

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 11, 2020**

**Staff Present:** County Clerk Sharon Tyler  
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator  
William Wolf, County Administrator  
Register of Deeds Lora Freehling  
Jason Latham, Road Department Director (via Zoom)

**BOC Present:** Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott  
Commissioner Jim Curran  
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:38 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Jon Hinkelman gave the invocation.

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

Administrator William Wolf 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, Robert Harrison, Ezra Scott, Don Meeks, Michael Majerek, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough, Jon Hinkelman, Jim Curran, Christopher Heugel, William Chickering and Teri Freehling.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Hinkelman moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC virtual meeting minutes of June 4, 2020.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received an email communication from Adam Rochefort, St. Joseph, to open the rest of the County, received on June 10, 2020.

**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:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Chairperson Elliott discussed Resolution #P2006256 – Approve contract with King Media for Medical Marihuana Education and his discussion with Attorney John Dewane regarding the hold harmless clause. Resolution #P2006256 was tabled at the BOC meeting on May 14, 2020.

Motion: Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to take from the Table, Resolution #P2006256 and to include it on the Consent Calendar.

Discussion was held.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Freehling requested that Resolution #P2006273 - Approve contract with Lange Security be pulled from the Consent Calendar and be presented separately. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to pull Resolution #P2006273 and to present it separately; and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2006034	Weekly Bills
B2006080	Approve Weekly Requisitions
F2006119	Road Payables
A2006269	2020 Marine Grant Agreement
P2006270	Acceptance of United Way of SW Michigan for funding
P2006276	Approve complement change Building & Grounds
B2006278	Approve amended COVID-19 Response Plan
A2006279	Approve the Annual Act 51 Report
P2006256	Contract with King Media for education and outreach services

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #P2006273 - Approve contract with Lange Security

Chairperson Elliott spoke about Resolution #P2006273 - Approve contract with Lange Security. Commissioner Freehling made a motion to table Resolution #P2006273. Discussion was held on the urgency of the Resolution and being related to the State of Emergency Declaration. Commissioner Freehling's motion was defeated due to the lack of a second.

Motion: Commissioner Hinkelman moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Resolution #P2006273 - Approve contract with Lange Security.

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

9 YEAS: Yarbrough, Harrison, Hinkelman, Chickering, Vollrath, Curran, Heugel, Majerek and Elliott.

3 NAYS: Scott, Freehling and Meeks.

Motion carried.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** None.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

County Administrator William Wolf gave a report on the orientation with Brian Dissette and Mike Henry with a preliminary sketch of the responsibilities, the facilities, and some of the challenges.

**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.**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, wished Bill a happy retirement.

Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director, Paw Paw, wished Bill a happy retirement and thanked him for supporting MSU Extension.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, wished Bill good luck in his retirement and much happiness.

**ADDED RESOLUTION**

B2006729                      Honorary Resolution

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2006729 into record:

**WHEREAS**, *William A. Wolf was born on July 29, 1952 and is a lifelong resident of Berrien County; and*

**WHEREAS**, *upon his graduation from St. Joseph High School in 1970, he was appointed to West Point; and*

**WHEREAS**, *being a contributor and a leader dates back to high school where he served as Vice President of the Senior Class, President of the E.P. Clarke chapter of the National Honor Society, Treasurer of the Varsity Club, Student Council Representative, and Co-Captain of the St. Joe Bears track team; and*

**WHEREAS**, *he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from West Point in 1974, graduated from the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College in 1985, and obtained his Masters in Business Administration in 1985; and*

**WHEREAS**, *he served our Country on active duty from 1970 to 1979, eventually retiring in 2002 from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Col.; and*

**WHEREAS**, *Bill not only resided in Berrien County, he took an active role in the betterment of his community as a Benton Harbor City Commissioner, as the Mayor of Benton Harbor, as the County Treasurer, and ultimately as the County Administrator, the position he has held since January 2005; and*

**WHEREAS**, *in his cover letter to the Board of Commissioners from his October 2004 County Administrator applicant submission, Bill said his goal was to be a responsive, proactive chief operating officer to the Board of Commissioners; a prudent manager of the public's trust and finances; a valued partner to the countywide elected officials; and a respected mentor, leader, and manager to our team of county employees; and*

**WHEREAS**, *he has successfully achieved this goal and so much more in the 15 years he has served in that role and he deserves to be honored for all of his service to his community, our county, and our country.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** *that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes William A. Wolf for his dedicated endless service to Berrien County, thanks him for his efforts*

*to prepare Berrien County for future generations, and wishes him a retirement filled with happiness and good health.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that his life, actions and contributions to this community, this county, and this country reflect most favorably upon himself, his wife Bonnie, his family, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

Chairperson Elliott deviated from protocol with a voice vote.

Commissioner Hinkelman moved and seconded by Commissioners Yarbrough, Harrison, Heugel, Scott, Chickering, Vollrath, Freehling, Curran, Majerek, Meeks and Elliott, to approve Resolution #B2006729 as presented.

Motion carried, no nays.

**OTHER BUSINESS - PRESENTATION:**

Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie, stated she had planned to present Administrator Wolf with a video montage of accolades, but unfortunately the sound is not working with Zoom, so it will be available on the Berrien County's You Tube. She thanked her daughter who graciously volunteered to put the video together. Shelley Jasper, Amy Pheifer and Betsy Steltner were present during the presentation.

Chairperson Elliott and Commissioners shared their history and stories of working with Administrator Wolf. They thanked him for his service and contributions to this community, country and the County of Berrien. Chairperson Elliott presented Administrator Wolf with the resolution.

Administrator Wolf thanked everyone for his support and his 50 years serving the public.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 A.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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