

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**August 4, 2022**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular night meeting to order at 6:01 P.M. at Niles District Library, Community Room, 620 East Main Street, Niles, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Michael Smith of Huntly Baptist Church, Niles, Michigan, gave the invocation.

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

Chairperson Elliott 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, James Martin, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough (Arrived at 6:10 P.M.) and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 28, 2022 MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve the BOC meeting minutes of July 28, 2022. Motion carried and no nays. Chairperson Elliott abstained from the minutes, since he was not in attendance on July 28, 2022.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Sarah Rhein, Private Duty Home Healthcare, St. Joseph, MI, an email regarding amending the Auto No Fault Act, received on August 1, 2022.
- Clinton County Board of Commissioners, a resolution opposing Michigan House Bill 4730, and a resolution to establish a Taskforce to Guide the Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure within Clinton County, received on August 1, 2022.

**REQUISITION REVIEW:**

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

Commissioner Freehling stated she will be abstaining from Requisition #59719 on Resolution #B2208088.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – Administration Committee:**

The Administration Committee presented their Committee Report. 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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):**

Ann Hart, Niles Charter Township, asked about Resolutions #A2208322, #A2208326 and #A2208327. She asked where the grants are coming from. Administrator Brian Dissette stated the grants are from the State of Michigan and explained how the grants are processed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the Consent Calendar with Added Resolutions #A2208317, #A2208322, #A2208326 and #A2208327 as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2208041	Approve Weekly Bills
*B2208088	Approve Requisition List
A2208317	Contract with Wightman for Juvenile Center Design
A2208322	Accept Raise the Age Grant Funding
A2208326	Authorize applying for Mental Health Juvenile Delinquency Grant
A2208327	Accept Juvenile Parent Representation Grant

\*Commissioner Freehling abstained from Requisition #59719 on Resolution #B2208088.

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

12 YEAS: Curran, \*Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):**

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
A2208317	Contract with Wightman for Juvenile Center Design
A2208322	Accept Raise the Age Grant Funding
A2208326	Authorize applying for Mental Health Juvenile Delinquency Grant
A2208327	Accept Juvenile Parent Representation Grant

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Chairman R. McKinley Elliott**

Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioner Harrison to the Brownfield Authority to replace Don Meeks with a term expiring on December 31, 2022.

Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioner Wuerfel to the Land Bank Authority to replace Don Meeks with a term expiring on December 31, 2022.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

The BOC welcomed everyone in attendance tonight.

**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):**

Chokwe Pitchford, Benton Harbor, spoke that he won the primary for the BOC, District 3, with no general election opponent.

Marsha Gorbitz, Niles Charter Township, is an employee of District Court Probation and spoke about the Salary Study. She asked whether the non-union employees will receive raises. Administrator Dissette responded.

Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin spoke about the loss of Congresswoman Jackie Walorski and if the County could recognize her. Chairperson Elliott felt that the BOC could do something.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Act 51 Report.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Next week – return to regular schedule: Committee of the Whole meeting 8:35 A.M., Committee meetings 9:15 a.m., Board of Commissioners meeting 10:30 A.M.
- Next night meeting is Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. at Lincoln Charter Township Hall.

Commissioner Scott thanked Administrative Assistant Annette Christie for setting up tonight's meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 P.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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