

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2020

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

10 PRESENT: William Chickering, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, Dave Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Jim Curran and Christopher Heugel.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 19, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws, those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Tony Benhart spoke about the annual meeting for the Road Department.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about the Board decreasing the night meetings.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Administrator William Wolf announced that Public Defender Chris Renna will be leaving the Public Defender's Department on March 20, 2020 and has been hired by Kalamazoo County. They will begin posting for the public defender's position.

Annette Christie proposed a list of night meeting locations. Discussion was held on changing and/or rearranging some of the locations. Commissioner Scott stated that Chikaming Township requested the June night meeting. Commissioner Vollrath requested a night meeting in Hagar Township. Hagar Township Supervisor Izzy DiMaggio was present at the meeting and stated he is okay with holding a night meeting. Chairperson Elliott stated Buchanan Senior Center would like to host a night meeting in August. Commissioner Hinkelman suggested that we hold it at another Senior Center since we have held it there before several times. Also, they discussed changing July and September night meetings to the second Thursday due to holidays. Chairperson Elliott would like to confirm the night meeting schedule next week.

Road Department Director Jason Latham gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Berrien County Road Department (BCRD) and discussed the following on Winter Maintenance:

- Roadway Priorities
- Standard Winter Service Hours
- Snow Predicted After 6:00 P.M.
- If Snowing and Slick
- Snow Policy
- Weekend Snow Events
- Mailbox Policy
- Winter Driving Tips
- Winter Tips
- Community Tips
- 2019 Social Media Growth

- 2019 Logged Service Requests
- Construction Crew
- Garage Locations & Service Areas
- Baroda Garage
- Benton Harbor Garage/Administrative Office
- Watervliet Garage
- Eau Claire Garage
- Bakertown Garage
- Three Oaks Garage
- Maintenance Shop
- Equipment
- Central Dispatch and Berrien County Road Department
- Berrien County Road Department Contact Information
- Questions

The Road Department staff were introduced and present at the meeting to answer questions. Discussion was held.

Izzy DiMaggio, Hagar Township Supervisor, thanked the Board and the Road Department for their service and for doing a great job.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on January 16, 2020.