

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 28, 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.

**INVOCATION:**

Chairperson Elliott gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Dave 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Mamie Yarbrough.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION HELD MARCH 21, 2019:**

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve the following minutes:

- Regular meeting held on March 21, 2019.
- Special meeting - Strategic Planning Session held March 21, 2019.

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communications:

- Resolution from the Baraga County Board of Commissioners supporting House Bill 4227, for strengthening and developing the future of Michigan mining practices, received on March 20, 2019.
- Invitation from the Disability Network Southwest Michigan and the Self-Advocates of Michigan Board, in regard to a Community Forum on Transportation to be held on April 12, 2019 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. at 2900 Lakeview Avenue, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Undersheriff Chuck Heit and Chief Deputy Robert Boyce presented the Medal of Valor Award from the National Sheriff's Association to Deputy Paul Grenon. Deputy Grenon introduced his family.

**DRAIN COMMISSIONER ANNUAL UPDATE – Christopher Quattrin:**

Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin introduced his staff and presented the Office of Berrien County Drain Commissioner Annual Report 2018 Summary. The report was distributed to the Board.

Chairperson Elliott and the Board spoke about Honorary Resolutions for retiring employees.

**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 #P1903172 - Approve CPBC Amendment to contract to reflect increase in funds and who is responsible.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, stated that he could not find the resolutions for today's meeting on the website last night and requested they be placed on the website by Wednesday night.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F1903023	Weekly Bills
B1903070	Approve Requisitions
P1903172	Approve CPBC Amendment to contract to reflect increase in funds
P1903191	Approve a complement change for the Trial Court
F1903193	Approve a Public Works project

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

**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):**

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, spoke about the Agenda and that under Announcements and Reminders, it did not include the night meeting next week that should have been included.

Anthony Celley, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about the health risks associated with wireless technology.

Dick Bertog, Benton Harbor, spoke about issues in regards to his property related to the Drain Commissioner.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about work done on his road.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about bike paths, the roads needing to be repaired, and the senior centers.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Meeks spoke about the general public coming in the public entrance of the Administrative building before 8:30 A.M.

Commissioner Scott would like some guidance or advice from the Board regarding the USMCA Agreement. Commissioner Scott will be on a conference call regarding the topic.

Administrator William Wolf recommended that the Board not use the public entrance of the Administrative building and to use an alternative entrance before 8:30 A.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Administrator Wolf announced the following:

- The Interview Committee meeting will be held today at 1:30 P.M. in the conference room 4C.
- The Land Bank Authority Board will be held today at 2:00 P.M. in the Commissioners' room.
- The Board of Commissioners' night meeting will be held on April 4, 2019 at the 1839 Courthouse, Historic Courthouse Square County Park, 313 N. Cass Street, Berrien Springs, Michigan at 6:00 P.M.
- The 2019 Berrien County Long Range Planning and Strategic Planning meeting will be held at the 2100 Empire Building, Training Room, 2100 East Empire Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan at noon, on April 11, 2019.

Commissioner Chickering asked which standing committee the Land Bank Authority Board reports to. Administration Wolf stated the Finance Committee.

Chairperson Elliott will have Annette Christie invite the local units of government to the night meeting to be held on April 4, 2019.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 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 April 4, 2019.***