

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Wuerfel gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Teri Sue Freehling 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, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Iron County Board of Commissioners, a resolution urging the return of state workers to in-person operations, received on March 14, 2022.
- An email newsletter from Clara Jungermann, Berrien County 4-H Program Coordinator, the Berrien County Spotlight, 4-H Family News – March/April 2022 issue, received on March 14, 2022.

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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to include Added Resolutions (#F2203217, #F2203218 and #A2203219) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

| <u>Resolutions #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| P2203003 | Per Diem Approval |
| F2203023 | Weekly Bills |
| B2203070 | Weekly Requisitions |
| F2203117 | Road Payables |
| A2203208 | Approve Traffic Control Order for Glenlord Road |
| P2203212 | Approve grant agreement amendment for funds increase |
| P2203215 | Apply for a Park expansion grant |

| | |
|----------|--|
| P2203216 | Complement Change to Motor Pool |
| F2203217 | Contract with Southwest Michigan Planning for Grant work |
| F2203218 | Commit ARPA Funds for Broadband Infrastructure |
| A2203219 | Commit ARPA Funds for Facilities Improvements |

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

| <u>Resolutions #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| F2203217 | Contract with Southwest Michigan Planning for Grant work |
| F2203218 | Commit ARPA Funds for Broadband Infrastructure |
| A2203219 | Commit ARPA Funds for Facilities Improvements |

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

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

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS - 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, 3.9B-C): None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Freehling introduced Galien Township Supervisor Gerry Mast who was in the audience today with Joe Stanis of Galien, who were here regarding ARPA funds.

Chairperson Elliott discussed having our Corporate Counsel and the Administrator investigate other uses for the ARPA funds, such as a sinking fund or seed monies. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Yarbrough asked about the cannabis tax revenue from the City of Benton Harbor and how Berrien County uses these funds that they have collected. Administrator Dissette and Chairperson Elliott responded to the question. At this time, the funds are placed in the general fund. They discussed redirecting the monies back to local municipalities. They stated there is a lot of flexibility with these funds and there is a state law on how it can be used or distributed.

Administrator Dissette stated around May 1st, Berrien County will be receiving new revenues that will be distributed over the next 18 years and will have some strings attached to its use.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott stated the following announcements are on today's Agenda:

- Thursday, March 24, 2022 Meeting Schedule: No Committee of the Whole at 8:35 A.M., Committee meetings begin at 9:15 A.M. and the Board of Commissioners meeting is at 10:30 A.M.
- Berrien County ARPA Broadband Grant Application Workshop at the Berrien County Administration Center: Today at 12:30 P.M. and again on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

- No Board of Commissioner meetings on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.