

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Michael Majerek gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Robert Harrison 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 15, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of September 15, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- An email on the Michigan State University Extension's Upcoming Events in Berrien County, received on September 21, 2022.

Chairperson Elliott announced that Commissioner Yarbrough celebrated her birthday this week and wished her a happy birthday.

PRESENTATION – Foreclosure Report - Treasurer Shelly Weich:

Treasurer Shelly Weich gave the Foreclosing Governmental Unity Report of Real Property Foreclosure Sales for the foreclosure year of 2020. Treasurer Weich discussed the following:

- i. Number of parcels ordered foreclosed and not canceled or redeemed: 189.
- ii. Sum of minimum bids for all foreclosures not canceled or redeemed: \$430,490.00.
- iii. Number of properties sold to governmental agencies under right of first refusal: 4.
- iv. Sum of minimum bids for all governmental agencies under right of first refusal: \$24,343.00.
- v. Total amount paid for the governmental agencies properties under right of first refusal: \$24,343.00.
- vi. Total number of parcels sold at public foreclosure auctions: 177.
- vii. Sum of the minimum bids for properties sold at public foreclosure auctions: \$378,874.00.
- viii. Sum of amounts paid for properties sold at public foreclosure auctions: \$1,038,500.00.
- ix. Total amount of all taxes, penalties and interest, fees and costs on properties foreclosed and not redeemed: \$437,666.14.
- x. Total amount paid for all properties, including governmental agencies and public foreclosure auctions: \$1,062,843.00.
- xi. Total amount of proceeds paid to claimants for all properties (note 5% of sale amount payable to FGU is deducted before proceeds are calculated): \$254,654.68.
- xii. Remaining net amount after subtracting the paid claimant proceeds total (xi) from the difference of amounts describe in (x) and (ix): \$370,522.18.

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 Harrison, to approve today’s Consent Calendar with Added Resolutions #F2209362 and #A2209363 as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2209048	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2209095	Weekly Requisitions
P2209344	Implement Classification Study
P2209357	Accept Donated Funds for Love Creek County Park
P2209358	Approve Annual Remonumentation Contracts
P2209359	Approve Annual Peer Group Members Remonumentation Program
F2209362	Approve 5-Year Lease for Printing Equipment
A2209363	Approve Emergency Management Grant Work Agreement

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 Resolutions were added to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2209362	Approve 5-Year Lease for Printing Equipment
A2209363	Approve Emergency Management Grant Work Agreement

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

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

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

• **PHSC Appointment:**

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to appoint Sam Felton to the Mental Health Authority to fill a vacancy with the term expiring on March 31, 2023.

Motion carried, no nays.

• **Finance Appointments:**

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and seconded by Commissioner Scott, to appoint the following:

- John Janick to the Economic Development Board to fill vacancy – term expires December 31, 2024.
- Brian Maynard to the Economic Development Board to fill vacancy – term expires December 31, 2023.
- Chris Marzke to the Brownfield Authority Board to fill vacancy – term expires May 25, 2023.

Motion carried, no nays.

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:

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Road Department positions and the internet in the County.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the \$1,000 bonus hazard paid to the employees.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- September 29, 2022 – 5th Thursday – No meetings.
- MDOT is hosting a ribbon cutting event on U.S. 31, to be held on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.

Commissioner Freehling stated there is a Trust Investment Advisory Committee meeting today at noon. She discussed the broadband mapping in Berrien County.

Commissioner Martin spoke about the parking problem on County property and asked about the ordinance. Administrator Dissette responded. Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth stated the County does have an ordinance on parking on County property and a permit process. Administrator Dissette stated signage has been placed on County property in alignment with the County's ordinance. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Scott spoke about the broadband in Berrien County and broadband providers.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.