

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice-Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:40 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough 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, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott, Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

2 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman and R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Pitchford moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of October 19, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

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:

Ezra Scott, New Buffalo Township, spoke about the taxpayer's expense by the County and Drain Commissioner's cost with Resolution #B2310099.

Barbara Starke, Coloma, began to speak about the opioid issues. Vice-Chair Freehling stated this is only Public Comments regarding resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT CALENDAR:

The following resolutions are considered routine and will be adopted by one motion unless a request for removal, discussion or explanation is received from a County Commissioner.

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2310052	Weekly Bills Approval & Road Payables
*B2310099	Weekly Requisitions
P2310312	Complement Change Parks Department
F2310325	Apply for CDBG Chill MISDA Grant
F2310326	Agreement with Local Agencies for Tax Bill Preparation
F2310327	Approve Harbor Shores Memo of Understanding
A2310328	Rescind Three Oaks Road Traffic Control Order
A2310329	Approve Union Pier Road Traffic Control Order
A2310330	Approve Community Hall Road Traffic Control Order
A2310331	Approve Prairie Road Traffic Control Order

A2310332 Accept 2024 Swift & Sure Program Grant Funds
A2310333 Accept 2024 Drug Court Grant Funds
A2310334 Accept 2024 Mental Court Grant Funds
P2310335 Approve Complement Change Health Department Medical Assistant
A2310336 Apply for MDARD Grant for Spay/Neuter Funds Animal Control Shelter

Discussion was held.

**Note: Vice-Chair Freehling noted in the COW meeting that she will be abstaining from Resolution #B2310099 on Requisition #67136 to REV Excavating in the amount of \$320,765 out of an abundance of caution.*

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough and Bell.
Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

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

The PHS, Finance and Administration 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: None

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):

Barbara Starke, Coloma, spoke about acupuncture and how well it works for addiction.

Ezra Scott, New Buffalo Township, announced that he is running for Drain Commissioner and discussed family adoptions.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke of the Senior Centers.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Yarbrough announced the Land Bank Authority meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. today.

Administrator Dissette announced the Trust Investment Advisory Committee meeting will be held at noon today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

CLOSED SESSION - MCL 15.268(e) "To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation." - James Ranta, Charfoos Reiter Hebert, PC, regarding Emma Payne v. Berrien County Juvenile Center/Broadspire Claim #189572595-001:

Motion

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:19 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation." - James Ranta, Charfoos Reiter Hebert, PC, regarding Emma Payne v. Berrien County Juvenile Center/Broadspire Claim #189572595-001.

The Vice-Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:22 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Vice-Chairperson Freehling reconvened to Open Session at 11:38 A.M.

Motion

Commissioner Wuerful moved and seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the Closed Session minutes of October 19, 2023.

10 YEAS: Harrison, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Freehling.
Motion carried, no nays.

Motion

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to authorize the staff to proceed as discussed during closed session.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice-Chairperson

Kristene Walton, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.