

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**May 12, 2022**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Special Meeting to order at 8:39 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

9 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Teri Sue Freehling and Jon Hinkelman.

**ROAD PROJECT UPDATE – Kevin Stack, Interim Road Department Director:**

Interim Road Department Director Kevin Stack gave an update on the Napier Avenue Bridge. The Berrien County Road Department reopened the Napier Avenue Bridge to emergency traffic on April 29, 2022. Construction crews are working to reopen one lane of the bridge in each direction to all traffic in time for Memorial Day weekend. The Road Department will update the community on its continued progress on the Napier Avenue Bridge. Discussion was held.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws 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):** None.

Chairperson Elliott read a statement prepared by Corporate Counsel regarding the conduct of the speaker during public comments.

**SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:**

- **DISTRICT 3 COMMISSIONER VACANCY**

Chairperson Elliott gave the past history of the procedures to fill the vacancy on the BOC. Chairperson Elliott and Commissioner Harrison explained the review process. The BOC reviewed the applications and discussed selecting candidates to be interviewed.

Commissioner Scott stated that Mr. Pitchford's application was different than the other applicants. Chairperson Elliott stated the intent of the application shows that he was applying for the vacant Commissioner position and therefore we will treat Pitchford's application as being correct.

Commissioner Yarbrough mentioned that one application does not have a signature. Chairperson Elliott stated that we will accept that application.

Chairperson Elliott and Administrator Brian Disette spoke about the interview process and the amount of time it will take to interview candidates. Discussion was held on which candidate would be interviewed first and the questions will be sent to the BOC to be reviewed later today. BOC agreed only one candidate would be in the BOC's room when interviewing. Discussion was held.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Scott, to accept the four applicants that were received. Motion carried, no nays.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 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 next Committee of the Whole meeting.*