

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 6:04 P.M. at the Michigan State University Extension Office, 1737 Hillandale, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

INVOCATION:

Reverend David Haase, Riverside United Methodist Church, Riverside, gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

2 ABSENT: Teri Freehling and Don Meeks.

Chairperson Elliott recognized Administrator William Wolf. Administrator Wolf stated that today marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day, the day during World War II, when they invaded into Normandy, France. Administrator Wolf shared a story of his wife's uncle, Stanley Suwarsky, Coloma, who sacrificed his life 75 years ago today. Stanley Suwarsky was from the 501st Pathfinders, Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, who was one of the first American's who was killed upon landing. Stanley Suwarsky received the decorations of the following: Bronze Star, Silver Star, Purple Heart and the World War II Victory Medal. We honor him and those who have served for their valor, fidelity, and sacrifice.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the regular minutes of May 23, 2019. Motion carried. Commissioner Chickering abstained due to he was not in attendance at the May 23, 2019 meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Chairperson Elliott recognized Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director. She will introduce her staff during the presentation.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- An email communication from Charles Ryan Hafer, Watervliet Township, regarding a complaint directed at Midwest Energy CO-OP on running broadband fiber, received on May 29, 2019.
- Resolution from the Benzie County Board of Commissioners urging our Legislators to commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003, received on May 22, 2019.
- Resolution from the Wexford County Board of Commissioners opposing the slashing of the federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, received on May 22, 2019.

MSU PRESENTATION – Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director:

Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director, distributed the following: At a Glance Extension 2019, Research Centers – AgBioResearch, Michigan Tree Fruit Commission – 2017 Legislative Report, and Delays/Prevented Planting Report. Julie Pioch gave an update on the MSU Extension Office. She

introduced her staff and they spoke briefly on their expertise in their focus areas. Bill Shane spoke on a separate division of the MSU Research Center. Discussion was held.

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):

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about Resolution #A1906239 - Approve Drug Treatment Court Grant Application.

Cindy Miller, Benton Harbor, spoke about Resolution #B1906079 - Weekly Requisitions.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

| <u>Resolutions #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| F1906032 | Weekly Bills |
| B1906079 | Weekly Requisitions |
| F1906117 | Approve Road Payables |
| A1906238 | Approve Mental Health Court Grant Application |
| A1906239 | Approve Drug Treatment Court Grant Application |
| A1906240 | Approve Swift & Sure Program Grant Application |

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

10 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Scott, Yarbrough, Vollrath and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Finance Committee presented their Committee Report. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

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):

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about Stanley Suwarsky and his family.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Leco property in Lake Charter Township, non-motorized paths in Dowagiac and an event to be held at Love Creek Nature Center.

Tony Dlouhy, Lincoln Charter Township, spoke about non-motorized paths and the cost.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- September 5, 2019 Night Meeting will be held at the St. Joseph Lincoln Senior Center instead of the County Conference Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on June 13, 2019.