

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Robert Harrison 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:

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

3 ABSENT: Chokwe Pitchford. David Vollrath and Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 8, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Ott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of June 8, 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 Ashley Regal, Buchanan City Main Street Manager/Assistant Director of Community Development, requesting a letter of support for the McCoy's Creek Trail Extension, received on June 9, 2023.
- An email from Kim Emig, Stevensville, regarding dust on Grand Mere roads, received on June 12, 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:

Joe Davilo, St. Joseph Charter Township, supports Resolution #P2306235 - Create Opioid Settlement Task Force.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to include Resolution #P2306250 from the Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2306006	Monthly Per Diems
F2306035	Approve Bills
B2306082	Approve Requisitions
P2306226	Comprehensive Agreement FY2024
P2306228	Public Health Social Worker position grade increase
P2306235	Create Opioid Settlement Task Force
P2306236	Complement Change emergency Management Grant Management
A2306237	2023/2024 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant application

F2306239 Berrien Bus Camera Contract
P2306240 2023-2024 Emerging Health Threats funding acceptance
A2306241 Accept Title IV-D Grant
P2306245 Accept grant for wheelchair beach access Silver Beach County Park
P2306250 Apply for a Berrien Community Foundation Grant for Veterans Affairs

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

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

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2306250	Apply for a Berrien Community Foundation Grant for Veterans Affairs

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

The Personnel & Human Services (PHSC), Administration and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. 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:

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):

Mike Schnable, Shoreham Village, spoke about the violence in Berrien County. He wants to know, what does Berrien County plan to do about the violence?

Carla Johnson, Buchanan City, spoke about the Buchanan Area Senior Center pushing the first Pride event in Buchanan City and is concerned about it.

Krystal McCully, Niles City, spoke about Niles City using taxpayer monies and is concerned about holding a Pride event.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about having a Berrien County monthly newsletter.

Michelle Funkhouser, Niles City, spoke about the Pride event to be held in Niles City.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- This weekend – Lest We Forget Event “The Cold War: Escape from Berlin” June 17 and 18 (pamphlets detailing schedule on the counter outside the BOC Room)
- Happy Father’s Day to all the Dads!
- 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 11:07 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.