

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 20, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner David Vollrath gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Commissioner Jim Curran 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Mamie Yarbrough.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 2023 MEETING:**

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- An email newsletter from Berrien County 4-H Program Coordinator Clara Jungermann, the Berrien County Spotlight, 4-H Family News – April/May 2023 issue, received on April 18, 2023.

**REQUISITION REVIEW UPDATE – Annette Christie:**

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented an update on the requisitions to the Board from the Finance Committee.

**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:**

Judge Donna Howard and Chief Judge Mabel Mayfield spoke about Resolution #A2304189 - Eviction Diversion Grant Application and supporting this eviction program. They discussed the current situation in the Trial Court today and how this eviction program would assist them. Discussion was held.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to include Resolution #F2304188 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and approve today's consent calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2304004	Monthly Per Diems
F2304027	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2304074	Weekly Requisitions
P2304175	SWMBA Agreement Amendment #1
P2304176	Comprehensive Agreement Amendment #3
A2304177	Apply for CCAB Grant

P2304182	Farmers Market United Way Grant
P2304183	MDHHS Emerging Threats – state funded grant
F2304184	Land Bank Grant Acceptance
A2304186	Speed Study
A2304187	Speed Study
A2304189	Eviction Diversion Grant Application
F2304190	Accept Land Preservation Grant
P2304192	Beach Monitoring Contract
F2304188	Annual Equalization Report submission to State

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):**

The following resolution(s) was moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2304188	Annual Equalization Report submission to State

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

The Finance, Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) and Administration Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**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):**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the judges speaking during Public Comments Regarding Resolutions and the general public should be allowed to ask questions too. He feels the BOC acts like a monopoly.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- May 4, 2023 – BOC Night Meeting at New Buffalo Township Hall – 6:00 P.M.

Commissioner Freehling announced the BCBIT will meet here at 12:30 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 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.***