

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 24, 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 Michael Majerek led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

10 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: William Chickering and Jon Hinkelman.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular minutes of October 3, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

5 ABSTAIN: Freehling, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath and Yarbrough (Due to being absent at the October 3, 2019 meeting.)

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve the regular minutes of October 17, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

1 ABSTAIN: Yarbrough (Due to being absent at the October 17, 2019 meeting.)

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- A resolution from the Berrien County Farm Bureau Policy Development 2019, opposed to increasing the County millage as a revenue funding source, received on October 22, 2019.
- A resolution from the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners, supports providing Michigan voters with full information about their candidates for County Commissioner, and hereby opposes forcing a candidate for County Commissioner to run as a non-partisan candidate, received on October 22, 2019.
- An email from Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, received a proposal from a resident of Coloma, to apply the new commemorative name Damon Lake to a 14 acre unnamed lake in Berrien County and would like your local opinion concerning this issue, received on October 14, 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 #F1910319 - Lease Agreement for Cornerstone.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to include Resolution #B1910324 from the Added Resolution(s) and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

| <u>Resolutions #</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|----------------------|--|
| F1910050 | Weekly Bills |
| B1910097 | Weekly Requisitions |
| F1910298 | Approve Annual Apportionment |
| A1910315 | SWMBA Contract |
| A1910317 | Aubrey Hopkins Contract |
| F1910318 | Review Agreement between County & Locals for Taxes |
| F1910319 | Lease Agreement for Cornerstone |
| F1910320 | Engineering Contract Abonmarche |
| A1910321 | Biz Stream Contract Renewal |
| B1910324 | Honorary Resolution |

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Commissioner Freehling stated she will abstain from voting on Requisition #37877 as included in Resolution #B1910097, due to a possible conflict of interest.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Resolution #B1910324 - Honorary Resolution was moved to the Consent Calendar.

B1910324 Honorary Resolution

Commissioner Majerek read the following Honorary Resolution #B1910324:

***WHEREAS**, Public Act 261 of 1965 authorizes the creation of county parks and recreation commissions; and*

***WHEREAS**, as authorized by the statute, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorized the creation of the Berrien County Parks and Recreation Commission; and*

***WHEREAS**, very early in the appointment of residents to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Julia LaSata of Niles was appointed to the Berrien County Parks and Recreation Commission; and*

***WHEREAS**, through that role, she has been a part of greatly improved and expanded recreational opportunities for the residents and visitors of Berrien County; and*

***WHEREAS**, Mrs. LaSata is stepping away from the Parks and Recreation Commission to spend more time with her family after serving over 40 years in that role; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners deems it appropriate to honor Julia LaSata for her many years of service to the citizens of Berrien County.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners thanks Julia LaSata for being a true asset to the citizens of Berrien County and wishes her a life filled with happiness and good health.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Julia LaSata's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon herself, her family, Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.*

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Finance, Administration, and Personnel and Human Services 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):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Pipestone Road project and stated that the Road Department's website needs to be updated on road projects.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the census survey.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about his concerns regarding moving a Park's millage increase.

Michael Hoyh, Watervliet, spoke about the Parks using the Courthouse parking lot for overflow parking.

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, spoke about the "Warm New Socks" drive.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Meeks spoke about the Board having a Census presentation.

Commissioner Scott discussed placing a County ballot question for a Park's millage increase. Chairperson Elliott was not sure if you can have a ballot question, if it's below the millage amount under P.A. 90.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- October 26, 2019 – Berrien County Animal Control Trunk or Treat Event from 9:00 A.M. to Noon.
- October 31, 2019 – No meetings will be held (5th Thursday).

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on November 7, 2019.