

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 13, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Chris Heugel gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Commissioner Ezra Scott led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL:**

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

**PRESENTATION – HONORARY RESOLUTION B2002168**

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.*

Chairperson Elliott presented the resolution to Mr. Braley's family.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 6, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger received and distributed the following communications:

- Antrim County Board of Commissioners, received via email on February 6, 2020 – Resolution #08-2-2 - Affirming the Board's Support of Constitutional Rights.
- Kankaska County Board of Commissioners, received via email on February 10, 2020 – Resolution # 2020-08 – Declaring Kankaska a Second Amendment Sanctuary County.
- Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners – received via email on February 11, 2020 – Resolution #20-03 – Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails.
- Alcona County Board of Commissioners – received via email on February 12, 2020 - Resolution #2020-08 – Second Amendment declaring Alcona as a Sanctuary County.
  
- Received February 6, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Frederick Seifert, Stevensville.
  - Cynthia Miller, Benton Harbor.
  - Lois Goldrick, St. Joseph.
  - Judy Kosick, St. Joseph.
  - Judith Cohen, Three Oaks.
  - Nicholas Miller, Berrien Springs.
  - Brenda Peckham, Berrien Springs.
  - John Peckham, Berrien Springs.
  - Abner Campos, Berrien Springs.
  - Thomas Rosenbluth, Three Oaks.
  - Stephen Leonard, Benton Harbor.
  - Jeff Boyd, Berrien Springs.
  - Marnie Heyn, St. Joseph.
  
- Received February 6, 2020 – Website Inquiry Page:
  - Robert Tatina, Sawyer – does not support affirming only the Second Amendment.
  
- Received February 6, 2020 - Phone communications:
  - Jerimy Ingram, Stevensville – supports the Second Amendment Sanctuary Berrien County.
  - Jason Vetne, St. Joseph – opposes the Second Amendment resolution.
  
- Received February 6, 2020 - emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Darryl Rogers, St. Joseph Township.
  - Dale McCarty, Galien.
  - Rodney Blaylock, Stevensville.
  
- Received February 7, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Ellen Frankle, New Buffalo.
  - Kelly Vega, St. Joseph.
  - Larry Bennett, Galien.
  - Kelly Fortune, St. Joseph.
  - Jenny Vandewarker, Eau Claire.

- Lori Wolfson, Sawyer.
- Stacey Assell, St. Joseph.
- Received February 7, 2020 – emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Keith A. Chapman, Benton Harbor.
  - Gordon Dill, St. Joseph.
- Received February 7, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Conner Vladic, Eau Claire.
  - Kaitlyn Galbraith, St. Joseph.
  - Nick Rose, St. Joseph.
  - Wayne Sample, Niles.
  - Gary Burkett, St. Joseph.
  - Rebecca Winters, Watervliet.
  - Derek Cromwell, Berrien Springs.
  - Justin Pritchard, Niles.
  - Jim Walker, Baroda (3).
  - Chris Berni, Sawyer.
- Received February 8, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Andreas Schroeder, Benton Harbor.
  - Bonnie Kasten, Three Oaks.
- Received February 8, 2020 – emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Darryl Rogers, St. Joseph.
  - David Townsend, Niles.
  - Raymond Stanton, Stevensville.
- Received February 8, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Ben Riedel, Stevensville.
  - Tonja Walker, Baroda.
  - Zach Leshner, Stevensville.
- Received February 9, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Sr. Mary Pung CSJ, Benton Harbor.
- Received February 9, 2020 – emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Mary Riccioni, St. Joseph.
  - Eric Mann, Galien.
  - Anthony Warman, Sodus.
  - Bob Danielson, Niles.
- Received February 9, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Jason Orsburn, St. Joseph.
  - Ann Hart, Niles.
  - Johnny Jean Sr., Eau Claire.
  - Tonja Walker, Baroda.

- Received February 10, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Greg Fulmer, St. Joseph.
  
- Received February 10, 2020 – emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Mary Riccioni, St. Joseph.
  - Eric Mann, Galien.
  - Anthony Warman, Sodus.
  - Jill Chapman, Benton Harbor.
  - Bob and LaDonna Danielson, Niles.
  - Paul Peterson, St. Joseph.
  - Terry Elrod, Cassopolis.
  - Berrien County GPO, St. Joseph.
  
- Received February 10, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Max Miller, St. Joseph.
  - Jason Grimm, Sodus.
  - John and Doris Florian, Stevensville.
  - Robert Burkhard, Benton Harbor.
  
- Received February 11, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Claudia Parish, Sawyer.
  - Dennis Snow, Sawyer.
  - Gabriella Meredith, Sawyer.
  - Audrey Lester, St. Joseph.
  - Karen Joy Kelley, Three Oaks.
  - Nancy Buckleitner, St. Joseph.
  - Ted Hartzell, Benton Harbor.
  - Elizabeth Meister, Three Oaks.
  - Shirley Myers, Bridgman.
  - Cynthia Kobel, Harbert.
  - MaryJo Schnell, Benton Harbor.
  - John Chipman, Harbert.
  - Tom Rosenbluth, Three Oaks (2).
  - Carl Landwehr, Michiana.
  - Kimberly Gane, St. Joseph.
  
- Received February 11, 2020 – emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Charles Depondt, Sawyer.
  - Terry Elrod, Cassopolis.
  
- Received February 11, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Tonja Walker, Baroda.
  - Herbert Andler, St. Joseph.
  - Kevin Merrill, Stevensville.
  - Kyle Herbstreit, Stevensville.
  - Michael Deck, St. Joseph.
  - Sara Skorupa, Baroda.

- Scott Skorupa, Baroda (2).
  - Kristopher Rich, St. Joseph.
  - Scott Glenn, Stevensville.
  - George Spafford, St. Joseph.
  - Jason Boulanger, St. Joseph.
  - Christopher Warner, St. Joseph.
- Received February 12, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
    - Karen Fitzner, Sawyer.
    - Erik Hall, Galien.
    - Rev. Karen Joy Kelly, Three Oaks.
    - Tom and Vicki Rosenbluth, Three Oaks.
    - John VonDerHaar, Lincoln Township, St. Joseph.
    - Peggy Getty, St. Joseph.
    - DeLois Jackson, Watervliet.
    - Carol Drake, Sodus.
  - Received February 12, 2020 – Letter from Margaret Kohring, Board of Health Chair, Berrien County MI – The Berrien County Board of Health is concerned by the recent action that has been requested of the Commission to declare Berrien County a “Second Amendment Sanctuary County”. We are of the strong opinion that the proposed action is in direct conflict with the best interests of the public’s health.
  - Received February 12, 2020 –emails in support of the passage of a 2A Resolution:
    - Chris Berni, Sawyer.
    - Ted and Kristie Pirkel, Three Oaks.
    - Scott Barnes, Bridgman.
    - Teri Elrod, Cassopolis.
  - Received February 12, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
    - Robert Adams, Jr., Coloma.
    - Lori Normandin, Coloma (2).
    - Mark Normandin, Coloma.
    - Eric Reitz, Coloma.
    - Bruce Cole, Berrien Springs.
    - Camalin Normandin, Coloma.
  - Received February 12, 2020 – Website Inquiry Page:
    - Lisa Fuller, Benton Harbor – Is not in favor of establishing Berrien County as a gun sanctuary county at this time and asks the Commission to not adopt the resolution proposed by Jim Walker or board counsel.

Additional communications received between 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 12, 2020:

- Received February 12, 2020 - Phone communications:
  - Jeff Boyle, Coloma – Is in favor of a resolution declaring Berrien County a “Sanctuary County” with no changes to the word “sanctuary”.

- Received February 12, 2020 – emails in opposition to the passage of a 2A Resolution:
  - Charlotte Wenham, St. Joseph.
  - Virginia Washburn, Grand Beach.
- Received February 12, 2020 – emails in support of the 2A Resolution as presented by Jim Walker:
  - Brett Arrans, Hagar Township.
  - Shelby Merick, Coloma.

Administrator Wolf departed at 11:22 A.M.

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to amend the agenda to add Resolution #B2002161 to the Added Resolutions. Motion carried, no nays.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Recommendation by Personnel and Human Services Committee to:

- Re-appoint Trevor Kubatzke, Robert Kara and Tim Calhoun to the Workforce Development Board for a 3-year term expiring on 12/31/2022.
- Re-appoint Carl Keefer and Chuck Baran to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term expiring on 01/01/2023.
- Re-appoint Musetta Hilliard to the Department of Humans Services Board for a 3-year term expiring on 10/31/2022.
- Re-appoint Jim Stover, Dick Stauffer and Yemi Akinwale to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2022.

Recommendation by Finance Committee to:

- Re-appoint Steve Smith to the Land Bank Authority Board for a 4-year term expiring 5/22/2023.
- Re-appoint Bob Cultice to the Trust Investment Advisory Committee for a 3-year term expiring 6/7/2022.
- Re-appoint Forrest “Nick” Jewell to the Building Authority for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2022.
- Re-appoint Don Ryman to the Economic Development Board for a 6-year term expiring 12/31/2025.
- Re-appoint Eric Lester, James Schueneman and Lois Foster to the Planning Commission for 3-year term expiring 12/31/2022.

Commissioner Chickering moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the re-appointments as recommended by the Personnel and Human Services Committee and the Finance Committee as presented.

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

Chairman Elliott made the following appointments:

- Re-appoint Jill Adams to the Southwest Michigan Solid Waste Consortium for a 1-year term expiring 2/28/2021.
- Re-appoint Mamie Yarbrough to the following boards:

- Workforce Development for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/22.
- Land Bank Authority for a 4-year term expiring 5/22/2023.
- Parks and Recreation commissioner for a 3-year term expiring 01/01/2023.
- Re-appoint Bob Harrison and Mac Elliott to the Economic Development Board to a 6-year term expiring 12/31/2025.

**PUBLIC COMMENT 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.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented with the exceptions of resolutions related to the Second Amendment:

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
F2002018	Weekly Bills
B2002065	Weekly Requisitions
P2002143	Complement Change Sheriff’s Department FBI Task Force
P2002162	Recommend Naming a Lake in Hagar Township
A2002165	Renew Agreement with Andrews University for Drug Lab
A2002166	Approval of Grant Application for Animal Control
A2002167	Approval of Agreement with Lincoln Township for Trail Project
F2002172	FY2021 Berrien Bus Program
P2002174	Authorization of Grant Application for Veterans Training

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ADDED RESOLUTIONS (SECOND AMENDMENT 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):

The following spoke in favor of passage of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Resolution:

- Paul Peterson, St. Joseph.
- David Brelowski, Niles.
- Frank Ripley, Three Oaks.
- Chuck Eldridge, St. Joseph.
- Ken Rochefort, Bridgman.
- Jason Grimm, Sodus.
- Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township.

The following spoke in opposition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Resolution:

- John VonDerHarr, Lincoln Township.
- Vicki Schroeder, Benton Harbor on behalf of the Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan.

- John Schnable, Shoreham Village.
- Joe Bardusk, Three Oaks.
- Cindy Ellis, Sawyer.
- Nancy Depondt, Sawyer.
- Melissa Hahn, St. Joseph Township.
- Betsy Lozoff, Shoreham Village.
- Jennifer Gardner, St. Joseph.
- Marlene Stamenkoich, Sawyer.

The following spoke in support of the United States and State of Michigan Constitutions:

- Elena Oelke, Benton Harbor.
- Bruce Blehart, Three Oaks.
- Jack Straszewski, Niles.

Chairperson Elliott asked that Prosecuting Attorney Michael Sepic and Sherriff L. Paul Bailey state their thoughts on this issue.

Prosecuting Attorney Michael Sepic: What the original resolution is trying to do is have this Commission or the Sheriff or the Prosecutor determine the Constitutionality of any given statute. In the early days of the drafting of the Constitution there was the thought by many of the Founding Fathers that each branch of government could itself determine what was constitutional. Article III of the Constitution that created the Supreme Court and provided for Congress to establish any inferior courts, did not really recite what the Supreme Court was supposed to do. It wasn't until 1803 in the case of Marbury vs Madison that the Supreme Court said it will decide what is constitutional. And, the rest of government tacitly agreed to abide by that. If each branch of government decided for itself what was constitutional, we would have chaos. There is a process to protect these rights and it is in Lansing and Washington, not here

Sheriff L. Paul Bailey: Stated that he supports the Constitution and all of the amendments, especially the Second Amendment. The Michigan Sheriff's Association reviews all proposed laws and will speak out if they feel it isn't in the best interest of public safety.

#### **Board Member Comments:**

Commissioner Vollrath:

Asked that the original 2A Resolution presented by Mr. Walker be added to the agenda. He supports the resolution, but doesn't agree with all of it and feels that the country is under attack.

Commissioner Vollrath moved to approve the resolution as presented by Mr. Walker on January 16, 2020. Motion died for lack of support.

Commissioner Freehling read into the record the following statement regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Resolution:

I appreciate all who have contributed to the discussion on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment sanctuary resolution. I am and always will be a strong supporter of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, as well as the Constitution of the United States and Michigan.

The Constitution of the United States is clear that "the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."



Michigan's Constitution is clear in article 1 sec. 6, "that every person has a right to keep & bear arms for the defense of himself and the State."

The Michigan Constitution is also clear in article VII sec. 8 that "Board of Supervisors shall have legislative, administrative, and such other powers and duties as provided by law."

In recent years, Board of supervisors became County Commissioners. Act 261 of 1966 states "All references to Supervisors are to mean County Commissioner."

The law that grants the Board of Commissioners authority through Public Act 156 of 1851. In that Act where it speaks of our duties and powers is in section 46.11 (j) states, "By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners elected and serving, pass ordinances that relate to county affairs and do not contravene the general laws of this state or interfere with the local affairs of a township, city, or village within the limits of the county..."

There is case law that I have researched that leads me to understand that a Board of Commission can do the same through resolution as it does through ordinance.

***\*Parr V Fulton 9 Mich App719 (1968)***

*"Resolutions are for implementing ministerial functions of government for short term purposes. Ordinances are for establishing more permanent influences on the community itself."*

***\*Gale v. Board of Supervisors, 245 N.W. 363 (Mich. 1932)***

*Michigan Supreme Court Filed: November 21st, 1932 Precedential Status: Precedential Citations: 245 N.W. 363, 260 Mich. 399*

*Author: Henry M. Butzel*

*"...Nor is there any merit to the claim that the board cannot do by resolution what they might do by ordinance. Unless the legislature specifies that a certain act must be done by ordinance or in some other specified manner, it is just as valid when accomplished by resolution as by ordinance. Atchison Board of Education v. De Kay, 148 U.S. 591 (13 Sup. Ct. 706). \*Page 405..."*

As I think of my duties and the oath of office, I cannot support the resolution as presented by the public without violating my oath of office.

The efforts on this matter are best focused at the State level. There are 2 resolutions at the State level House resolution 219 which was referred to the Governmental Operations Committee and resolution 227 which was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

***\*Michigan Constitution Article VII Sec. 8.***

*Boards of supervisors shall have legislative, administrative and such other powers and duties as provided by law.*

***\*Act 261 of 1966***

*All references to Supervisors are to mean County Commissioner*

***\*Michigan County Commissioner Act 156 of 1851***

*46.11 (j) By majority vote of the members of the County Board of Commissioners elected and serving, pass ordinances that relate to county affairs and do not contravene*

*the general laws of this state or interfere with the local affairs of a township, city, or village within the limits of the county, and pursuant to section 10b provide suitable sanctions for the violation of those ordinances.*

Commissioner Scott: The County Commissioners are bound by duty to uphold the Constitution and do not have authority to change it. He stated he cannot support being a Sanctuary County and felt that being a Constitutional County was a better resolution; however, he now feels that it is best to do nothing. He would support Resolution B2002161 Affirming Commitment and Promise to Support the Bill of Rights of the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Michigan.

Commissioner Yarbrough: She stated that the Board hasn't taken this issue lightly. The Board is not the Court, nor does the Board have the ability to change the laws. She read a section of the Constitution and is satisfied how it is written.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
B2002181	Declare Sanctuary County Designation
B2002191	Constitutional County Designation
B2002161	Affirming Commitment and Promise to Support the Bill of Rights of the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Michigan

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the added Resolution # B2002161 – Affirming Commitment and Promise to Support the Bill of Rights of the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Michigan.

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 YEAS: Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to withdraw Resolutions # B2002181 - Declare Sanctuary County Designation and # B2002191 - Declare Constitutional County Designation from the agenda. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Heugel left the meeting at 12:04 P.M.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Administration, Finance and Personnel and Human Services Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Reports were foregone.

**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):

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – read a letter to the editor from Ken Schneider of Eau Claire regarding millages.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Corporate Counsel James McGovern thanked the Board of Commissioners and Commissioner Chickering for his performance review having scored 4.29 out of 5.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

- County Facilities will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020 in observance of Presidents' Day.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

1. MCL 15.268 (a) – Corporate Counsel James McGovern – Per employee request for a closed session.
2. MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trials and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” – Case 2013-0317.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to recess the regular meeting to go into closed session per MCL 15.268 (a).

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Harrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to recess the regular meeting to go into closed session per MCL 15.268 (e).

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

Regular meeting recessed at 12:25 P.M.

Regular meeting reconvened at 1:22 P.M.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the closed minutes of November 14, 2019.

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

10 YEAS: Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, and Elliott.

1 ABSTENTION: Chickering (due to being absent at that meeting). Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to accept with regret the resignation of Corporate Counsel James McGovern effective March 15, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

Discussion followed regarding request for severance pay and the next step into replacing Mr. McGovern. It was a consensus that Chairperson Elliott is to contact former judge, John Dewane, to inquire if he would serve as the Interim Corporate Counsel.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 P.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on February 20, 2020.***