

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

10 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell (Arrived at 8:38 A.M.), Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, James Martin, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and Teri Sue Freehling.

2 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman and R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on October 6, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Interim Animal Control Shelter Manager Ashley Herr in the audience. He stated there is a resolution on the BOC's Agenda today appointing the position of Animal Shelter Manager.

Administrator Dissette introduced Director Lex Winans and Helen Demarsh of the GIS/Land Description Department, who assisted with the mapping programming for the broadband.

Vice Chairperson Freehling introduced the municipal representatives from Pipestone Township and Lincoln Charter Township, who are here today for the Broadband Mapping Presentation.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie: None.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION – Broadband Mapping Presentation – Chris Scharrer, DCS:

Chris Scharrer, DCS Technology Design, gave a Rural Broadband in Berrien County Presentation (2322 Road Miles, 568 Square Miles (Land), 86,000 + Parcels and 39 Municipalities) and discussed the following:

- FCC 2020 Report
- Actual Serviced Areas
- Actual Unserved
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Funded Areas
- How to read the maps
- Going online
- The Numbers: By Township and City – Villages are included in the Township counts.
 - Total Parcels – 86,382
 - Total Unoccupied or undeveloped –13,338
 - Total Occupied – 73,044
 - Total Unserviceable –11,539 (Summer of 2022)
 - Total Planned under RDOF – 2,681
 - Total Parcels currently not planned for – 8,858
 - Total Funding Required to fill all Gaps: \$48,566,000 - \$84,570,000

Discussion was held.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws, 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):

Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor Dick Stauffer, spoke about the Broadband application. Administrator Dissette spoke about the application process.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.