

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**March 21, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Meeks gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Scott 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:

11 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Mamie Yarbrough

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 14, 2019 and the minutes of the Strategic Planning Session of March 14, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger reported that one communication was received via email:

- Ontonagon County Board of Commissioners sent a resolution in support of House Bill 4227 in the interest of strengthening and developing the future of Michigan mining practices.

**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (MAC) UPDATE**

Stephan Currie, Executive Director presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the structure and function of MAC, reviewed the services they provide, advocacy issues and legislative updates.

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:**

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – spoke about P1903176 - Southwest Michigan Planning Commission 4 X 4 Agreement.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented including the added Resolution P1903192.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
P1903003	Per Diems
F1903022	Weekly Bills
B1903069	Approve Requisitions
F1903112	Approve Road Payables
P1903174	Safe Sleep Educator Contract
P1903175	Niles DART 4 X 4 Partnership Agreement
P1903176	Southwest Michigan Planning Commission 4 X 4 Agreement
P1903177	Niles History Center 4 X 4 Grant Partnership Agreement
P1903178	Medical Marihuana Operation and Oversight
A1903179	Approve Intergovernmental Agreement for Homeland Security Grant
P1903180	Authorize MNRTF Grant Application
A1903181	Approve Contract for Community Service Program
P1903186	Approve CISMA with In Kind GIS Data
P1903188	SAMSHA Grant Application
B1903189	Approve Resolution Expressing Opposition to HB4219
P1903192	Approve Grant Application for Parks Project

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

11 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
P1903192	Approve Grant Application for Parks Project

Moved to the Consent Calendar.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Personnel and Human Services, Administration and Finance Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioner reports were foregone due to time constraints.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – commented that he lives on Zoschke Road, which is a dirt road and the need for drainage on dirt roads.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – commented on the Senior Center audits and withholding of funds if certain criteria is not met.

Tony Dlouhy, Lincoln Charter Township – commented on P1903178 - Medical Marihuana Operation and Oversight and the need to talk with our legislators.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Freehling discussed a pilot program for Connected Nation. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2019. Commissioner Scott requested that a Broadband Committee be created and that the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi has requested to have a seat if a committee is created. Commissioner Chickering agreed that the Board needs to move quickly on this and suggested that the Community Development Committee coordinate this effort. Commissioners Curran, Heugel and Majerek agreed.

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to create a resolution of support of the integration of broadband service in Berrien County in conjunction with support of local governments, private industries and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. Motion carried, no nays.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:** None.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Corporate Counsel McGovern requested a closed session per MCL 15.268(e) “To consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation – Case 2018-032-CK.

Commission Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to recess the regular meeting to go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation regarding Case 2018-032-CK.

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Chickering and Elliott. Motion carried, no nays.

Regular Session recessed at 11:25 A.M.

Regular Session resumed at 11:56 A.M.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the Closed Session Minutes of January 24, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek to pay the settlement to Kevin Eyerly. Motion carried, no nays.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

*Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on March 28, 2019.*