

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:31 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott 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 MAY 18, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of May 18, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from Lenawee County Board of Commissioners, on opposition to legislation preempting local control, received on May 18, 2023.
- An email from Bridgman City Clerk Sheila Reitz, regarding the City of Bridgman Corridor Improvement Authority meeting to be held on June 12, 2023 at the Bridgman City Hall, received on May 19, 2023.
- A resolution from Livingston County Board of Commissioners, sharing Veteran Services Department enhancements with other Michigan Counties, received on March 18, 2023.

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:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about Resolution #F2305217 - Approve Annual Tax Millage Rates.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to include Resolutions #F2305224, A2305232 and A2305233 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2305032	Approve Bills
B2305079	Approve Requisitions

A2305215	Amend Contract with Niles Charter Township for Police Services
F2305217	Approve Annual Tax Millage Rates
A2305218	Marine Safety Grant Agreement
F2305219	Amend agreement with Merit Network for Broadband Data Release
F2305220	Lemon Creek Drain extension to benefit public roads
A2305221	MDOT Contract 23-5175for Red Arrow Highway path
F2305224	Apply for Land Bank Grant
A2305232	Apply for Friend of the Court Title IV=D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant
A2305233	Apply for Mental Health Court Grant

Commissioner Hinkelman clarified Resolution #F2305220 - Lemon Creek Drain extension to benefit public roads.

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) were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2305224	Apply for Land Bank Grant
A2305232	Apply for Friend of the Court Title IV=D Cooperative Reimbursement Grant
A2305233	Apply for Mental Health Court Grant

CHAIRMAN BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Appoint Commissioners Teri Freehling and Julie Wuerfel to the Opioid Settlement Task Force for a term expiring 12/31/2024:

Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioner Julie Wuerfel and Commissioner Teri Sue Freehling to the Opioid Settlement Task Force for a term expiring 12/31/2024. Chairperson Elliott spoke about ratifying the creation of the Opioid Settlement Task Force. Discussion was held. Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth will draft a resolution.

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

The Administration, Finance and Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) 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: None.

Chairperson Elliott announced to the BOC that they need to amend Resolution #F2305217 after Mr. Peltzer brought concerns to the BOC’s attention during Public Comments Regarding Resolutions. The third paragraph in the resolution the word “reduced” needs to be removed.

Motion

Commissioner Ott moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to remove the word “reduced” from the third paragraph in Resolution #F2305217- Approve Annual Tax Millage Rates.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The word “reduced” will be crossed off in the third paragraph and initialed by Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth.

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 Administration Center’s water fountain.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott discussed with the BOC in cancelling the COW and BOC meetings for July 6, 2023. It was the consensus of the BOC to cancel the meetings on July 6, 2023.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Monday, May 29, 2023 – County facilities will be closed for Memorial Day.
- Thursday, June 1, 2023 – Night meeting at 6:00 P.M. at 19 N. by Froehlich’s located at 19th North Elm Street, Three Oaks, MI.

Commissioner Vollrath announced the Land Bank Authority will be meeting today at 1:00 P.M.

The BCBIT meeting to be held on July 6, 2023 is yet to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.