

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2021**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairperson Ezra Scott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor David Colp, First Church of God, St. Joseph gave the invocation.

**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.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

10 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

2 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman and R. McKinley Elliott.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 MEETINGS:**

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of September 23, 2021. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

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, asked the BOC 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 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.

**PRESENTATION – Reapportionment Update – Clerk Sharon Tyler:**

Clerk Sharon Tyler and Elections Administrator Shelia Reitz gave an update on the Berrien County Reapportionment Commission and reviewed four draft district maps. Discussion was held

**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, concerned about Resolution #F2103323 - Agreement with Public Sector Consultants.

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, supports Resolution #F2110322 - Agreement with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2110049	Weekly Bills
B2110096	Weekly Requisitions
F2110127	Road Payables
B2110810	Honorary Resolution
F2110321	Senior Center Auditing Services Agreement
F2110322	Agreement with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
F2103323	Agreement with Public Sector Consultants
A2110325	Agreement with MDHHS for police services
P2110326	Approve Labor Agreement
P2110327	Complement Change Sheriff’s Office
A2110329	Facilities Master Plan Agreement
A2110330	Accept grant funds

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Administration, Finance, and Personnel & Human Services Committees:**

The Administration, Finance, and Personnel & Human Services Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners’ Reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator’s Report.

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie read the following Honorary Resolution #B2110810 that was approved in the Consent Calendar:

*WHEREAS, it is important to recognize those that make great contributions to their community and have achieved great success; and*

**WHEREAS**, Buchanan native and 2019 graduate of Buchanan High School, Hannah Roberts, is one who deserves that recognition; and

**WHEREAS**, Hannah began riding BMX at the age of 9 and entered her first competition in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, she competed in China at the UCI Urban Cycling World Championships where she won gold and became the world champion at the age of 16; and

**WHEREAS**, she was the first woman to land a difficult trick called a 360 tailwhip in competition; and

**WHEREAS**, she went on to earn her 3<sup>rd</sup> world title and became the first American to qualify for the Olympic Games in the BMX freestyle event; and

**WHEREAS**, as a part of Team USA, Hannah Roberts won the silver medal this past summer in her sport; and

**WHEREAS**, Hannah has served as an advocate for equal pay for women and is passionate about the sport and increasing female participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Berrien County is proud to call Hannah Roberts one of their own.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners recognizes Hannah Roberts for her great success in the BMX arena and looks forward to hearing about her future endeavors for years to come.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Hannah Roberts' life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon herself, her family, her sport, the community of Buchanan, Berrien County, the State of Michigan and the United States of America.

**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 Road Department.

Robyn Graffenius, Lincoln Charter Township, supports freedom, spoke about face masks and Courtney Davis.

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor City, spoke about Berrien County Strong Community Action Group and the Benton Harbor Historical Preservation Society and their events.

Shawn Hill, St. Joseph City, opposed and concerned about the face mask mandate in schools. He spoke about Commissioner Harrison at the BCHD meeting.

Traci Stoub, Oronoko Charter Township, spoke about face masks in schools and discussed students being placed in quarantine.

Ruth Crum, Niles, spoke about the email communication she sent to the BOC and standing up for people's rights.

Alyssa Rawls, St. Joseph, stated students don't care about wearing face masks. She spoke about teaching your children about personal responsibilities and the county has other priorities to address.

Victory Woodall, Covert, spoke about personal choice for children, BCHD and Courtney Davis.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about roads in Berrien County.

Michelle Cavanaugh, St. Joseph, opposes face masks in schools and someone needs to listen to them.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about mandates, COVID-19 vaccine and asked who is paying for the vaccine.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Wuerfel asked about when the Corporate Council and Health Officer's job postings close? Administrator Dissette responded that the two job postings will close today.

Commissioner Curran thanked Clerk Tyler on the Reapportionment Update presentation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

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Ezra Scott, Vice Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***