

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular COW meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek (Arrived at 8:45 A.M.), Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 8:37 A.M.).

1 ABSENT: Don Meeks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Wuerfel moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on January 27, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

PRESENTATION(S):

- **Juvenile Center Assessment – Jim Moeser, National Partnership for Juvenile Services with Chief Judge Mabel Mayfield, Judge Brian Berger, Trial Court Administrator Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Family Division Administrator Elvin Gonzalez:**

Judge Brian Berger introduced Chief Judge Mabel Mayfield, Trial Court Administrator Carrie Smietanka-Haney, Family Division Administrator Elvin Gonzalez and Jim Moeser, Consultant for National Partnership for Juvenile Services.

Judge Brian Berger gave the background regarding behind preparing an analysis of the court-operated Juvenile Center Facility Assessment.

Jim Moeser gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Berrien County Juvenile Center's Facility Assessment dated December 2021 and discussed the following:

- Background for the Assessment:
 - Challenges and Changes
 - Pursue Independent Facility Assessment
 - Process
- General Areas of Assessment:
 - Staffing
 - Organizational Climate
 - Program Operations
- Observations re: Staffing
- Observations re: Alignment, Roles & Responsibilities
- Recruitment & Retention
- Observations re: Policies & Programs:
 - Policies
 - Programming
- The Survey Says
 - Most Agreement
 - General Agreement

- Moderate Disagreement
- Strongest Disagreement
- Thoughts re: Communications
- Food for Thought

Discussion was held.

- **Prosecutor Update – Prosecutor Steve Pierangeli:**

Prosecutor Steve Pierangeli and Mr. Weeber were present to give an update on the Prosecutor's Office. Prosecutor Pierangeli spoke about the 2021 year and what their goals are for the 2022 year.

Discussion was held.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws 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):

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, stated we have an amazing County and that we need to get this information out to the general public.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.