

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:38 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Bob Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Bob Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger stated there were no communications received this week.

AUDIT PRESENTATION: Nate Baldermann

Mr. Baldermann reviewed the audit process and stated that they issued a clean opinion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 22, 2021. Motion carried, no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT 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):

Jerry Edwards, Benton Harbor – spoke about Resolution #2108294 – MOU Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail Partnership and the desire to establish a "Summer Olympics" for the youth of Berrien County.

Darren Schaer, Sodus Township – spoke about Resolution #P2108285 – Complement Change Road Department.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the consent calendar as presented.

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Descriptions</u>
F2108041	Weekly Bills
F2108123	Road Payables
A2108284	Office of Highway Safety Grant Acceptance
P2108285	Complement Change Road Department
P2108289	Grant Application Veterans Services
A2108290	Road Abandonment – Lincoln Way in Hagar Township
A2108291	Raise the Age Grant Application
A2108292	Accept MIDC Grant Public Defender Operations
P2108294	MOU Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail Partnership
A2108295	Traffic Control Order – MDOT Speed Limit Reduction Detour Route
A2108296	Traffic Control Order – MDOT 4-Way Stop Detour Route
A2108297	Road Abandonment (2) Alleys Benton Charter Township

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

12 YEAS: Bell, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Administration, Finance and Personnel and Human Services Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:
Commissioners gave their outside reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: .None.

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 loss of manufacturing jobs in the county.

Adolph Pelzer, Hagar Township – spoke about the new BOC Room set-up and corporate counsel.

Matt Kirkus, New Buffalo – spoke about multiple issues.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – spoke about the Road Department.

OTHER BUSINESS:

September 2, 2021 Meeting – discussion was held about if the BOC will meet on September 2nd or not and if a meeting should be held on the 5th Thursday of the month. Chairperson Elliott asked for a resolution for next week to amend the calendar.

Night Meeting on August 19, 2021 – this meeting will be held at the Chikaming Fire Department in the truck bays. The intent is to have the Commissioners arrive early so that they can board a bus to travel on Red Arrow Highway to discuss its condition at the meeting.

Summer Olympics – Commissioner Curran discussed developing a “Summer Olympics” for the youth in Berrien County. Administrator Dissette stated that he will speak with Jill Adams, Director of Parks and will plan to meet with the Boys and Girls Club.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on August 12, 2021.