

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:38 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Don Meeks gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Jon Hinkelman 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:

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

2 ABSENT: Rayonte Bell and Teri Sue Freehling.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2021 MEETINGS:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2021. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Michael Fryback, Buchanan, regarding a website on foreclosing properties, received on October 20, 2021.
- Alger County Board of Commissioners, a resolution opposing Senator Shirkey's gearing toward an integration proposal and supporting Pathways Community Mental Health Services program, received on October 22, 2021.
- Alger County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to support amendments to the Open Meetings Act, received on October 22, 2021.
- Missaukee County Board of Commissioners, a resolution in support of vaccine awareness and medical autonomy, received on October 26, 2021.
- Dickenson County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs, received on October 26, 2021.
- Branch County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to support amendments to the Open Meetings Act, received on October 27, 2021.

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): None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2110052	Approve Bills
B2110099	Approve Requisitions
F2110129	Approve Road Payables
F2110345	Renew agreements with local municipalities for County tax system
A2110347	FY21-22 Snowmobile Law Enforcement Grant Award
F2110350	Equalization Apportionment Report Submittal

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Recommendation from Finance Committee

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the following Board Appointments recommended by the Finance Committee:

- Re-appoint to the Brownfield Authority: Lee Van Ginhoven for a 3 year term – term expires on May 25, 2024.
- Re-appoint to the Land Preservation Board: Dave Chandler and Lois Foster for a 3 year term – term expires on June 30, 2024.
- Re-appoint to the Land Bank Authority: Katherine Weykamp and Dale Kreitner for a 4 year term – term expires on May 22, 2025.
- Re-appoint to the Trust Investment Advisory Committee: Joe Wasserman for a 3 year term – term expires on June 7, 2024.

Discussion was held.

Chairperson Elliott announced there was a voice vote held and there were 9 YEAS and 1 NAY.

Motion carried.

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

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

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

Commissioner Wuerfel presented her outside Commissioner’s Report.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Disette 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 Hoyt, Benton Harbor City, applied for the assistant manager position at the Berrien County Historical Society.

Robyn Graffenius, Lincoln Charter Township, spoke about the vacancy for the Health Officer/ Director and the County taking bids.

Amy Foster, Lincoln Charter Township, discussed Ohio updating their school guidance on COVID-19 and the Edwardsburg Public Schools. She spoke about the resolutions from other counties voicing their concerns and would like the BOC to go on record regarding parental choice for schools.

Victory Woodall, Covert, spoke about face masks and vaccine freedoms. She discussed hiring a new Health Officer/Director.

Jennifer Mayo Fujawa, Lincoln Charter Township, spoke about her son in regard to face masks and hiring a new Health Officer/Director.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about the Health Department and funding. She discussed hiring a new Health Officer/Director.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about doing what is in the best interest for all of the kids and benefits everyone regarding COVID-19.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Dissette gave an update on hiring an Acting Health Officer/Director for the interim basis. He discussed hiring the full-time Health Officer/Director and the process. The State of Michigan will have to sign off on the individuals the County decides to hire.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Veterans Day will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021 and the County will be closed and there will be no meetings.
- Thanksgiving Holiday will be held Thursday, November 25, 2021 and the County will be closed and there will be no meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.