

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 14, 2020**

**Staff Present:** County Clerk Sharon Tyler  
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator  
William Wolf, County Administrator  
Nicki Britten, Health Officer (via Zoom)  
Brian Bailey, Parks and Recreation Commission Director  
Kevin Stack, Project Engineer (via Zoom)  
Jason Latham, Road Department Director (via Zoom)

**BOC Present:** Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott  
Vice Chairperson Ezra Scott  
Commissioner William Chickering  
Commissioner Don Meeks

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:37 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Commissioner Teri 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: R. McKinley Elliott, Mamie Yarbrough, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Ezra Scott, Jim Curran, Don Meeks, Christopher Heugel, Michael Majerek, William Chickering, David Vollrath and Teri Freehling.

0 ABSENT.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

Chairperson Elliott stated he has received communications regarding RV parks requesting the County's assistance in removing the restrictions by the Governor's Executive Order. Chairperson Elliott will send the communications in a PDF file to the County Clerk to be placed into the record.

County Clerk Tyler had no communications.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve the BOC virtual meeting minutes of April 30, 2020.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Nicki Britten (via phone):**

Health Department Director Nicki Britten gave a COVID-19 update presentation. She stated Berrien County as of May 13, 2020 had 425 confirmed cases, 182 presumed cases, 26 deaths and 272 recoveries. Discussion was held on the following:

- Framework and phases for reopening.
- Testing for COVID-19.

- Funeral arrangements for COVID-19, cremation is not required.
- No protocol, only recommendations for individuals who are returning back to their homes in Michigan.
- Flu shot has nothing to do with the coronavirus.
- How do you define the cause of death with the coronavirus?
- Clarification on the testing by Lakeland Hospital.
- Herd immunity.
- By January 2021, we could begin vaccinating individuals.

**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 through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village:**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, requested Resolution #A2005248 - Contract with the State of Michigan Napier Avenue work, be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

The Board discussed the Consent Calendar and Added Resolutions. Project Engineer Kevin Stack discussed Resolution #A2005264 - Approve Traffic Control Order for Mayflower Road in Bertrand Township.

Added Resolution #P2005256

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to table Added Resolution #P2005256 - Approve contract with King Media for Medical Marijuana Education.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to move Resolution #A2005264 from Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar; to pull Resolutions #B2005250 and #A2005248 and to approve them separately; and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2005030	Weekly Bills
B2005076	Approve Weekly Requisitions
F2005115	Road Payables
A2005247	Critical Bridge List Submission
B2005250	Honorary Resolution
F2005251	Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund
A2005253	Authorize grant application for Corona Virus funding
A2005254	Authorize grant application for Bulletproof Vest funding
F2005255	Approve naming Warren Parrish as Equalization Director
A2005257	Approve CCAB Grant funding application
F2005258	Drain Refunding Continuing Disclosure
P2005259	Authorize contract with JMS Leadership
P2005260	Approve CPBC Amendment #4 to increase funding
B2005261	Approve COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
A2005264	Approve Traffic Control Order for Mayflower Road in Bertrand Township

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Honorary Resolution #B2005250 and Presentation

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2005250 into record:

**WHEREAS**, Brian Bailey has called Michigan home, his entire life; and

**WHEREAS**, following his high school graduation in Lansing, he went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from Western Michigan University; and

**WHEREAS**, his career at Berrien County began in 1990 as the Temporary Assistant Park Manager at Madeline Bertrand County Park; and

**WHEREAS**, he was promoted throughout the years and became the Berrien County Parks Director in 2008 although he still continued to manage Silver Beach through 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, under the direction and leadership of Brian Bailey, the Berrien County Parks and Recreation system has expanded and evolved into the nationally recognized award-winning system that we have today; and

**WHEREAS**, specifically as Director, Brian was the leader through three five-year plans, the acquisition and opening of Galien River County Park, the acquisition of donated land for the growth of Love Creek County Park, the acquisition and opening of Paw River County Park, and adding the Historic Courthouse Square County Park into the parks system, all while continuous improvements were made to other County Parks; and

**WHEREAS**, Brian has exhibited the mission of Berrien County to provide leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management and planning, thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners acknowledges the dedication of Brian Bailey for his tireless efforts to better the Berrien County Parks & Recreation system for all citizens to enjoy and thanks him for his 30 years of service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Brian Bailey's life, actions and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, the Berrien County Parks & Recreation Commission, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to approve Resolution #B2005250 as presented.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott gave a brief history of Brian Bailey in the Berrien County Parks Department. Commissioner Chickering spoke about Brian Bailey's leadership, growing and improving the Berrien County Parks. Commissioner Yarbrough is a member of the Parks and Recreation Board and thanked Brian Bailey for his service. Chairperson Elliott stated Parks and Recreational Board Chairperson Richard Schinkel is planning to send a letter, but unfortunately it has not been received at this time. The letter will be placed into the record once received.

Resolution #A2005248 - Contract with the State of Michigan Napier Avenue work.

The Board, Administrator William Wolf, Project Engineer Kevin Stack and Road Department Director Jason Latham discussed Resolution #A2005248.

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve Resolution #A2005248 as presented.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S)**

The Board tabled Resolution #P2005256 - Approve contract with King Media for Medical Marihuana Education and moved Resolution #A2005264 - Approve Traffic Control Order for Mayflower Road in Bertrand Township to the Consent Calendar.

**PARENT COMMITTEE REPORTS – Finance Committee:**

Finance Committee Chairperson Yarbrough gave the Parent Committee Report for the Finance Committee. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioner Curran spoke about the EOC meeting and they are now only meeting once a week.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** None.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Those speaking through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village.**

Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie reported that Public Comments were received during the presentation by Nicki Britten. Annette Christie explained that Public Comments are not taken during a presentation. She will forward the questions to Nicki Britten to be answered.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about Allegan and Cass County receiving high speed broadband grants and Niles Road turn lane by Riverview Park Cemetery.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Scott spoke about a suspension on new hires and a temp freeze. Administrator Wolf discussed the County’s current financial situation and it’s too early to determine.

Chairperson Elliott discussed next week’s interview session with a candidate for the Administrator’s position with the Board during the next regular Board meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Commissioner Curran announced that Commissioner Scott, Commissioner Freehling and he will be attending a broadband meeting.

The following announcements were made:

- At this time, no Finance Committee meeting next week.
- Unknown whether Administration or PHS will meet next week.
- The Board will meet next week at 10:30 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***