

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 28, 2022**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Jim Curran gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Commissioner Michael Majerek 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:

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

2 ABSENT: David Vollrath and R. McKinley Elliott.

**PREPARED STATEMENT – Chairperson:**

Vice Chairperson Freehling made the following general statement:

*“As I'm sure you are all aware, the County is mourning the loss of a beloved Road Department employee who tragically passed away last week. While we all continue to collectively grieve that loss, we ask that everyone remain mindful that a criminal investigation into the incident is ongoing. For this reason, Board members will not be commenting on the details of the incident. In addition, we request that members of the public refrain from making speculative comments about the incident that could hinder that investigation. Thank you.”*

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 14, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of July 14, 2022. 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 Oceana County Board of Commissioners, a request for change to Michigan's No-Fault Insurance, received on July 20, 2022.
- A resolution from Allegan County Board of Commissioners, supporting an amendment to the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act, received on July 20, 2022.

**REQUISITION REVIEW:**

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie spoke about Resolution #B2207087 - Weekly Requisitions.

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

The Administration, Finance, and Personnel & Human Services Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**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, 3.9B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Vice Chairperson Freehling has been asked to pull Added Resolution #A2207323.

Commissioner Martin moved and supported by Commissioner Curran, to approve today's Consent Calendar, and to include Added Resolutions #P2207265, A2207316, A2207318, A2207319, A2207320, A2207321 and A2207324. Added Resolution #A2207323 to be pulled and presented separately for further discussion:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2207007	Monthly Per Diems
F2207039	Weekly Bills & Road Payables – July 21
F2207040	Weekly Bills & Road Payables – July 28
B2207086	Weekly Requisitions – July 21
B2207087	Weekly Requisitions – July 28
P2207126	Complement Change Health Department
P2207296	Comprehensive Agreement FY22-23
P2207297	Emerging Threats MDHHS Agreement 22-23
F2207298	Printing Fee Schedule
P2207303	Authorization to sell excess property
A2207313	Purchase I & M Building Buchanan
P2207314	Complement Change Tether Unit Sheriff's Office
A2207315	Contract with CSX Transportation for Road Improvement
P2207265	Approve contract with the Michigan Public Health Institute
A2207316	Annual Office of Highway Safety Planning Traffic Safety Grant
A2207318	Specific Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant for Pedestrian/Bicycles
A2207319	Approve agreement with Michigan Community Dental Centers
A2207320	Acknowledge Reimbursement Extension for COVID-19
A2207321	Approve School Resource Officer contract
A2207324	Approve match for possible grant dollars

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Motion

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve Resolution #A2207323.

Commissioner Wuerfel asked for this resolution to be pulled, to explain the fund balance growth and why it is growing. Interim Road Department Kevin Stack explained the fund balance.

Commissioner Scott asked for this resolution to be pulled also. He stated he just received this report and has not had a chance to study the report and it is due to the State on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

1 NAY: Scott.

Motion carried.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):**

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2207265	Approve contract with the Michigan Public Health Institute
A2207316	Annual Office of Highway Safety Planning Traffic Safety Grant
A2207318	Specific Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant for Pedestrian/Bicycles
A2207319	Approve agreement with Michigan Community Dental Centers
A2207320	Acknowledge Reimbursement Extension for COVID-19
A2207321	Approve School Resource Officer contract
A2207324	Approve match for possible grant dollars

The following resolution was pulled and was presented separately for further discussion:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
A2207323	Approve submission of Road Department financials to State

**BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

- **Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) - Bob Harrison, PHSC Chair**  
PHSC Chair Harrison stated the PHSC reviewed applications and they recommended Ashley Slack to the SWMPC.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to appoint Ashley Slack to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission to fill the term with the addition of one (1) year due to a difference in elected vs. non-elected with a term expiring on December 31, 2023.

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

A Moment of Silence was held for our dearly departed Road Department worker.

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator’s Report.

**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). The Board of Commissioners embraces diverse points of view as the Board considers a wide variety of policy challenges. The right to be heard is a central democratic value. That said, public comments is most productive when it is civil and respectful. Personal attacks have no place in reasoned discourse. We urge all commenters to share their viewpoints in a manner that is respectful and courteous, and to refrain from making comments that are abusive, defamatory or obscene:**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about people using the Courthouse parking lot without authorization to use the lot.

Annie Brown, South Haven, introduced herself as a candidate for State Representative for the 38<sup>th</sup> District.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the BOC’s conference room camera, Benton Harbor High School, addressing resolutions in the meetings and public comments of no longer than two minutes.

Diane Herman, Benton Charter Township, expressed her concerns at Rocky Gap County Park.

Michelle Vukorpa, Benton Charter Township, expressed her concerns at Rocky Gap County Park.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- August 4, 2022 – Night meeting at the Niles District Library at 6:00 P.M. – no Committee of the Whole and no committee meetings.

Commissioner Scott announced there is a Land Bank Authority meeting on August 4, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. and a possible BCBIT meeting coming up soon.

Administration Committee will meet after this meeting in the BOC room.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 A.M.

---

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

---

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***