

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Jon Hinkelman 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:

10 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Alex Ott and Chokwe Pitchford.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of June 1, 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 Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, honoring the fallen, thanked the veterans, and the men and women currently serving in the armed forces for their sacrifice and service to our great nation from the time of America's birth and into the future, and are indebted to America's heroes of freedom, received on June 7, 2023.
- A resolution from Ottawa County Board of Commissioners, declares Ottawa County to be a Constitutional County, received on June 7, 2023.
- An email from Berrien County MSU Extension on the Michigan State University Extension's Upcoming Events in Berrien County, received on June 1, 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: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to include Resolutions #A2306242 and A2306244 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2306034	Approve Bills
B2306081	Approve Requisitions
A2306242	Approve Grant Application for 911 wireless communications replacement
A2306244	Approve Violent Crime Reduction Program grant application for Sheriff's Office funds to enhance and increase computer forensics work.

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, 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>
A2306242	Approve Grant Application for 911 wireless communications replacement
A2306244	Approve Violent Crime Reduction Program grant application for Sheriff's Office funds to enhance and increase computer forensics work.

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

The Finance, Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) and Administration Committees presented their Committee Reports. Animal Control Shelter Manager Ashley Herr gave a brief report highlighting today's presentation in the Administration Committee meeting regarding Animal Control. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: None.

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):

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, spoke about a post card provided by the U.S. Postal Service about dogs attacking Letter Carriers and keeping dogs secure. Mr. Haskins stated we should keep all individuals safe.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the water fountain and the Drain Commissioner's Office providing water.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott created a Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee that will include: Commissioner Curran (Chair), Commissioner Wuerfel and Commissioner Bell. Also, included on the Committee will be a working group from the County's staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Commissioner Majerek announced the Brownfield Development Authority Board meeting will be held today at 12:30 P.M.

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Thursday, June 29, 2023 – No BOC meetings – 5th Thursday.
- Thursday, July 6, 2023 – No BOC meetings – Holiday week.
- Thursday, July 13, 2023 – Night meeting 6:00 P.M. – MSU Extension Office, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor.

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.