

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. at the New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Mike Bettig, Converge Community Church, New Buffalo, gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

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

9 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott, Chokwe Pitchford and Julie Wuerfel.

3 ABSENT: David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- An email from Vicki Schroeder, Benton Harbor, disappointed in holding off on pursuing grant funding to address gun violence, received on April 28, 2023.
- An email from Teri Frantz, Buchanan, regarding her concerns about community violence, received on May 1, 2023.
- Four resolutions from Alger County Board of Commissioners, received on May 2, 2023:
 - Urging repair of the Cornwall Creek Flooding Dam.
 - To instruct our representatives to oppose all firearms control legislation.
 - Declaring Alger County, a constitutional second amendment sanctuary county.
 - Supporting dark store legislation.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Daniel Bacchiocchi and Paula Dronen, Bacchiocchi Construction Services, Inc., who will be giving a Facilities Update to review the ARPA Projects Schedule for the County's planned maintenance projects.

Vice Chair Freehling introduced New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit, Undersheriff Chuck Heit and Register of Deeds Lora Freehling in the audience.

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.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to include Resolution #A2305200 from the Resolution(s) - Added to the Consent Calendar, and approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2305029	Weekly Bills
B2305076	Weekly Requisitions
B2305247	Memorial Road Designation
F2305196	Annual Tax Revolving Fund Creation
P2305197	Renew Employee Assistance Program Contract
P2305198	Approve complement change Building & Grounds
A2305200	Approve contract for roof replacement Jail/South County Courthouse

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Wuerfel, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

RESOLUTION(S) - ADDED:

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

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
A2305200	Approve contract for roof replacement Jail/South County Courthouse

PRESENTATION – Resolution #B2305247:

Commissioner Curran (Chair of the Administration Committee) read the following Resolution #B2305247:

WHEREAS, William “Mack” Isom, born January 24, 1965, was a lifetime resident of Berrien County and was fondly called Mack by all that knew and loved him; and

WHEREAS, he began his employment with Berrien County on December 1, 1997 in the Road Department and faithfully served the traveling public for over 24 years; and

WHEREAS, for the entirety of his career, Mack worked out of the Baroda garage and was ultimately named as a lead worker; and

WHEREAS, a hardworking, dedicated employee, he was known for his ability to operate any piece of equipment and would willingly take on any job asked of him; and

WHEREAS, tragically, on July 20, 2022, Mack was killed in the line of duty while trying to clear a road to make it safe for the traveling public on Red Bud Trail in Oronoko Township between Snow Road and Grange Road; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the nearly 25 years of service and sacrifice of Mack Isom be honored and memorialized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners deems it appropriate to formally recognize and honor Mack Isom, who spent a good portion of his life serving the citizens of Berrien County, through the dedication of the portion of Red Bud Trail between Snow Road and Grange Road as the “Mack Isom Memorial Road.”

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED THAT Mack’s life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his loved ones, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan, and United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution, the Berrien County Road Department will erect the appropriate signage.

A presentation of the resolution was given to the family.

FACILITIES UPDATE – Daniel Bacchiocchi, Bacchiocchi Construction:

Daniel Bacchiocchi, Bacchiocchi Construction Services, Inc., reviewed the ARPA Projects Schedule for the County’s planned maintenance projects. He spoke about how they prioritized the construction and maintenance work. The total amount of the project is \$18,380,724 and there are funds in reserve in the amount of \$15,800,000 to be used. Administrator Dissette alerted the BOC on a proposal to rescind unobligated ARPA funds introduced by House leadership to address the national debt ceiling.

Discussion was held.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Administration Committees:

The Administration Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org. Discussion was held.

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):

Shirley Meyers, Lake Charter Township, spoke about last week’s negative remarks about the Health Department and MSU regarding the Community Based Violence Prevention Initiative Grant and resolution.

Catherine Doll, Sawyer, spoke about the Community Based Violence Prevention Initiative Grant and resolution.

Jill Underwood, Chikaming Township, spoke about the Community Based Violence Prevention Initiative Grant and was disappointed the resolution did not move forward.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Pitchford announced that another group would be applying for the Community Based Violence Prevention Initiative Grant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- Regular Meeting Schedule next week, Thursday, May 11, 2023 at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan:
 - 8:35 A.M. Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - 9:15 A.M. Administration/Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings
 - 10:30 A.M. Board of Commissioners Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.