second amendment sanctuary county:

- Jeffrey Roe, Hartford.
- Lee Scherwitz, Coloma.
- Erin Sage, Bridgman.
- Kris Rich, St. Joseph.
- Eugene Herrman, Bridgman.
- Don Poole, St. Joseph.
- Adam Rochefort, St. Joseph.
- Melissa Lester, Bridgman.
- Lee Hornack, St. Joseph Charter Township.
- Jill Chapman, St. Joseph Charter Township.
- Jack Straszewski, Niles.
- John Brandonisio, Benton Charter Township.
- Kenneth Rochefort, Bridgman.
- Jason Grimm, Sodus Township.
- Jerry Collins, Hagar Township.
- Karen Kuhens, Royalton Township.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about gun rights, the Constitution and not call the county a sanctuary county.

Lee Sherwood requested the Board to post their resolution online.

Sheriff Paul Bailey gave statistics on CPL holders.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott spoke about drafting a resolution for next week's meeting regarding the second amendment and the Constitutions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the County Facilities will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020 in observance of Presidents' Day and the Selection Committee will be meeting after today's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on February 13, 2020.