

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 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 Jon Hinkelman led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Jim Curran 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, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Teri Freehling and Mamie Yarbrough.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 BOC MEETING:**

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular minutes of September 12, 2019. Commissioner Scott abstained due to he was absent from the September 12, 2019 meeting. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- A resolution from the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners, support of the Line 5 tunnel, received on September 12, 2019.
- Three resolutions from the Baraga County Board of Commissioners, received on September 13, 2019:
  - Opposed to the Trial Court Funding Commission Interim Report.
  - Opposed to legislation to prevent County Commissioner candidates from disclosing their party affiliation on ballots provided to Michigan voters.
  - Support of the Line 5 tunnel.
- A resolution from the Arenac County Board of Commissioners, opposed to legislation to prevent County Commissioner candidates from disclosing their party affiliation on ballots provided to Michigan voters, received on September 16, 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 #P1909295 - Health Department Position – Add Program Support Specialist.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Harrison stated he is the President on the Berrien Community Foundation and will be abstaining from Resolution #P1909293 - Berrien Community Foundation Grant Application.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to pull Resolution #P1909293 from the Consent Calendar and present it separately, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P1909009	Monthly Per Diems
F1909045	Weekly Bills
B1909092	Weekly Requisitions
F1909126	Road Payables
P1909294	Health Department Position – Add Health Educator
P1909295	Health Department Position – Add Program Support Specialist
A1909296	CAD Upgrade Project for 911 PSAP's

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #P1909293 - Berrien Community Foundation Grant Application

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Resolution #P1909293 - Berrien Community Foundation Grant Application.

Commissioner Harrison will abstain due to he is the President of the Berrien Community Foundation.

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

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

1 ABSTAIN: Harrison.

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](http://www.berriencounty.org).

Commissioner Chickering addressed Darrin Schaer's question in Public Committee regarding Resolution #P1909295. He stated this is not creating a new job position, just changing the job title.

**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):**

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, spoke about the Road Department regarding road closures with barricades and social media.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Road Department regarding communication and social media.

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, spoke about high speed internet and how much does it cost in certain areas.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about an environmental person, testing for e-coli in rivers and testing for longer period of times at the beaches. He spoke about signs being posted at parks warning about mosquitoes.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Elliott spoke about the Budget Hearings and in Chairperson Elliott's absence, he would like Commissioner Curran to chair the meeting. Chairperson Elliott will not be in attendance at the Budget Hearing held on Friday, September 20, 2019 due to a court case.

Chairperson Elliott discussed a letter from Southwest Michigan Planning Commission which requires his signature, along with the signatures of John Egelhaaf, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission; John Krsul, The Pokagon Fund; and Kevin Schoen, Advanced Communications & Data Corporation. The letter is dated for September 19, 2019 to Berrien County Residents, to invite them to take a survey and test their internet speeds at their home or business. The survey will provide an understanding of broadband internet in Berrien County and where the underserved areas are in Berrien County.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Curran, to approve Chairperson Elliott to sign the letter dated September 19, 2019, to Berrien County Residents regarding broadband internet. Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott discussed Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Meeks attending the State Leadership Day at the White House on Thursday, October 3, 2019. They discussed reimbursing the expenses for the event. The expenses are for travel and a two night stay. Chairperson Elliott agreed to pay for the travel expenses for the event.

Commissioner Hinkelman commented about road barricades on Napier Avenue that went up and down very quickly.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- September 20, 2019 – 8:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. – Budget Hearings, Board of Commissioners' Room
- September 23, 2019 – 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. – Budget Hearings, Board of Commissioners' Room
- September 26, 2019 – Regular meeting day
- October 3, 2019 – 6:00 P.M. – Board of Commissioners' Night Meeting, Administration Center

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 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 full board meeting on September 26, 2019.***