

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2021

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) Annual meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner David Vollrath gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Robert Harrison 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:

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Teri Sue Freehling.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 7, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of October 7, 2021. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- An email from Ron and Michelle Gallert, Stevensville, in regards to the removal of the Health Department's orders for Berrien County schools, received on October 6, 2021.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS ELECTION – Clerk Sharon Tyler:

Clerk Tyler explained that the Board of County Canvassers is responsible for canvassing the votes cast within Berrien County and inspecting the county's ballot containers every four years. This consists of members from the two major political parties (Republican and Democratic). The following names were given to the County Clerk from each Berrien County political party:

Clerk Sharon Tyler stated the following individuals are on the ballot for the Berrien County Board of Canvassers:

Sharon Geisler, Lincoln Charter Township, to be reappointed with a term expiring on October 31, 2025. (Selected by the Berrien County Republican Party).

Gretta Van Bree, Lincoln Charter Township, to be reappointed with a term expiring on October 31, 2025. (Selected by the Berrien County Democratic Party).

Alternates:

Larry Goldberg, Buchanan Township, to be reappointed as an alternate member with a term expiring on October 31, 2025. (Selected by Berrien County Republican Party).

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township, to be reappointed as an alternate member with a term expiring on October 31, 2025. (Selected by the Berrien County Democratic Party).

Larry Burghdoff, Bainbridge Township, to fill a vacancy with a term expiring on October 31, 2023. (Selected by Berrien County Republican Party).

Ballots were distributed to the BOC and collected with the following results:

Sharon Geisler - Term expiring: October 31, 2025: 11 yes votes.
Gretta Van Bree - Term expiring: October 31, 2025: 10 yes votes.

Alternates:

Larry Goldberg – Term expiring: October 31, 2025: 11 yes votes.
Larry Burghdoff – Term expiring: October 31, 2023: 11 yes votes.
Jerry Sirk - Term expiring: October 31, 2025: 10 yes votes.

The ballots are available to the general public for viewing.

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, spoke about Resolution #P2110334 - Approve user agreement with Smartsheets and the wording in the resolution.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about resolutions using the word “WHEREAS” at the beginning of each paragraph and asked if it should be two words instead of one.

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Chairperson Elliott spoke about adding “ADDED RESOLUTION(S)” with Resolution #A2110342 to the Agenda, then moving Resolution #A2110342 to the “CONSENT CALENDAR” and waiving the reading of this resolution.

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Curran, to add “ADDED RESOLUTIONS” with Resolution #A2110342 to the Agenda and waiving the reading of this resolution.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to move Added Resolution #A2110342 to the Consent Calendar and approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2110050	Weekly Bills
B2110097	Weekly Requisitions
F2110128	Road Payables
P2110331	Extend agreement with Lisa Ankenbruck
P2110333	FOC Deputy Director position
P2110334	Approve user agreement with Smartsheets
A2110342	

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

10 YEAS: Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

1 NAY: Scott.

Motion carried.

ADDED RESOLUTION – Resolution #A2110342:

The Added Resolution #A2110342 was moved to the Consent Calendar.

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

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

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

Commissioner Scott presented his outside Commissioners' Report.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's 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):

Michael Haskins, Pipestone Township, discussed the Personnel & Human Services Committee Report and spoke about the annexation of property from Pipestone Township to Sodus Township is too premature.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Road Department and the Road Department Director not being here at the meeting to speak.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the drinking fountains, the seating arrangement in the BOC's room and said he cannot hear people speak in the room.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about the legal notice posted in the paper regarding a public hearing to be held at Eau Claire regarding annexation. Chairperson Elliott responded that only the first step has taken place at the Personnel & Human Services Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Wuerfel spoke about the Community Action Agency needing volunteers to distribute water in the Benton Harbor area.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Brownfield Development Authority Board meets today at 1:30 P.M.
- Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 3:30 P.M.
- Veterans Day will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021. The County will be closed and there will be no meetings.
- Thanksgiving Holiday will be held Thursday, November 25, 2021. The County will be closed and there will be no meetings.

CLOSED SESSION – (MCLA 15.268 (c) “For strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.” – Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:25 A.M., “for strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.”

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:26 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

The Board returned to Open Session at 11:53 A.M.

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the following closed minutes:

- March 5, 2020
- April 23, 2020
- June 4, 2020
- August 6, 2020
- September 24, 2020
- November 12, 2020
- November 19, 2020

Motion carried, no nays. 2 Abstain: Bell and Wuerfel (They were not elected BOC members at this time).

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the following closed minutes:

- February 11, 2021
- *February 18, 2021
- September 23, 2021
- October 7, 2021

Motion carried, no nays. 1 Abstain: *Meeks (Due to a conflict of interest on the February 18, 2021 minutes).

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.