

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:32 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 Vollrath led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

INVOCATION:

Chairperson Elliott 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, Don Meeks, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Teri Freehling and Ezra Scott.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2019 BOC MEETING:

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Curran, to approve the regular minutes of September 5, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

INTERVIEW COMMITTEE:

Chairperson Elliott asked each Committee to select one member to the Interview Committee for the following Boards:

- Health Board
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Mental Health Authority Board

Commissioner Chickering abstained because he knows a candidate.

The following Board members were selected to the Interview Committee:

- Commissioners Vollrath (Personnel and Human Services)
- Commissioner Harrison (Finance)
- Commissioner Meeks (Administration)

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Interview Committee that they cannot select more than three candidates to be interviewed for each Board. The Interview Committee meeting is usually set after a BOC meeting.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from the Isco County Board of Commissioners, opposed to the Trial Court Funding Commission Interim Report dated April 8, 2019, received on September 4, 2019.
- A letter from the Bainbridge Township Supervisor William Hodge, requesting full reimbursement to the Olds and Slinker Drain District, received on September 4, 2019.

- An email from Kim and Glenn Emig, Stevensville, Michigan, regarding Dr. and Mrs. Steinberg's emergency permits being denied by the State of Michigan to shore up their property, received on September 10, 2019.
- An email from Mary Bernth, Niles, Michigan, regarding no kill shelters, received on September 10, 2019.

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 #A1909292 - 2019 EMPG Grant Acceptance and what the monies will be used for.

Commissioner Yarbrough left the meeting at 10:40 A.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F1909044	Weekly Bills
B1009091	Weekly Requisitions
A1909292	2019 EMPG Grant Acceptance

Administrator Wolf addressed Darrin Schaer's question.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairperson Elliott mentioned that Commissioner Yarbrough had to leave today's meeting to attend a brunch to celebrate her 60th Class Reunion. Also, he mentioned on September 19th will be Commissioner Yarbrough's 78th birthday.

Commissioner Chickering moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath to wish Commissioner Yarbrough a Happy Birthday and will be looking forward to seeing her in October after her trip. Motion carried, no nays.

The Administration, Personnel and Human Services, and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Committee minutes are available at 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):

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about last week's night meeting at the St. Joseph – Lincoln Senior Center. He discussed the St. Joseph – Lincoln Senior Center's activities and programs.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about other Senior Centers and their programs. He is opposed to the public leaving for Closed Session.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliott introduced Gretchen Theisen-Carlson, Jail Diversion Supervisor at Riverwood Center. Gretchen Theisen-Carlson spoke about Riverwood Center’s Jail Diversion program. She commemorated 911 Administrator Dave Agens and Sheriff Paul Bailey with awards for their support of the program.

BOARD APPOINTMENT:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Hinkelman, to approve the following Board Appointment, recommended by the Finance Committee for the following individual:

- Appoint Dale Kreitner replacing Stephen Mitchell on the Land Bank Authority, to fill a term ending May 22, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Administrator Wolf announced the Brownfield Development Authority meeting was cancelled for today.

Chairperson Elliott announced the next BOC night meeting will be held on October 3, 2019 at the Berrien County Administration Center.

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.

CLOSED SESSION – Pending Litigation (per MCL 15.268 (e)) – To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation - Case Nos. 2005-3247-CZ/2013-0317-CZ:

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:05 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation - Case Nos. 2005-3247-CZ/2013-0317-CZ:

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:05 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:34 A.M.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Curran, to approve the Closed Session minutes from the August 15, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Meeks abstained, since he was not in attendance at the August 15, 2019 meeting. Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on September 19, 2019.