

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular 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:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Ezra Scott led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

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

9 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, James Martin, Ezra Scott, Julie Wuerfel and Teri Sue Freehling.

3 ABSENT: David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 7, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of July 7, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) the following communication:

- A resolution from Mecosta County Board of Commissioners, to amend the fee cap for home health providers under the Michigan No-Fault Auto Insurance Reform Act, received on July 8, 2022.

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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2207038	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2207085	Weekly Requisitions
A2207299	Approve SWMBA Grant Application for Intake & Drug Testing
A2207302	Police Protection Agreement w Buchanan Township
C2207305	Hire Veterans Services Director
A2207306	Road Project – MDOT Contract 22-5333
A2207308	Road Project – MDOT Contract 22-5309
A2207309	Road Project – MDOT Contract 22-5303
A2207312	Accept grant funds for the Drug Court Project

B22071984
B2207300

Honorary Resolution
Honorary Resolution

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Wuerfel, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

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

The Personnel & Human Services, 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.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: None.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, expressed his concerns about a resolution approved regarding Napier Avenue.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the new Road Department Director, General Public Comments and sunset laws.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the new Road Department Director's qualifications.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling recognized the 6th anniversary of the tragic loss of life of Joe Zangaro and Ron Kienzle on July 11th at the St. Joseph Courthouse and taking a moment of silence.

Commissioner Harrison wished Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie a Happy Birthday for tomorrow.

CLOSED SESSION Per MCL 15.268 (e): “To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation: 20-0100-CD-H Fowler v. Berrien County”– Attorney Jim Straub, Straub, Seaman, & Allen:

Vice Chairperson Freehling discussed that the BOC will be going into Closed Session and there could be some Board action after the Closed Session.

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:09 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation: 20-0100-CD-H Fowler v. Berrien County.

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

9 YEAS: Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Wuerfel, Bell, Curran and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:11 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Vice Chairperson Freehling reconvened to Open Session at 12:21 P.M.

Commissioner Hinkelman moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Closed Session minutes of June 23, 2022. Motion carried, no nays. 1 Abstain: Wuerfel (Commissioner Wuerfel was not present at the Closed Session held on June 23, 2022.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.