

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Chairperson Elliott gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner David Vollrath 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, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of January 20, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Marquette County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the cause of protecting democracy, promoting policies that protect access to the ballot for voters and building on the progress of the 2020 election, received on January 24, 2022.

PUBLIC HEARING – Eau Claire Village Annexation/Attorney Frank DeFrancesco:

Motion

Commissioner Vollrath moved and seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to recess the regular meeting at 10:39 A.M. to open the Public Hearing.

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

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

Motion carried and no nays.

Public Comments on the Eau Claire Village Annexation:

Eau Claire Village's Attorney Frank DeFrancesco spoke about the Eau Claire Village's annexation request. The owner of land is AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., which is to be utilized as the location for a new substation. The land is located in the Township of Pipestone. The annexation is necessary to help support the Village of Eau Claire and the services it provides its residents through the payment of real property taxes and for public safety. This would make the site eligible to receive municipal water.

Eau Claire Village President John Glassman spoke in favor of the project.

Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth stated that he reviewed the material and all statute requirements have been met.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, asked the Public to speak louder.

Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth repeated his comment.

No further comments were made.

Motion

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to close the Public Hearing at 10:44 AM. and return to the regular meeting.

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

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

Motion carried and no nays.

PRESENTATION – Transportation Update – Community Development Director Dan Fette:

Community Development Director Dan Fette gave a Transportation Update PowerPoint presentation and discussed the following:

- Berrien Bus – Current Situation
- Berrien Bus Timeline of Events 2019 – 2021
- Berrien Bus Timeline of Events 2019 – 2022
- Berrien Bus Service Overview
- Berrien Bus Partners: Career Technical Education
- Berrien Bus Partners: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Berrien Bus Financial & Operating Trends
- Berrien Bus Capital Improvement Plan
- Resolution #F2201181

Discussion was held.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Chairperson Elliott and Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie discussed and reviewed the changes on the requisitions. Chairperson Elliott announced that Commissioner Freehling will be abstaining on Resolution #B2201063 (Requisition #57126). Discussion was held.

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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the purchase of the dealership on Napier Avenue for the Health Department and at that time the site was presented as a future site for Berrien Bus. He asked why we are not using this site for Berrien Bus.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2201016	Weekly Bills
*B2201063	Weekly Requisitions

A2201178	FY22 Marine Grant Application
F2201181	FY23 Berrien Bus Resolution of Intent
P2201182	Amend Agreement with Kalamazoo County for HHW Collection
A2201184	Renew agreement with Intrado for the 911 system maintenance
P2201185	Complement Change FOC
A2201186	Accept Coronavirus funds for Courts
P2201306	Annexation Village of Eau Claire
B2201191	Approve ARPA Fund Broadband Request Application

*Commissioner Freehling abstained on Resolution #B2201063 on Requisition #57126 for \$12,387.50, Vendor – REV Excavating LLC.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – PHSC:

Recommendations by the Personnel & Human Services Committee

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the following recommendations by the Personnel & Human Services Committee:

Re-appoint to the Workforce Development Board for a 3 year term – term expires 12/31/2024:

John Janick
Steve Jackson
Kathy Valdes
Vail Harding

Motion carried, no nays.

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

The Finance, Administration and Personnel & Human Services Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

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 and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Annie Brown, South Haven, introduced herself as a candidate for State Representative, District 38.

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor City, spoke about high school scholarships and the Berrien County Youth Fair.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about Administrator Dissette's evaluation. She appreciates Administrator Dissette's work and that he has done a good job for the County.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the County's restroom at the Administrative building.

Chokwe Pitchford, spoke about candidate Paul Jancha running for Berrien County District Judge.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Curran asked about the County, State and Federal new districts. County Clerk Sharon Tyler responded and gave an update on the new districts.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.