

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

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 and R. McKinley Elliott.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Ott, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on March 2, 2023. Motion carried, no nays.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION – MIKE KROMBEEN, MIDWEST STRATEGY:

Mike Krombeen (virtually), Midwest Strategy, discussed road funding. He spoke about toll roads as a potential solution to declining gas tax revenue and increased costs of maintaining roads and bridges in Michigan. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been conducting a statewide feasibility study on the potential for toll roads in Michigan. Mike Krombeen discussed the following studies:

- Michigan Transportation Infrastructure Needs and Funding Solutions – March 2023
- Michigan Statewide Tolling Study: Feasibility Analysis in Accordance with Public Act 140 of 2020 and Public Act 73 of 2022 – December 21, 2022 (Draft)
- State of Michigan Tolling Study (PA 149 of 2020) – April 28, 2021

Mike Krombeen also spoke about mileage base user fees, tire tax and bonding. He stated there is not a lot of action or urgency on this issue.

Mike Krombeen gave an update from Lansing and discussed the following:

- Governor's budget and highlighted some of the projects.
- Community Development Block Grants, ROBIN grant and other grants for funding by the State.
- Broadband
- Michigan Association of Counties (MAC)'s Legislative Conference to be held on April 24 – 26, 2023.

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): None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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