

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Organizational Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

County Clerk Sharon Tyler called the meeting to order at 8:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Pastor Tim Pietrogallo from The Chapel gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Clerk Tyler instructed Chief Deputy Mensinger to take roll call with the following results:

12 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, R. McKinley Elliott, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath and Mamie Yarbrough.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ELECTION OF CHAIR:

Clerk Tyler opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair.

Commissioner Yarbrough, nominated Commissioner Elliott for a two-year term as Chair of the Board of Commissioners, concurred by Commissioner Meeks.

Clerk Tyler asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were none.

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for Commissioner Elliot as Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

11 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough; 1 ABSTENTION: Elliott; and 0 NAYS. Motion carried.

Clerk Tyler handed the gavel over to Chairperson Elliott.

Chairperson Elliott thanked Commissioner Hinkelman for his six years of service as the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Chickering moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that it be reflected in the minutes that a unanimous vote be held to recognize Commissioner Hinkelman for his six years of service as Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners. Voice Vote: Motion carried, no nays and one abstention.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:

Chairperson Elliott opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Chickering moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to elect Commissioner Freehling as Vice-Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering and Elliott; 1 ABSTENTION: Freehling; and 0 NAYS. Motion carried.

CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:

Chairperson Elliott made the following appointments:

Parliamentarian - Teri Freehling

Sergeant at Arms - Jim Curran

Chaplain - Mamie Yarbrough

CHAIR APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS:

Chairperson Elliott made the following appointments (*indicates chairperson):

Administration Committee – *Curran, Heugel, Majerek and Meeks

Finance Committee – *Yarbrough, Harrison, Hinkelman and Scott

Personnel and Human Services Committee – *Chickering, Freehling and Vollrath

INTERIM BOARD BY-LAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURES

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Curran, to approve the Interim Board By-Laws and Rules of Procedures as presented.

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

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

INTERIM CALENDAR FOR 2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS:

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the Calendar for 2019 of the Committee of the Whole and 2019 Regular Board of Commissioners Meetings, including seven night meetings (April through October) to be held at 6:00 P.M. as presented.

Voice vote: Motion carried, no nays.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE:

Annette Christie explained Conflict of Interest and the Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form. Corporate Counsel McGovern stated "Conflict of Interest" shall mean any situation or circumstance in which a financial or personal consideration may compromise, may appear to

compromise, or may otherwise potentially have an influence upon the business judgment of a Board Member, or, the ability of a Board Member to act exclusively in the best interests of the Board of Commissioners and/or Berrien County. Forms were distributed with instructions to return to Annette Christie prior to Thursday's meeting. Corporate Counsel McGovern stated that it is the responsibility of each Commissioner to keep their Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form up-to-date throughout the year.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- Committee Meetings to follow the Organizational Meeting.
- Administrator Wolf announced that the normal schedule of meetings of the Committee of the Whole, Regular Board and Committees will resume beginning next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on January 10, 2019.