

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Hinkelman gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Harrison introduced the 3rd Grade Class from Stewart Elementary who provided a Preamble, President review, and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Deputy County Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 PRESENT: Jim Curran, R. McKinley Elliott, Teri Freehling, Julie Wuerfel, Rayonte Bell, Michael Majerek, James R. Martin, Robert Harrison, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and Jon Hinkelman.

0 ABSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Martin, to approve the meeting minutes of November 3, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Spoke about resolutions.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott noted that Resolution F2211396 is being removed from the Consent Calendar at the request of Commissioner Martin. Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve today's Consent Calendar plus the added resolutions.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
F2211054	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2211101	Requisition List
F2211396	FY23 Budget Approval
A2211400	Approve road signage in St. Joseph Charter Township

ADDED RESOLUTIONS

P2211406 Accept Veteran Service Fund Grant
A2211413 Approve Contract for Gas and Diesel Pricing
A2211414 Approve TAP Grant Application

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Deputy County Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 YEAS: Curran, Elliott, Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Martin, Wuerfel, Scott, Bell, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Hinkelman. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Harrison moved to approve Resolution #F2211396 – Approve FY23 Budget with support from Commissioner Bell. Discussion was held.

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Deputy County Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Curran, Elliott, Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Wuerfel, Scott, Bell, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Hinkelman.
1 NAY: Martin.
Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Personnel and Human Services, Finance, and Administration Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioners gave their outside committee reports.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lora Freehling, Register of Deeds – Lincoln Township spoke about SB1133.
Adolf Pelzer – Hagar Township spoke about hiring practices.
Administrator Dissette addressed the hiring practices that the County is using to attract more applicants.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Curran announced that he is no longer the Niles Township Supervisor as he announced previously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- County Facilities will be closed Friday, November 11, 2022 in observance of Veterans Day.
- No board meetings will be held on Thursday, November 24, 2022.
- County Facilities will be closed Thursday, November 24, 2022 and Friday, November 25, 2022 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

CLOSED SESSION – Pending Litigation – “To discuss with our attorney trial and/or settlement strategy in the tax-foreclosure litigation including the pending lawsuits in Grainger v County of Ottawa et al Case No:19-cv-501, Calkins v Kent County No:21-cv-00062, and Sattler v Kent County No:22-cv-316 pursuant to MCL 15.268(e), because discussion on the open record will have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation or settlement position of (insert) County. and also to discuss material exempt from disclosure under the attorney-client privilege, MCL 15.243(1)(g), pursuant to MCL 15.268(h).”

Motion by Commissioner Vollrath, supported by Commissioner Scott to discuss pending litigation at 11:10 A.M. The Chair instructed the Deputy County Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

11 YEAS: Curran, Elliott, Freehling, Harrison, Majerek, Martin, Wuerfel, Scott, Bell, Vollrath, Yarbrough.

1 ABSENT: Hinkelman.

Motion carried, no nays.

Motion by Commissioner Vollrath, supported by Commissioner Wuerfel to go back into open session at 11:42 A.M. Vice Chairperson Freehling instructed the Deputy County Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

2 ABSENT: Hinkelman, Elliott

Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Annette Christie, Deputy County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on November 17, 2022