

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Hinkelman gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Financial Services Director Doug James 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Wuerfel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 28, 2021. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger received and distributed the following communications:

- Muskegon County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Casino in Muskegon County, received on November 1, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2022 Proposed Budget – Financial Services Director Douglas James

Motion

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Freehling to recess the regular meeting at 10:36 A.M. to open the Public Hearing.

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

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

0 NAYS. Motion carried.

Director James reviewed the FY Proposed 2022 budget with a focus on the Primary Government Fund and summarized the following as indicated below:

- Robyn Graffenius, Lincoln Charter Township - spoke in opposition to Resolution #P2111346 - Approve Agreement with RESA.
- Cynthia Poor, Coloma Charter Township - spoke in opposition to Resolution #P2111346 - Approve Agreement with RESA.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

The Board held discussion on concerns regarding Resolution #P2111346 and if it should be tabled or voted on yet today.

Commissioner Scott requested that Resolution #P2111346 be pulled from the consent calendar for a separate vote.

Commissioner Hinkelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Curran, to approve the consent calendar as presented minus Resolution #P2111346.

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Descriptions</u>
F2111053	Approve Bills
B2111100	Approve Requisitions
P2111346	Approve Agreement with RESA
A2111351	Secondary Road Patrol Agreement Amendment
P2111352	Complement Change FOC
A2111353	Approve 911 Radio Tower Upgrade Project
C2111359	Approve Appointment of Interim Health Officer

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

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

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Descriptions</u>
P2111346	Approve Agreement with RESA

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath to vote on Resolution #P2111346 - Approve Agreement with RESA.

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

4 YEAS: Harrison, Majerek, Meeks, and Bell.

8 NAYS: Hinkelman, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Curran, Freehling, and Elliott.

Motion fails, Resolution #P2111346 does not pass.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Harrison, Chair of the Personnel and Human Services Committee, recommended the following re-appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term expiring 01/01/2025:

- James Bednar
- Anthony Korican

Discussion was held.

Chairperson Elliott called for a voice vote to approve the appointments. Appointments approved.

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

Chairperson Elliott stated that he wanted to address the Year-End Budget Process that was brought up during the Public Hearing. The Proposed FY 2022 Budget will be voted on at the next meeting on November 18, 2021.

The full board often does not meet the last Thursday of the month unless there is urgent business, but the Finance Committee meets to make any budget amendments and make any needed appropriations on the last business day of the year.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

Commissioner Bell gave his outside report.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Administrator Dissette thanked the Commissioners for the way they worked through several issues today. No further 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):

- Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township – spoke about the Masonic sock drive and added collections sites in Buchanan and Watervliet.
- Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor – announced that My Brother’s Keeper will be hosting a water distribution site on Friday, November 5th from 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at 292 Bellview with the Detroit Buffalo Freedom Riders and the Benton Harbor Rough Riders.
- Robert Dornarski, Lincoln Charter Township – spoke about mask mandates in the schools and provided a handout to the Commissioners.
- Robyn Graffenius, Lincoln Charter Township – spoke about quarantining children due to COVID-19.
- Amy Foster, Lincoln Charter Township – spoke about her concerns about the Board of Health and mask mandates.
- James Kovach, St. Joseph Charter Township – spoke about mask mandates, quarantining and the Health Department.
- Jennifer Mayo Fijawa, Lincoln Charter Township – spoke about Lakeshore Schools’ contact tracing and quarantining procedures.
- Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – spoke about the Road Department and Finance Committee meetings.
- Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – spoke about restrooms at the Administration Building.
- Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – spoke about vaccines and that not all of them are bad. He feels the Health Department is doing their job to protect our health.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Scott responded to public comments regarding the Finance Committee’s handling of waivers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce (BCBIT) will meet today at 12:30 P.M. in the Otto Grau Conference Room.
- The Brownfield Authority will meet today at 1:30 P.M.
- November 11, 2021 – No meetings in observance of Veterans Day.
- November 18, 2021 – Regular meetings schedule.
- November 25, 2021 – No meetings in observance of Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on November 18, 2021.