

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 23, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Yarbrough gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

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

1 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 16, 2021. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) the following communications:

Emails received on September 15, 2021:

- Jamie Birris, St. Joseph Charter Township, supports the BCHD's mask mandate in schools and Spectrum Health's stance.
- Virginia Holden, Oronoko Charter Township, the BOC needs to increase measures to meet the physical and psychological needs of shelter pets.
- Kristen Robinson, St. Joseph Charter Township, supports the BCHD's mask mandate in schools.

Emails received on September 16, 2021:

- Julie and Kerry Petertil, Sawyer, concerned about the environment at the school board and county meetings. They support the BCHD's mask mandate in schools.
- Heather Shoonveld, St. Joseph City, supports the BCHD's mask mandate in schools.
- Kate Genellie, St. Joseph, opposed to a vote of no confidence for the BCHD.
- Email received on September 17, 2021: Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to exempt certain counties from the recently updated Open Meetings Act (OMA).

Email received on September 20, 2021:

- Patricia Ruhl, Berrien Springs, link on "Dr. Peter Breggin and COVID."

Email received on September 21, 2021:

- Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to promote general welfare.

Emails received on September 22, 2021:

- Allen Ales, Lake Charter Township, opposes the BCHD is September 1, 2021 mask order.
- Luke Whitman, Lake Charter Township, commented on the proposed State Budget that would limit the ability of the Health Departments.
- Stephanie Deegan, St. Joseph, supports the BCHD's mask mandate for schools.

**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):**

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – Commented on Resolution # F2109316 - Revised FY22 MDOT Application – Berrien Bus.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to untable Resolution # P2109312 – Amend Comprehensive Agreement for Health Funding, include the Added Resolution #A2109324 - Apply for RAP Grant to the Consent Calendar, and to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Descriptions</u>
F2109048	Weekly Bills
B2109095	Weekly Requisitions
P2109312	Amend Comprehensive Agreement for Health Funding
P2109314	Remonumentation Grant Peer Group Approval
P2109315	Remonumentation Grant Firm Contract Approval
F2109316	Revised FY22 MDOT Application – Berrien Bus
A2109319	Approve Russell Road Traffic Control Order

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

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

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution # A2109324- Apply for RAP Grant was moved to the Consent Calendar.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Personnel and Human Services and the Finance Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioners gave their outside reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** No report.

**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 – gave a brief history of the land that the old Berrien General Hospital is located on.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – spoke about masks.

Daryl Jackson, Benton Harbor – spoke about organizing the Berrien County Games.

Janet Blazen, St. Joseph Township – spoke about masks on children.

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township – spoke about masks in schools.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

- Trust Investment Advisory Committee will meet today at noon.
- BCBIT will meet today at 12:30 P.M.
- No meetings will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2021 (5<sup>th</sup> Thursday).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 A.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on October 7, 2021.***