

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting Minutes
June 30, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the special Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Napier Parkview Baptist Church Pastor Dan Golladay gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Berrien County Sheriff Deputy Nicholas Jewell 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, James Martin, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Julie Wuerfel.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of June 23, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

RECAP RESOLUTION B22051169, PASSED BY THE BOC ON 5/19/2022:

Chairperson Elliot spoke about Sheriff Forrest "Nick" Jewell and read the following Honorary Resolution #B22051169 that was approved by the BOC on May 19, 2022:

***WHEREAS,** Forrest (Nick) Jewell was born on June 23, 1929 in Berrien County; and*

***WHEREAS,** he graduated from Benton Harbor High School, attended college, and served two years in the military before beginning a life in law enforcement; and*

***WHEREAS,** he worked for 12 years in the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, eight of those years as a command officer, before defeating the incumbent Sheriff and becoming the Berrien County Sheriff on January 1, 1969; and*

***WHEREAS,** on the campaign trail, Jewell said that he aimed to open a sub-station on the South end of the County, re-establish the junior deputy program, secure a lie detector for the department, add a Chief to the Detective Division, work to prevent the loss of officers to the private sector, and arrange for extended training for all of his officers; and*

***WHEREAS,** Sheriff Jewell accomplished that and then some – adding a narcotics lab, crime lab, bomb squad, and a greatly improved communications system to the department; and*

***WHEREAS,** an outstanding law enforcement officer, Sheriff Jewell remained in office until he retired November 1, 1991 after 23 years as Sheriff and 36 years overall in the field; and*

***WHEREAS,** beyond the badge, he was a dedicated family man, dedicated to his Church, and dedicated to his community; and*

WHEREAS, at the age of 92, the man who will forever be known as Sheriff Jewell, passed away over the weekend, leaving behind a legacy that will live on in his family and the law enforcement community forever.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners remembers and honors Sheriff Forrest (Nick) Jewell for being a true asset to the citizens of Berrien County and sends their condolences to his family during their time of grief.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Sheriff Jewell's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, the Berrien County Sheriff's Office, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

**RESPECTFULLY,
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION APPROVAL:

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Description</u>
B22061991	Approve Memorialization

Chairperson Elliott read the following Resolution #B22061991:

WHEREAS, Berrien County Policy #ADM-1260 dated November 11, 2002, provides the purpose and procedure of honoring and recognizing distinguished servants of Berrien County; and

WHEREAS, Forrest "Nick" Jewell was nominated to be honored in this manner in recognition of his (36) thirty-six years of law enforcement service for the residents of Berrien County, with 23 years as the Berrien County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, per Policy #ADM-1260, the Memorialization Advisory Committee met on Thursday, June 16, 2022 to review the application and unanimously endorsed the recognition of Forrest "Nick" Jewell.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, in honor of Forrest "Nick" Jewell's years of distinguished service to Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America, authorize naming the Emergency Operations Center in the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Division of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office the:

**Forrest "Nick" Jewell
Emergency Operations Center**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED while the current location of the center is at the 2100 Empire Facility, the name shall remain without regard to the physical location of the center.

**Respectfully submitted,
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Motion:

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Resolution #B22061991 which authorizes the naming of the Emergency Operations Center in the Emergency Management/Homeland Security Division of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office the: Forrest "Nick" Jewell Emergency Operations Center.

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

The County Clerk will send the resolution to all of the County Clerks.

DEDICATION CEREMONY & PRESENTATION

Sheriff Paul Bailey and Chairperson Elliott presented the resolution to the family of Nick Jewell. They unveiled the Forrest "Nick" Jewell – Emergency Operations Center plaque that read the following:

Forrest "Nick" Jewell Emergency Operations Center

Dedicated to the memory and legacy of Forrest "Nick" Jewell who proudly, honorably and faithfully served the citizens of Berrien County for thirty-six years in the vital law enforcement field.

Nick served for 12 years in the Berrien County Sheriff's Office before becoming the Berrien County Sheriff in January 1969, where he remained until his retirement in November of 1991.

As Sheriff, the department grew in size and sophistication with the implementation of such things as the SWAT team, Hazmat team, Narcotics unit, Bomb squad, secured a polygraph machine for the department, provided a presence in South County, and worked with the private sector to establish a 911 service for Berrien County. Under Sheriff Jewell, the development of the Emergency Operations Center began.

His leadership provided for a solid department and services provided for the citizens of Berrien County, while maintaining a fluidity to adapt to the changing face of crime that entered our boundaries.

His service reflects great credit upon himself, his family, Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the Nation.

*Forrest "Nick" Jewell
Berrien County Sheriff
1969-1991*

Chairperson Elliott acknowledged everyone in the room today and individuals who were planning to attend today.

The following individuals shared memories and honored Forrest "Nick" Jewell:

- Judge Dennis Wiley
- Jerry Frank, former Family Independence Agency Director
- Mike Ryan on behalf of Congressman Fred Upton
- Dan Carrick on behalf State Senator Kim LaSata
- Chairperson Mac Elliott
- Dale Gribler, former Van Buren County Sheriff
- Commissioner David Vollrath
- Commissioner James Martin

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented an honorary video of Forrest "Nick" Jewell.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS - Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C): None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

The following announcements were made:

- County Facilities are closed on Monday, July 4, 2022 in observance of Independence Day.
- July 7, 2022 – Board of Commissioners Night Meeting – 6:00 P.M. – Hosted by Three Oaks Township and the Village of Three Oaks at 19th North by Froehlich's Event Center, 19 N. Elm St., Three Oaks.

- July 14, 2022 – regular Thursday morning meeting schedule: 8:35 A.M. Committee of the Whole Meeting, 9:15 A.M. Parent Committee meetings, 10:30 A.M. Board of Commissioners Meeting.
- Land Bank Authority meeting today at 1:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

A moment of silence was held for Forrest “Nick” Jewell and his family.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.