

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Jim Curran gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner Robert Harrison 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 2, 2023 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of February 2, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):** None.

**REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:**

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

**AGENDA AMENDMENT:**

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to add a Parks and Recreation Update from Parks and Recreation Commission Director Jill Adams onto the Agenda.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE:**

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Parks and Recreation Commission Director Jill Adams. Jill Adams stated she received news this morning from Lansing and that Berrien County was recommended on one of our two Spark Grants. The one grant recommended was for the Silver Beach County Park for replacement of playground equipment. She stated there were 480 applications and only 21 were recommended. The current playground equipment is thirty years old. The grant is for \$850,000. The total cost of the project is \$1,000,000, which includes a local match. Discussion was held.

**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.

Chairperson Elliott announced that former Commissioner Ezra Scott was watching the meeting on YouTube today.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve today’s Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2302018	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
*B2302065	Weekly Requisitions
A2302140	Marine Safety Grant

\*Commissioner Freehling will abstain from Requisition #63392 for REV Excavating in the amount of \$15,000.00 on Resolution #B2302065 out of abundance of caution.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

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

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

**Committees:**

The Finance, Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) and Administration 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. Discussion was held.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator’s Report. Discussion was held.

**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):** None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Yarbrough asked if the BOC would be having a retreat. Administrator Dissette said this would be a decision by the BOC.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- County Facilities closed on Monday, February 20, 2023.
- Commissioner photos on Thursday, March 9, 2023 – No Committee of the Whole meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 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 BOC meeting.***