

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:38 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner David Vollrath gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Teri Sue Freehling 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, James Martin, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of September 8, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Curran moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to push Added Resolution #P2209344 - Approve Classification Compensation Study Recommendations to the Consent Calendar for next Thursday.

Discussion was held.

Motion carried. 1 – Nay: Harrison.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, rejecting private money for funding elections, received on September 8, 2022.

AUDIT PRESENTATION – Nate Baldermann of Rehmann Robson:

Nate Baldermann, Rehmann Robson, spoke about Berrien County's audit for the year ending December 31, 2021, and have issued the County's report dated July 29, 2022. The report included a reference to other auditors who audited the financial statements of the Berrien Mental Health Authority and professional standards. He discussed the County was prepared for the audit, the reconciliation of the Drain Commission subsidiary ledgers and supporting work papers were not completed in a timely fashion, which ultimately resulted in the County having to file an extension that was approved by the State. 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, 3.9B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2209009	Monthly Per Diems
F2209047	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2209094	Weekly Requisitions
F2209331	Authorize Guidelines for Emergency Housing Repair Grant Funds
P2209351	Baby's Own Bed Grant Acceptance
P2209352	Approve Complement Change Health Department
A2209353	Accept MIDC Grant for Public Defender
A2209356	Name Backup Emergency Management Coordinator

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 Added Resolution was pushed to the Consent Calendar for next week:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2209344	Approve Classification Compensation Study Recommendations

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

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.

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 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:

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, spoke about fire and water issues in regards to roundabouts.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

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

CLOSED SESSION – Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act – “to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.” and Section 13 (1) (g) Freedom of Information Act – which exempts from public disclosure “(i) information of records subject to the attorney-client privilege.” - Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth:

Chairperson Elliott discussed that the BOC will be going into Closed Session and the Closed Session is regarding material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.” and Section 13 (1) (g) Freedom of Information Act – which exempts from public disclosure “(i) information of records subject to the attorney-client privilege. He stated we will be voting on two sets of closed minutes and a possible motion.

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:18 A.M., to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.” and Section 13 (1) (g) Freedom of Information Act – which exempts from public disclosure “(i) information of records subject to the attorney-client privilege.

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.

The Board recessed at 11:21 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Chairperson Elliott reconvened to Open Session at 11:56 A.M.

Motion:

Commissioner Martin moved and seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the Closed Session minutes of July 14, 2022 and August 11, 2022. Discussion. Motion carried, no nays.

Motion:

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to authorize Corporate Counsel to pursue such legal action as is necessary and appropriate in connection with the unauthorized trimming of trees on County property. Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.