

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:34 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 David Vollrath 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:

9 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough (Arrived at 10:38 A.M.) and R. McKinley Elliott.

3 ABSENT: Rayonte Bell, Chokwe Pitchford and Julie Wuerfel.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2023 MEETING:**

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of March 9, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Two resolutions from Lake County Board of Commissioners. One resolution honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary and the second resolution dedicating Courtroom A to the Honorable Mark S. Wickens, received on March 10, 2023.
- A resolution from Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on March 10, 2023.
- A resolution from Osceola County Board of Commissioners, honoring the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125th Anniversary, received on March 13, 2023.
- An email from Michigan Department of Transportation, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding has been approved for Marquette Greenway Phase 1 and 2, received on March 14, 2023.

**REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:**

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

**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 Ott moved and supported by Commissioner Curran, to approve today's consent calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2303003	Monthly Per Diems
F2303023	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2303070	Weekly Requisitions
P2303149	Renew subscription agreement with Patagonia Health for electronic health records

P2303150 Accept the Marijuana Operations and Oversight Grant for education and outreach  
P2303151 Approve agreement with Vision, Mission, Services and Goals Dashboard cloud based subscription service.  
P2303152 Approve the Environmental Health Services fee schedule  
P2303153 Approve Health Department complement change to add Medical Assistant  
A2303162 Approve contract for county-wide facilities construction management

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

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

**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](http://www.berriencounty.org). Discussion was held.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports. Discussion was held.

**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 (including last name) and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9 B-C):**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about Berrien County's population and budget.

Rick Briand, Niles Charter Township, spoke about the Finance Committee today and night meetings.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about night meetings.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Hinkelman asked about broadband hook-up fees. Administrator Brian Dissette explained there is not one type of hook-up fees for an internet project and no flat fees. Discussion was held on fees.

Administrator Dissette shared some jokes from his birthday yesterday.

**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 11:15 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.***