

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 17, 2022**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:31 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Sheriff L. Paul Bailey gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Treasurer Shelly Weich 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, James Martin, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, a resolution urging state legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to amend the reimbursement cap for auto accident victims and home health care, received on November 10, 2022.
- David Lazarus, an email praising the Prosecutor's Office, received on November 12, 2022.
- David Lazarus, an email regarding PSI (pre-sentencing investigation) in the Berrien County Court system, received on November 14, 2022.
- Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners, a resolution urging state legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to amend the reimbursement cap for auto accident victims and home health care, received on November 16, 2022.
- Sheila Reitz, Chief Deputy County Clerk, an email on her resignation, received on November 16, 2022

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2022 MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of November 10, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

**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:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today's Consent Calendar with Added Resolutions #F2211365, #B2211340 and #F2211415, and to pull Resolution #F2211055 for further discussion:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2211011	Monthly Per Diems
B2211102	Requisition Approvals
A2211366	Update Animal Control License Procedure
P2211394	Comprehensive Agreement Amendment
P2211395	Emerging Threats Funding Amendment
P2211397	Act 51 Certification Local Roads

P2211401	Clean Sweep Grant Acceptance
P2211402	Approve purchase agreement for property
A2211403	Approve outside counsel agreements
A2211404	Lease Agreement for Public Defender Offices
P2211405	Complement Change Trial Court
P2211407	Extend WMed Contract
F2211408	Approve bicycle donation
F2211365	Approve contract with Plante & Moran
B2211340	Express support of grant application
F2211415	Amend Apportionment Report

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**Motion: Resolution #F2211055 - Approve Weekly Bills and Road Payables**

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Resolution #F2211055.

Commissioner Martin spoke about the Road Department's outside engineering expenses. Berrien County needs to hire in-house engineers. Discussion was held.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

The following Added Resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2211365	Approve contract with Plante & Moran
B2211340	Express support of grant application
F2211415	Amend Apportionment Report

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

The Finance, Administration and Personnel & Human Services (PHSC) Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org). Discussion was held.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports. Discussion was held.

**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:**

Animal Control Shelter Manager Ashley Herr gave an update on Animal Control.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about hearing the BOC members and they should speak louder.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about Road Department training.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

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

Commissioner Hinkelman asked about the Historic Courthouse Square County Park and if the windows were going to be auctioned and the building improvements. Administrator Dissette responded and spoke about an authorizing resolution in the future.

The BOC members spoke about getting together for a dinner at the end of December.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- No board meetings will be held on Thursday, November 24, 2022 as county facilities will be closed Thursday, November 24, 2022 and Friday, November 25, 2022 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***