

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced a Happy Birthday to Commissioner Curran. She spoke about the National Farm Safety campaign.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner David Vollrath 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:

10 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, 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.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Bell moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of October 6, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Kathy Burczak, a volunteer at the Berrien County Animal Control, an email in support of Ashley Herr being made the new Animal Shelter Manager, received on October 9, 2022.
- Monica Oclon a volunteer at the Berrien County Animal Control, an email commending Ashley Herr and recommends her to be the new Animal Shelter Manager, received on October 11, 2022.
- Victoria Dunlop, Coloma, a volunteer at the Berrien County Animal Control, asking you to seriously consider Ashley Herr for the Animal Shelter Manager position, received on October 12, 2022.
- Dan Unruh, Bridgman Chief of Police, an email resigning from the position as an appointed member of the Berrien County Community Corrections Advisory Board, received on October 12, 2022.
- Kristopher Martin, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, an email seeking project nominations for the Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Effort Award, received on October 12, 2022.

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, spoke about Resolution #C2210367.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve today's Consent Calendar, and to include Added Resolutions #B2210374 and #C2210367 as presented:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2210050	Approve Bills & Road Payables

B2210097	Approve requisitions
P2210346	Approve complement changes Animal Control
P2210369	Approve complement change Sheriff Office
F2210370	Berrien Bus Title IV Plan
F2210371	Berrien Bus ADA Policy
F2210372	Berrien Bus MDOT Procurement Policy
F2210373	Annual Drain Roll
B2210374	Express opposition for Short Term Rental Legislation
C2210367	Appoint Animal Shelter Manager

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following Added Resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
B2210374	Express opposition for Short Term Rental Legislation
C2210367	Appoint Animal Shelter Manager

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.

- **PHSC Appointment:**

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to appoint Janet Bermingham to the Mental Health Authority to fill a vacancy with the term expiring on March 31, 2025. Motion carried, no nays.

Discussion was held.

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:

Michigan State University Extension District 13 Director Julie Pioch spoke about the resources that MSU Extension offers. She discussed the state proposals, newsletters, future workshops, new commissioner training and they are fully staffed.

Chowe Pitchford, Benton Charter Township, spoke about his job at Berrien Forward.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the conference room, the city’s water and the BOC meetings.

Sheriff Paul Bailey, Berrien Township, spoke about the Animal Control and it is going well. He commended Animal Shelter Manager Ashley Herr and she is doing a wonderful job.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- Brownfield Development Authority Board meeting today at 1:30 P.M.
- Special BOC Meeting for a budget work session on October 19, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.