

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Jail Chaplain Don Bennett gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

1 ABSENT: R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of February 16, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on February 15, 2023.
- A resolution from Livingston County Board of Commissioners, urging the Michigan legislature to amend the No-Fault Insurance Reform Act, received on February 15, 2023.
- Berrien County MSU Extension, an email on the Michigan State University Extension's Upcoming Events in Berrien County, received on February 17, 2023.
- A resolution from Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on February 22, 2023.
- A resolution from Marquette County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on February 22, 2023.
- A resolution from Marquette County Board of Commissioners, supporting dark store legislation, received on February 22, 2023.
- A resolution from Marquette County Board of Commissioners, support in creating County Boards of Revisions with jurisdiction over certain property tax disputes legislation, received on February 22, 2023.
- A resolution from Ingham County Board of Commissioners, commending those involved in the response to the active shooter incident at Michigan State University, received on February 22, 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 Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to include Resolution #F2302154 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2302020	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
A2302146	MDOT/Road Contract 23-5002 East John Beers Road
A2302147	MDOT/Road Contract 22-5608 East Bertrand Road
F2302154	Support ROBIN Grant applications by providing local contribution

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION:

The following resolution was moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2302154	Support ROBIN Grant applications by providing local contribution

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

Committees:

The Administration, Finance and Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at 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):

Sheriff Paul Bailey, Berrien Township, asked to take a moment of silence for Paw Paw Fire Fighter Ethan Quillen, who was killed yesterday, and to remember him and his family and the Paw Paw Fire Department. A moment of silence was held.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling spoke about board appointments today.

PHSC Recommendation:

Commissioner Harrison spoke about the following recommendations from PHSC:

- Re-appoint Charles Baran to the Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires January 1, 2026.
- Re-appoint Carl Keefer to the Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires January 1, 2026.
- Re-appoint Debra Reaume to the Department of Human Services Board – term expires October 31, 2025.

Motion

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve the following board appointments:

- Re-appoint Charles Baran to the Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires January 1, 2026.
- Re-appoint Carl Keefer to the Parks & Recreation Commission – term expires January 1, 2026.
- Re-appoint Debra Reaume to the Department of Human Services Board – term expires October 31, 2025.

Motion carried, no nays.

Board Chair Appointments:

Vice Chairperson Freehling stated there are two Board Chair appointments and she was delegated today by Chairperson Elliott to make the following appointments:

Re-appoint Julie Wuerfel to the Public Safety Communications Center Operations Committee/911 Technical Committee – term expires December 31, 2024.

Appoint Dave Vollrath to the Land Bank Authority to fill vacancy – term expires May 22, 2024.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- No Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023 (Commissioner photos).

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.