

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**February 23, 2023**

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

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling 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 Vice Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

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

2 ABSENT: Alex Ott and R. McKinley Elliott.

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

Commissioner Pitchford moved and seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on February 16, 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.

**SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:**

- **Grant Applications – Brian Dissette**

Administrator Brian Dissette and Community Development Director Dan Fette gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Lakeview Trail M-63 Corridor and discussed the following:

- Lakeview Trail M-63 Corridor Request letter dated September 20, 2023 from Harbor Shores Community Redevelopment, Whirlpool Corporation, Cornerstone Alliance and Whirlpool Foundation.
- Lakeview Master Trails Proposal
- Lakeview M63 Corridor Trail Proposal - 2024?
- Trail Maintenance Program
- Summary of Activities
- The "Ask" from the County Last Fall
- Resolution #A2210388 – dated October 27, 2022
- Funding and Permitting Progress
- The "Ask" from the County - Current

Discussion was held.

**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):**

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, spoke about MDOT proposing I-94 as a toll road and most interstate roads in the Lower Peninsula. Mr. Haskins is in opposition to any toll roads in the State of Michigan.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Hinkelman proposed that the Board would dig a little deeper on the topic that Michael Haskins presented. Commissioner Hinkelman stated that all options are on the table by MDOT. The Board would like to know all the options. Administrator Dissette will be meeting with State Legislatures for a jail tour and he will discuss the topic with the legislatures. Administrator Dissette already sent a request to MAC on the topic. The County is on a fact finding mission at this time. Discussion was held.

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the Berrien County Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Election is being held on March 2, 2023 and reservations are required by February 24, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 A.M.

---

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

---

Sharon Tyler, County Clerk

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