

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 6:04 P.M., hosted by the MSU Extension Office, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ben Phillips, Michigan State University Extension – Vegetables Specialist, 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: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott (Arrived at 6:06 P.M.), Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of June 22, 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 Alcona County Board of Commissioners, supporting of the revised school code – House Bill 4672, received on June 26, 2023.
- Received three resolutions from Alger County Board of Commissioners on June 26, 2023:
 - Affirming support of all constitutional rights including, but not limited to, the right of the people to bear arms and to adequately fund mental health services.
 - Supporting of the revised school code – House Bill 4284.
 - Opposition to legislation preempting local control, House Bills 4526 – 4528.
- Berrien County MSU Extension, an email on the Michigan State University Extension's Upcoming Events in Berrien County, received on June 30, 2023.
- An email from Harral Logaras, Regional Government Liaison, Office of the Regional Administrator U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Region - III, holding an open house public meeting scheduled for July 13, 2023, to discuss the 2022 performance of Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant, received on July 7, 2023.
- An email from Ashley Butler, Cornerstone Alliance, on a news release regarding "Monte Package Company to Invest \$1.9M in Headquarter Expansion," received on July 10, 2023.
- An email from Jay Douglas, WALB News 10, checking in to see what has been happening across the county, received on July 11, 2023.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Chairperson Elliott introduced the following guests in the audience today: State Representative Joey Andrews, Berrien County Register of Deeds Lora Freehling and Sheriff Paul Bailey.

MSU UPDATE – District Director Julie Pioch:

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) District 13 Director Julie Pioch, welcomed everyone here today and gave the MSUE Berrien County 2022 Annual Report. Julie Pioch had her staff introduce themselves and discuss their departments. Discussion was held.

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.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT CALENDAR:

The following resolutions are considered routine and will be adopted by one motion unless a request for removal, discussion or explanation is received from a County Commissioner.

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve today’s Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2307038	Approve Bills & Road Payables
B2307085	Weekly Requisitions
P2307234	Approve complement change Courts
A2307238	Approve application for Two Seven Oh Grant for Animal Shelter

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

RESOLUTION(S) - ADDED: None.

PERSONNEL & HUMAN SERVICES (PHSC) COMMITTEE APPROVAL – Motion to approve Pension Refund/Rollover Report for July 2023 - Commissioners Robert Harrison, Michael Majerek and Chokwe Pitchford:

PHSC Chairperson Harrison spoke about the Pension Refund/Rollover Report for July 2023.

Motion by the PHSC:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, for the approval of the pension refund and rollovers.

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

3 YEAS: Pitchford, Majerek and Harrison.

Motion carried, no nays.

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):

Kenneth Orlich, St. Joseph, Clinical Social Worker, spoke about the expense for inmates to stay in the County's jail.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about Berrien County's funding for the Senior Centers.

Darin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about the Berrien County's funding for the Senior Centers.

Berrien County Register of Deeds Lora Freehling announced the closing of her office to the public on July 26, 2023 and will be open to the public at 10:00 A.M.

Sheriff Paul Bailey thanked former Senator Kim LaSata and State Representative Joey Andrews for assistance in funding for the Sheriff's Office.

State Representative Joey Andrews gave an update from Lansing.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott addressed Kenneth Orlich's comments regarding the expense to inmates in the County jail and the law sets these expenses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott stated about the last night meeting will be held on August 3, 2023 at the County Conference Rm, 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Regular Meeting Schedule next week, Thursday, July 20, 2023 at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main St., St. Joseph, Michigan:
 - 8:35 A.M. - Committee of the Whole Meeting
 - 9:15 A.M. - Administration/Finance/Personnel Committee Meetings
 - 10:30 A.M. - Board of Commissioners Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.