

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2021

Staff Present: County Administrator Brian Dissette
(In-person at Adm. Center) Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie
County Clerk Sharon Tyler

BOC Present: R. McKinley Elliott
(In-person at Adm. Center) Ezra Scott
Jim Curran
Don Meeks
David Vollrath
Julie Wuerfel

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the Kenneth Wendzel Conference Room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Chairperson Elliott gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

ROLL CALL:

The 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, 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, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor City, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of May 27, 2021.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

PARENT COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Personnel & Human Services and Finance Committees:

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

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: **None.**

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2106033	Weekly Bills
*B2106080	Weekly Requisitions
P2106236	Road Department Complement Changes
B21060701	Authorize Return of In-Person Meetings

*Commissioner Freehling stated she is abstaining from Requisition #51270 – REV in an amount of \$54,805.00 contained in Resolution #B2106080 out of an abundance of caution.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

PROCLAMATION - Lest We Forget:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve Proclamation Resolution #B2106244 – Lest We Forget.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S): None.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Disette gave his Administrator's Report. He spoke about the County's return to in-person meetings on July 1st. Information will be sent out to the public and local municipalities.

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:

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, thanked the Administration for choosing the new Road Department Director.

OTHER BUSINESS:

County Clerk Tyler introduced the new Berrien County Directory 2021 – 2022, "Hero Dogs of Berrien County Government" is now available to the public. You can find the directory on the County's website. Commissioner Yarbrough thanked the County Clerk's Office for putting the directory together.

Administrator Disette spoke about House Bill 4722, to amend the zoning act on rental property. Chairperson Elliott and Administrator Disette discussed their opposition to House Bill 4722. The Board

spoke about taking away the local control. A communication will be prepared to send to our legislatures on not taking away short term rentals and not taking away local control. Discussion was held.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS – All meetings being held virtually:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Finance Committee meeting will be held virtually at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, June 10, 2021.
- Board of Commissioners meeting will be held virtually at 10:30 A.M., Thursday, June 10, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.