

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2021

Staff Present: County Administrator Brian Dissette
Sheriff Paul Bailey
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie
County Clerk Sharon Tyler
Community Development Director Dan Fette (via Zoom)

BOC Present: R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 11:33 A.M.)
(In-person) David Vollrath

GUEST: Jeffrey Noel, Corporate Vice President, Communications & Public Affairs of Whirlpool Corporation (via Zoom)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Ezra Scott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

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.

ROLL CALL:

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

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell (via Zoom in St. Joseph City, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom in Niles Charter Township, MI), Teri Sue Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda Township, MI), Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Watervliet, MI), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Niles City, MI), Don Meeks (via Zoom in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel (via Zoom in Royalton Township, MI), Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor City, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 11:33 A.M.).

0 ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of May 6, 2021.

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Scott.

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communication(s):

- Alpena County Board of Commissioners, a resolution on the County Revenue Sharing Fund, received on May 7, 2021.

- David Buick, State Tax Commission Executive Director, regarding the interlocal agreement and Form 5697 Tax Commission Petition for Approval of County Designated Assessor, received on May 10, 2021.
- Livingston County Board of Commissioners, a resolution 2021-05-070, Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of FOIA Requests for documents supporting an extension of the MIOSHA COVID-19 Emergency Rules, received on May 11, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING – Brownfield Project – Community Development Director Dan Fette:

Commissioner Meeks moved and seconded by Commissioner Curran, to recess the regular meeting at 10:41 A.M. and open the public hearing for the Whirlpool St. Joe Tech Center - Brownfield Plan.

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

11 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Scott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Community Development Director Dan Fette spoke about the Redevelopment of the Whirlpool Global Laundry and Dishwasher Technical Center Site. Whirlpool Corporation plans to redevelop approximately 14.23 acres within Berrien County, on a parcel of property located at 387 Upton Drive, St. Joseph City. The project will redevelop former and currently used industrial property that contains the Whirlpool Global Laundry and Dishwasher Technical Center research facility. The project involves demolishing an existing four-story, 120,000 square foot building, renovating 20,000 square feet of the north wing of the Technical Center, and constructing a new two-story 153,000 square foot building attached to the northern wing of the facility, and associated site adjustments/improvements. The project is an investment of over \$60,000,000. Jeffrey Noel spoke about Whirlpool Corporations commitment to the community. Dan Fette gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Whirlpool St. Joe Tech Center – Brownfield Plan and discussed the following:

- Project Summary
- Description of the Site
- Location of the Site
- Site Plan
- Renderings
- Site History
- Basis of Eligibility
- Section 13(1) Requirements

Discussion was held by the Board members.

Public Comment(s): None.

Commissioner Majerek moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to conclude the public hearing at 11:05 A.M. and return to regular session.

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

11 YEAS: Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran, Freehling and Scott.

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S) - Administration and Finance Committees:

The Administration and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

Finance Committee:

Finance Chairperson Yarbrough discussed today's Finance Committee. Vice Chair Scott stated the Finance Committee had some Unfinished Business on bids from this morning's Finance Committee meeting. Financial Accountant Jake Litaker stated the Finance Committee has received another bid (20 21-050). Records indicate that the bidder sent the bid in time and overnight mail. Berrien County should have received it yesterday, prior to the cutoff. This was no fault of the bidder. The Finance Committee agreed to accept the opening of the bid. The bid was opened from Michigan Police Equipment, Charlotte, MI in the amount of \$32,171.85.

Motion: Vice Chair Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to amend the motion from earlier today in the Finance Committee to include the opening of the bid from Michigan Police Equipment in the amount of \$32,171.85 to be referred to each department for review.

Finance Chairperson Yarbrough instructed the Clerk to call the roll of the Finance Committee Members with the following results:

4 YEAS: Hinkelman, Scott, Freehling and Yarbrough.

Motion carried, no nays.

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 through the YouTube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, commented on Resolution #F2105219 - Whirlpool Brownfield Plan regarding their job creation.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Yarbrough, to include Added Resolutions #B2105015 and #B2105223 to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2105030	Weekly Bills
B2105077	Weekly Requisitions
F2105117	Road Payables
P2105213	United Way SW MI Farmers Market Contract
P2105214	City of Niles 4 X 4 Grant
P2105215	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission 4 X 4 Grant
A2105216	2021 Marine Grant Acceptance
P2105217	Kresge Foundation Grant Application
P2105218	Michigan Health Endowment Fund Application
F2105219	Whirlpool Brownfield Plan
P2105228	King Media Contract
A2105227	Accept Emergency Management Grant
A2105230	Accept Donation Animal Control Spay Neuter Fund
B2105015	Peace Officers Day
B2105223	Honorary Resolution

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

11 YEAS: Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran, Freehling, Harrison and Scott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
B2105015	Peace Officers Day
B2105223	Honorary Resolution

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Administration Committee:

Administration Committee Chairperson Curran announced the Administration Committee is not ready to make the appointment on the Jury Board due to additional information and recommendations from the Judge(s).

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners’ Reports.

Chairperson Elliott arrived at 11:33 A.M.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Disette gave his Administrator’s Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Those speaking through the YouTube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, commented about the COVID-19 vaccine shot.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS – All meetings being held virtually:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Personnel & Human Services Committee, 8:00 A.M., Thursday, May 20, 2021.
- Finance Committee 9:00 A.M., Thursday, May 20, 2021.
- Board of Commissioners 10:30 A.M., Thursday, May 20, 2021.

Vice Chair Scott announced the Annual Peace Officers Memorial Day Service at the Berrien County Law Enforcement Officer’s Monument on Lake Bluff Park, City of St. Joseph, will be held on Friday, May 14, 2021 at noon.

Commissioner Freehling announced that the FCC is offering an emergency broadband benefit to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.