

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Teri Sue Freehling gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell 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:

10 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Michael Majerek, Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT. Jon Hinkelman and Alex Ott.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of September 28, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from Alpena County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 3, 2023.
- A resolution from Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 3, 2023.
- A resolution from Alcona County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 3, 2023.

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, 3.9 B-C). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:

Ryan Millin, Niles City Community Development Director, spoke in support of Resolutions #F2310313 and #F2310314.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott spoke about tabling Resolution #B2310310 - Express opposition to preempting local control in solar/wind development, from the Consent Calendar for one week.

Motion

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to table Resolution #B2310310 - Express opposition to preempting local control in solar/wind development for one week on the Consent Calendar.

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Pitchford, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.
1 NAY: Wuerfel.

Motion carried.

Motion

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to include Resolutions #F2310313 and #F2310314 from the Added Resolutions and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2310049	Weekly Bills Approval & Road Payables
B2310096	Weekly Requisitions
A2310307	Apply for Emergency Management Planning Grant
P2310308	Apply Children's Trust Fund Grant Triple P Program
F2310313	City of Niles Fort St. Commercial Rehabilitation District
F2310314	City of Niles Grant St. Commercial Rehabilitation District

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

10 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2310313	City of Niles Fort St. Commercial Rehabilitation District
F2310314	City of Niles Grant St. Commercial Rehabilitation District

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

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

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report. Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie discussed next week's schedule.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS ELECTION – Clerk Sharon Tyler:

Clerk Sharon Tyler gave a presentation at the COW meeting on the appointment process for the Board of County Canvassers. Clerk Tyler explained the election ballot process and discussed the vacant Democratic alternate position with the term expiring in 2025. The following names were given to the County Clerk from each Berrien County political party and placed on the ballot:

Debra Frank, to be appointed as a regular member. (Selected by the Berrien County Republican Party).

Jess Minks, to be reappointed as a regular member. (Selected by the Berrien County Democratic Party).

Alternates:

Thomas Macigewski, to be appointed as an alternate member. (Selected by Berrien County Republican Party).

Audrey Lester, to be reappointed as an alternate member. (Selected by the Berrien County Democratic Party).

Erin Salvagione, to be appointed as an alternate member. (Selected by Berrien County Democratic Party).

Teri Frantz, to be appointed as an alternate member. (Selected by Berrien County Democratic Party).

The ballots were distributed to the BOC and collected for tallying the votes.

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):

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, supports Resolution #B2310310 - Express opposition to preempting local control in solar/wind development.

Ryan Millin, Niles City Community Development Director, thanked the BOC for approving Resolutions #F2310313 and #F2310314.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the BOC conference room and the County fee to go to the beach.

Matt Kirkus, New Buffalo, spoke about the opioid settlement and handed out a document that he had written "Staying Off Empty" for the BOC.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott spoke about adding an additional speaker to the conference room for the audience.

County Clerk Tyler announced the following results for Board of Canvassers:

10 Yes: Debra Frank - Term expiring: October 31, 2027 - Elected

9 Yes: Jess Minks - Term expiring: October 31, 2027 - Elected

Alternates:

9 Yes: Thomas Macigewski – Term expiring: October 31, 2027 - Elected

6 Yes: Audrey Lester – Term expiring: October 31, 2027 – Elected

4 Yes: Teri Frantz – Term Expiring: October 31, 2027

10 Yes: Erin Salvagione - Term expiring: October 31, 2025 – Elected

The ballots are available to the general public for viewing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Administrator Dissette announced the BCBIT meeting at 12:30 P.M. today.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.