

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole Minutes  
April 25, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chairperson Freehling called the meeting to order at 8:37 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:**

The Vice-Chairperson instructed the Clerk to call the roll with the following results:

11 PRESENT: Bill Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Mike Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and 1 ABSENT: R. McKinley Elliott.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of April 18, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**REQUISITION REVIEW**

- Annette Christie presented the requisitions for the Board's review.
- Commissioner Chickering disclosed a new conflict of interest – his wife has been elected the new President of the CASA Board. He will abstain from approving today's resolution approving the CASA contract. He will update his written Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – commented on the dismissal of a Road Department employee for sending a picture to another employee on his personal email.

**SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:** Napier Avenue Traffic Study

Jason Latham, Director of the Road Department, introduced Josh Bocks from AECOM to review the Napier Avenue Traffic Study.

- The previous study included three (3) public open houses, a stakeholder group meeting, a walkability tour and an online survey.
- Preferred Alternative includes three (3) lanes with a dedicated turn lane and no changes to the curb in most areas.
- Capacity Analysis was done with the existing four-lane (4) roadway and a three-lane (3) roadway (timing adjustments). Safety and mobility are top priorities.
- Crash Analysis:  
Standard Crash Report shows that there were 179 crashes over a five year period (36 per year). When applied to Statewide Safety Factors shows that there would be an 80% reduction of crashes with a center turn lane (29 fewer crashes using the 80% reduction).

Crash Type Report shows that there were 28 read end crashes, 50 additional crashes (angle straight, angle turn, side swipes) which is approximately 80 crashes or 16 crashes per year. Using the 80% reduction, it would result in 13 fewer crashes per year.

Overall it is expected that there would be approximately 20 fewer crashes per year.

Discussion was held.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

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Teri Freehling, Vice-Chairperson

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Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on May 9, 2019.***