

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18, 2021**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Teri Sue Freehling 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:

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

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2021 MEETINGS:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of November 4, 2021. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Oceana County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to make changes to the Open Meetings Act to exempt counties with a population of 75,000 or less to be exempt from the portions of the Open Meetings Act that restricts a member of a public body from attending and participating in public meeting virtually, as long as a physical quorum of the public body is in attendance at the meeting location, received on November 5, 2021.
- Dickinson County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs, received on November 5, 2021.
- Jackson County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to oppose mandatory vaccinations, mandatory wearing of masks and other face coverings, vaccination passports, and mandatory COVID testing and support a citizen's right to self-determination and parental rights to decide what is best for their children, received on November 5, 2021.
- Marquette County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs, received on November 5, 2021.
- Menominee County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs, received on November 12, 2021.
- An email communication from Clara Jungermann, Berrien County 4-H Program Coordinator, sending the Berrien County Spotlight, 4-H Family News – November 2021 issue, received on November 15, 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 include Added Resolution #A2111367 to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2111011	Approve Monthly Per Diems
F2111054	Approve Bills
B2111101	Approve Requisitions
F2111130	Approve Road Payables
F2111328	Approve FY2022 Budget
P2111348	Comprehensive Agreement Amendment Health Department
P2111344	Complement Change Clerk's Office position change
P2111349	Complement Change – Clerk's Office elections
A2111354	Apply for Spay/Neuter Grant Animal Control
A2111355	Swift & Sure Grant Acceptance Courts
A2111356	Mental Health Court Grant Acceptance
A2111357	Court Related Coronavirus supplemental funding Request
A2111358	Drug Court Grant Acceptance
A2111367	Emergency Management Performance Grant Acceptance

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):**

The following resolution was moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolution(s) #</u>	<u>Description</u>
A2111367	Emergency Management Performance Grant Acceptance

**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.

**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.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about roll call, Administration Center's building signs and restrooms.

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor City, stated to have a blessed Thanksgiving.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report. He spoke about the legislation regarding rental properties. Discussion was held.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

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

**CLOSED SESSION:**

- 1) Rafaelli, LLC v. Oakland County – Attorneys John Axe and Charlie Lawler**
- 2) Federal Work Rules Labor Update – Attorney Nancy Mullett, Clark Hill**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:16 A.M., to consult with its attorney regarding the follow:

- 1) Rafaelli, LLC v. Oakland County – Attorneys John Axe and Charlie Lawler.
- 2) Federal Work Rules Labor Update – Attorney Nancy Mullett, Clark Hill.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:19 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:11 P.M.

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the Closed Session minutes of October 21, 2021. Motion carried, no nays.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 P.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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