

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. in the BOC's boardroom at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Chokwe Pitchford gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Register of Deeds Lora Freehling 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, Michael Majerek, Alex Ott, Chokwe Pitchford, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2023 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of October 26, 2023. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from Montcalm County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 24, 2023.
- A resolution from Livingston County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 25, 2023.
- A resolution from Eaton County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 27, 2023.
- A resolution from Wexford County Board of Commissioners, opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments, received on October 31, 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: None.

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Commissioner Curran explained Resolution #A2311355 that involves a TAP grant for the Road Department. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Curran moved and seconded by Commissioner Wuerfel, to place Resolution #A2311355 onto Added Resolutions.

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

12 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

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 Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Pitchford, to move Added Resolution #A2311355 to the Consent Calendar and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2311053	Weekly Bills Approval & Road Payables
B2311100	Weekly Requisitions
P23111987	Express Gratitude for Madeline Bertrand Statue Repair
P2311315	Complement Change Clerk's Office
F2311338	Approve 2023 Drain Assessment Roll Report
P2311339	Renew Parks Millage
P2311340	Apply for the Michigan Parks and Recreation Grant for Love Creek County Park
P2311341	Approve Request for Proposal Document for Opioid Settlement Funds
F2311350	Express Support for HB 4906
A2311355	

Discussion was held.

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

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Ott, Pitchford, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Resolution #A2311355 was added to Added Resolution(s) by amending the Agenda, then moved to the Consent Calendar.

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

Committees:

The Administration, Finance and PHS 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.

Commissioner Freehling gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on Broadband Efforts in Berrien County. She discussed the ROBIN grant. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette presented the Administrator's report.

Chairperson Elliott left the meeting at 11:15 A.M. and Vice Chairperson Freehling began chairing the BOC meeting.

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):

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about rude behavior.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- County facilities will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2023 on observance of Veterans' Day.
- No BOC meetings on Thursday, November 23, 2023 in observance of Thanksgiving.
- County facilities will be closed on Friday, November 24, 2023 for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- No BOC meetings will be held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, as it is a 5th Thursday.

Administrator Dissette announced that BCBIT will not be meeting today, but will meet next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.