

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 15, 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' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

INVOCATION:

Commissioner David Vollrath gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

9 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath and R. McKinley Elliott.

3 ABSENT: Teri Freehling, Don Meeks and Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2019 BOC MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular minutes of August 8, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

INTRODUCTION:

Chairperson Elliott introduced Equalization Director Tony Meyaard, who reported on letters he received with improved and perfect scores on AMAR.

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 #B1908237 - Board of Commissioners' Operational Objectives regarding social media and Resolution #F1908041 – Weekly Bills.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Scott pulled Resolution #B1908237 - Board of Commissioners' Operational Objectives from the Consent Calendar and it will be presented separately.

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P1908008	Monthly Per Diems
F1908041	Weekly Bills
B1908088	Weekly Requisitions
P1908280	Contract with Freedom Lifted
P1908281	Acceptance of Children's Trust Fund Grant
P1908284	Approve Application for Berrien Community Foundation Grant
A1908285	Approve Application for Secondary Road Patrol
P1908286	Authorize Letter of Intent for Veterans Grant

P1908287

Approve Contract Amendment for a Health Grant

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #B1908237 - Board of Commissioners' Operational Objectives

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to approve Resolution #B1908237 - Board of Commissioners' Operational Objectives.

Commissioner Scott stated the reason why Resolution #B1908237 was pulled from the Consent Calendar because the content was very important.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Personnel and Human Services, Finance, and Administration Committees presented their Committee Reports. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Chairperson Elliott recommended forgoing the outside Commissioner Reports due to Closed Session. No objections.

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):

Sharon Henderson, Benton Harbor City Commissioner, spoke about public safety and the number of stops by the Sheriff's Department in Benton Harbor City. She would like to know how many stops happen in other communities. She mentioned that Benton Harbor City has a no chase policy and how often does this happen.

Dan Carson, Buchanan Township, expressed his concerns regarding Road Department Director Jason Latham not responding to his calls after three weeks and never following up on his call regarding his road matter. He mentioned the neighborhood is willing to assist with \$10,000 to have the road seal coated. Chairperson Elliott recommended to him to contact Administrator William Wolf regarding the matter.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about Resolution #B1908237 and social media. He spoke about the public not being informed, transparency and accountability. He spoke about the Closed Session.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Scott stated he is on the Local Revenue Sharing Board and will not be able to attend the September 10th meeting. The alternate for him on the Local Revenue Sharing Board is Chairperson Elliott. If Chairperson Elliott is unavailable to attend the meeting, he would like to recommend to the Board to appoint Administrator Wolf.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve a secondary alternate, Administrator Wolf, to the Local Revenue Sharing Board for the September 10, 2019 meeting, if Chairperson Elliott is unavailable to attend. Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott stated the Board will be going into Closed Session and the only business that will be taken after returning to Open Session will be the approval of the Closed Session minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- No meetings will be held on Thursday, August 29, 2019 (5th Thursday).
- Next night meeting will be held on September 5, 2019 at the St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph, Michigan at 6:00 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION - MCL15.268 (e) - Quarterly Litigation Update by Corporate Counsel James McGovern. "To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation."

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:07 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:07 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:56 A.M. Commissioner Chickering left the Closed Session at 11:49 A.M.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Closed Session minutes from the May 9, 2019 meeting. Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on August 22, 2019.