

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Jim Curran 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:

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, James Martin, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 10:39 A.M.).

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of September 1, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

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:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, is opposed to the resolution regarding hazard pay.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2209046	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2209093	Weekly Requisitions
F2209339	PDR Amendment to reflect increase
A2208341	Secondary Road Patrol Grant Acceptance
A2209350	Grant application for Animal Control shelter needs

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

Chairperson Elliott arrived at 10:39 A.M.

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

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

The Finance, Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) and Administration 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 - 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 are 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:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the parking fee at Silver Beach and other parks.

Ed Kretchman, Royalton Township, thanked the BOC for adopting two resolutions to permanently preserve the 74 acres of his farm, under the State of Michigan Farmland Preservation program, and for their continued support on county ordinance 21, the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Ordinance.

Matt Kirkus, New Buffalo, disheartened by local politics.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Motion on PHSC Appointments

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the following PHSC appointments:

Appoint Brenda Layne to the Mental Health Authority to fill vacancy with term expiring March 31, 2023.

Appoint Bruce Hackworth to the Mental Health Authority to fill vacancy with term expiring March 31, 2024.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #P2209355

Personnel & Human Services Chairperson Harrison discussed Resolution #P2209355 regarding authorizing hazard pay bonus to be paid to all eligible part-time/temporary employees. The BOC passed Resolution #C2208337 on August 11, 2022 which authorized a one-time hazard pay bonus for all full time employees that were employed during the pandemic and are still employed or who have recently retired. The special revenue funds (Public Defender, Health Department, Road Department, and Parks Department) will be used to offset the general fund appropriation for the hazard pay. Discussion was held.

Motion

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve pay of \$1,000 to the 468 employees that PHSC has determined for the full amount of hazard pay per Resolution #C2208337.

Motion carried, no nays.

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Curran, to amend the Agenda to add Resolution #P2209355.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

OTHER BUSINESS - Continued:

Resolution #P2209355

Commissioner Bell read Resolution #P2209355:

***WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners passed resolution C2208337 on August 11, 2022 which authorized a one-time hazard pay bonus of \$1,000 for all full time employees that were employed during the pandemic and are still employed or who have recently retired, with the exception of elected officials and any prior recipients of the hazard pay bonus; and*

***WHEREAS**, the eligibility for the hazard pay was to be determined by the Personnel and Human Services Committee (PHSC); and*

***WHEREAS**, the PHSC Chairperson and staff worked through the various factors to create the employee roster for payments and out of that work, it was determined that it is appropriate for some part-time/temporary employees that worked during the pandemic and are still employed, to receive a pro-rated hazard pay bonus of up to \$500 based on hours worked; and*

***WHEREAS**, the criteria includes being employed prior to July 1, 2021, still actively working for Berrien County, and accumulating at least a set number of hours.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes up to \$500 as a hazard pay bonus to be paid to all eligible part-time/temporary employees as determined by the Personnel and Human Services Committee.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that available special revenue funds (Public Defender, Health Department, Road Department, and Parks Department) will be used to offset the general fund appropriation for the hazard pay provided to all their employees, be it full-time, part-time, or temporary, as allowed.*

Motion

Commissioner Bell moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve Resolution #P2209355.

Commissioner Wuerfel recommended to the BOC not to exceed a certain dollar amount. Discussion was held. Chairperson Elliott recommend that the PHSC understands and concedes not to exceed a dollar amount up to \$350,000.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Sheriff Paul Bailey announced one DOC hold today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- September 29, 2022 – 5th Thursday – No meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.