

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 7, 2019**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

0 ABSENT.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Yarbrough introduced Pastor Laurie Hartzell, First Presbyterian Church, Benton Harbor, who gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Majerek led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2019 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the regular minutes of February 28, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):** None.

**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):**

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about Resolution #B1903171 – Approve Resolution Supporting Parks and Recreation Grant Applications and what are we approving? Administrator Wolf explained it is not a specific project, but it allows local units of government to submit applications for grant funding to create recreational opportunities that mirror the mission of Berrien County.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F1903020	Weekly Bills
B1903067	Approve Requisitions
F1903111	Road Payables
A1903169	Approve Revised Animal Control Fee Schedule
B1903171	Approve Resolution Supporting Parks & Recreation Grant Applications

Commissioner Scott asked, what the procedures are if we pulled all the resolutions individually. Chairperson Elliott explained the past practices on how the Board of Commissioners handled the resolutions separately. Chairperson Elliott remarked the Consent Calendar is a more time efficient approach.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Commissioner Yarbrough addressed Darrin Schaer's public comment regarding Resolution #B1903171.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to have the Berrien County Conservation District report to the Finance Committee at least once a year. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Meeks addressed Melissa Clapper's public comment during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**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):**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Marquette Greenway and who is responsible for maintenance and the cost. Also, he spoke about the Road Department.

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, reminded everyone to set their clocks forward by one hour this Sunday.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the need for additional Agendas on the counter, the resolutions were not on the website, fire lanes and closet doors unlocked in the boardroom and the Rocky Gap County Park's needs to be unlocked.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about Resolution #B1903171 and doesn't agree with the bicycle paths on Napier and the Marquette Greenway.

Tony Dlouhy, Lincoln Charter Township, spoke about bicycle paths and we need to provide funding for our roads first. He spoke about the budget issues on the national level.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Elliott spoke about the Board of Commissioners' photos to be scheduled next Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 A.M. This will take the place of the Committee of the Whole meeting in the Board of Commissioners' room.

Administrator Wolf spoke about the Interview Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 A.M. for the Information Systems Director position.

Commissioner Scott recognized Administrator Wolf, former Berrien County Treasurer, for the work he has done on the Pension Committee and Trust Investment Advisory Committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Administrator Wolf announced the Special Workshop meeting for the Strategic Planning Session today to start at the 2100 Empire Building, Training Room, 2100 East Empire Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan at 12:15 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 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 full board meeting on March 14, 2019.***