

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**April 7, 2022**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular COW meeting to order at 8:37 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:

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Don Meeks, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough (Arrived at 8:42 A.M.) and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: David Vollrath.

Chairman Elliott announced a "Happy Birthday" to Administrator Brian Dissette.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2022 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on March 17, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

**REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:**

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

**PRESENTATION(S):**

- **Road Project Update – Interim Road Dept. Director Kevin Stack**
- **Lead Response BH Update – Health Officer Guy Miller**

**Road Project Update – Interim Road Dept. Director Kevin Stack**

Interim Road Department Director Kevin Stack gave a Road Project Update presentation and discussed the following on the Red Arrow Highway Project and the non-motorized path:

- Background of Red Arrow Highway in regards to the three lanes.
- Existing non-motorized paths.
- Proposed growth of the non-motorized paths.
- Grant funding must show connectivity.
- Explained the connectivity.
- Grading and paving.
- Funding
  - Estimated \$1.5 to \$1.7 million dollar proposed project.
  - Federal aid and the County will fund the project. The County's portion is in the 2022 Budget.
  - Local units will provide the maintenance cost.
- Michigan Transportation Funds and Local Road Program Funds.
  - Actuals 2016 - 2021 with estimated distribution for 2022- 2029.
- Red Arrow Gateway Plan
  - Red Arrow Highway – State Line to Bridgman.
- What is the Plan?
  - 2019 to 2023
- Vision: Master Trails Plan for Berrien County.

Chikaming Township Supervisor David Bunte and New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit, spoke in support of the project and providing the maintenance for it.

Lake Charter Treasurer Bob Clark spoke about the connectivity and economic impact.

John Chipman, Vice Chairperson of the Friends of Berrien County Trail and the Chairperson of the Chikaming Township Planning Commission, spoke in favor of the project.

Jill Underhill, Vice Chairperson of the Chikaming Parks Board spoke in favor of the project.

Discussion was held.

**Lead Response BH Update – Health Officer Guy Miller**

Health Officer Guy Miller introduced the Emerging Threats Supervisor Chioma Ejiofor. She gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Benton Harbor ALE Response Update and discussed the following:

- History
- What has changed?
- What was the conclusion?
- EPA Filter Study Map
- What is the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) doing now?
- BCHD filter communication plan.

The project should be completed in early 2023. The timeline was discussed. Administrator Brian Dissette discussed Resolution #P2204226 - Approve MOU with City of Benton Harbor that is on the Agenda today. 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, 3.9B-C):**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the difference of lanes, U.S. 12 and the waterlines.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 A.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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