

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

MOMENT OF SILENCE – To honor Van Buren County Road Commission employee Rene Rangel – killed in the line of duty Friday, March 3, 2023:

A moment of silence was held to honor Van Buren County Road Commission employee Rene Rangel, who was killed in the line of duty on Friday, March 3, 2023.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

County Treasurer Shelly Weich 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:

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

0 ABSENT.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of March 2, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

Chief Deputy Clerk Kristene Walton received and distributed to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) the following communications:

- A resolution from Clinton County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on February 28, 2023.
- A resolution from Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on March 6, 2023.
- A resolution from Leelanau County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on March 6, 2023.
- An email from Tom Fischl, Bridgman, regarding Fischl versus Bridgman Public Schools, received on March 7, 2022.

Chairperson Elliott introduced Attorney Scott Sanford, in regard to resolution #P2303161, to promote him to Chief Public Defender.

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:

Rick Briand, Niles Township, spoke of his disapproval of Resolution #P2303161. The Berrien County website is hard to find information on CPS. He also stated he will be running for Sheriff in 2024.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the lack of information on Resolution #P2303161.

Theresa Briand, Niles City, stated that more consideration should be taken on Resolution #P2303161.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to include Resolutions #F2303160 and #P2303161 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's consent calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2303022	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2303069	Weekly Requisitions
P2303158	Approve contract with Silver Beach County Park concession vendor
F2303160	Authorize Engagement Letter for Attorney Services
P2303161	Appoint Chief Public Defender

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2303160	Authorize Engagement Letter for Attorney Services
P2303161	Appoint Chief Public Defender

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

The Personnel & Human Services (PHSC), Administration and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org. Discussion was held.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Finance, Personnel & Human Services and Administration Committees:

Chairperson Elliott read the following recommendations by the Committee:

Finance Committee Recommendation(s):

Public Transportation Local Advisory Council:
Appoint Yvonne Janet Olan, Disability Advocate – term expires 01/01/24.
Appoint Courtney Davis, General Public – term expires 01/01/24.
Appoint Maureen Adams, Disability Agency (Veterans) – term expires 01/01/25.

Personnel & Human Services Committee Recommendation(s):

Re-appoint Robert Kara to Workforce Development Board – term expires 12/31/2025.
Re-appoint Trevor Kubatzke to Workforce Development Board – term expires 12/31/2025.
Re-appoint Raymond Matejczyk to the Health Board – 5 year term expires 4/19/2028.

Administration Committee Recommendation(s):

Appoint Scott Sanford to Community Corrections Advisory Board as Criminal Defense Attorney – 3 year term expires 12/31/2025.

911 Advisory Board:

Re-appoint Dennis Sexton, civilian, 3 year term expires 12/31/25.
Re-appoint Jim Stormont, alternate civilian, 3 year term expires 12/31/25.
Appoint Doug Myers, Fire Chiefs Association, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Frank DeLaTorre, Fire Chiefs Association, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Allen Weich, alternate, Fire Chiefs Association, term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Jason Wiley, Emergency Medical Service/Medical Control Authority, finish term expires 12/31/23.
Appoint Wes Smigielski, Police Services Council, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Jeremy Carlisle, MSP, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Lt. Tim Thompson, alternate MSP, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Re-appoint Sheriff Paul Bailey, Sheriff, term expires 12/31/25.
Re-appoint Undersheriff Chuck Heit, alternate Sheriff, term expires 12/31/25.
Appoint Jennifer Flick, alternate County PSAP, term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Jonathan Beyer, Medical Control Authority, term expires 12/31/24.

County Public Safety Community Center Operations Committee (911 Technical):

Appoint Wes Smigielski, Police Services Council, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Doug Myers, Fire Chiefs Association, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Frank DeLaTorre, Fire Chiefs Association, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Allen Weich, Fire Chiefs Association, finish term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Jason Wiley, Emergency Medical Services, finish term expires 12/31/23.
Appoint Jonathan Beyer, Medical Control Authority, term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Jeremy Carlisle, MSP, term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Tim Thompson, alternate MSP, term expires 12/31/24.
Appoint Undersheriff Chuck Heit, alternate Sheriff, term expires 12/31/24.

Motion:

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve the above recommendations by the Finance, Personnel & Human Services and Administration Committees.

Motion carried and no nays.

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):

Rick Briand, Niles Township, spoke about email communications and disapproved the appointment of Attorney Scott Sanford.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about poor sound quality.

Theresa Briand, Niles City, discussed the lack of help from Friend of the Court.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- No meetings will be held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 (5th Thursday).

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Kristene Walton, Chief Deputy County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.