

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Julie Wuerfel 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, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Alex Ott, Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

3 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek and R. McKinley Elliott.

Note: Michael Majerek was watching on YouTube.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Ott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of July 20, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie updated the Board on the requisitions for further discussion.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Jim Curran:

Commissioner Curran and the Chair of the Administration Committee spoke about Resolution #A2307263 - Approve Phase 3 of Bacchiocchi Contract for Construction Management that is listed on the Consent Calendar today. 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2307040	Approve Road Payables & Weekly Bills
B2307087	Approve Weekly Requisitions
P2307251	Complement Change Road Department
A2308258	Adopt a Limited English Proficiency Plan for the Road Department
A2307260	Accept Emergency Management Hazardous Materials Grant
A2307261	Approve Campus Resource Officer Agreement for Lake Michigan College

A2307262
A2307263

Renew GTL Inmate Phone Agreement Jail
Approve Phase 3 of Bacchiocchi Contract for Construction Management

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

- Personnel & Human Services Committee
- Administration Committee
- Finance Committee

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 (virtually) 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):

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the drinking fountain and the amount of time allotted for speaking.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

The following announcements were made:

- Thursday, August 3, 2023 – BOC night meeting to be held at the Health Department in the County Conference Room located at 2149 East Napier Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan.
- The Land Bank Authority will be meeting today at 1:00 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION per MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” - Quarterly Litigation Update by Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth:

Vice Chairperson Freehling stated that the BOC will be going into Closed Session, to consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation. Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth stated there may be action needed after the Closed Session.

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 10:57 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation.

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

9 YEAS: Harrison, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 10:57 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Vice Chairperson Freehling reconvened to Open Session at 11:34 A.M.

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 18, 2023. Motion carried, no nays.

Motion

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to authorize the County Administrator to execute a settlement agreement with Concierge Correction as discussed in the Closed Session, following legal review by Corporate Counsel.

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

9 YEAS: Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran, Harrison and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.