

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 21, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:31 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Chris Heugel gave the invocation.

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

Tiffany Peterson, Animal Control Director, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to amend the above motion to include the approval of the Strategic Planning Session minutes of February 7, 2019 and Strategic Planning Session minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger reported that there were no communications this week.

**ANIMAL CONTROL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION-** Tiffany Peterson, Director  
Director Peterson and Val Bohland, Volunteer Coordinator presented cards and County Park Passes to the following volunteers: Diane Rau; Julie Knight; Ann and Jeff Zimmerman; Vicki Dunlop; Kathy Burczak; Monica Gruss; and Jason Boulanger.

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – commented on Resolution P1902167 - Administrator Contract Amendment and Salary Increase.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – commented on Resolution P1902157 - Contract with Area Agency on Aging.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
F1902002	Monthly Per Diems
F1902018	Weekly Bills
B1902065	Approve Requisitions
F1902110	Approve Road Payables
P1902157	Contract with Area Agency on Aging
P1902159	Amendment to the Contract with SWMBA
P1902162	Accept Veterans Grant
F1902163	DNR Waterways Grant

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

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

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to amend the above motion to include approval of the added resolution, P1902167 - Administrator Contract Amendment and Salary Increase. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Chickering addressed the public comment regarding Resolution P1902157 - Contract with Area Agency on Aging and clarified what the intended use of the grant is.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

P1902167 - Administrator Contract Amendment and Salary Increase moved to consent calendar.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Personnel and Human Services, Administration and Finance Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioners gave their outside committee reports.

Commissioner Scott read a statement regarding his presence at a mediation session between the City of New Buffalo and Mr. Ray Kirkus.

**AGENDA AMENDMENT:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to amend the Agenda to include the Board Appointment to the Workforce Development Board. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Harrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to appoint Ann Cardon to the Workforce Development Board for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2021. Motion married, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott stated there was a typo on Resolution P1902167 - Administrator Contract Amendment and Salary Increase, that the contract ending date should be 12/31/2021 not 12/31/2020.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to correct Resolution P1902167 - Administrator Contract Amendment and Salary Increase with the contract date ending 12/31/2021. Motion carried, no nays.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Dick Bertog, Benton Charter Township – commented on the County Ordinance #24 – Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control and the cleanup of Ox Creek and how it is causing environmental problems on property behind his home.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – suggested the Board’s meeting tables be moved and a coat rack for the public be added.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – commented on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commissioner writing grants for the Marquette Greenway Trail and about property owned by Cornerstone Alliance in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor.

Michael Hohy, Benton Harbor City – talked about the Loving on Pavone project and an upcoming collaborative art project for the city’s entryway.

Jerry Edwards, Benton Harbor City – talked about collaborative efforts between the county and municipalities to improve local parks.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – commented on the Berrien County Historical Society and the courthouse window replacements and painting; granting writing procedures; pothole repairs and the chain across the entrance to the Watervilet County Park.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced that a Dedication Ceremony naming an Administration Building Conference Room for former County Commissioner Ken Wendzel, will be held next Thursday at 10:45 a.m. Chairperson Elliott stated that brief Committee Reports will be held but will forego the Commissioner Outside Committee Reports.

Commissioner Curran addressed the public comment regarding the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and explained that the Planning Commission is a regional organization than includes parts of Indiana.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

- A Board of Commissioners’ Strategic Meeting will be held at 12:00 P.M. this afternoon in the BOC Room.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on February 28, 2019.***