

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 28, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Freehling called the regular meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

1 ABSENT: Mamie Yarbrough.

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott arrived at 8:36 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the regular minutes of March 21, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review.

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):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the pedestrian and bike trails.

Debbie Boothby, Benton Charter Township Treasurer, spoke about the Best Practice Governance Committee. A handout was distributed to the Board. The following members of the Best Practice Governance Committee introduced themselves and spoke briefly:

- David Bunte, Chikaming Township Supervisor
- Michelle Heit, New Buffalo Township Supervisor
- Dick Stauffer, Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor

Chairperson Elliott introduced former Commissioner Debra Panozzo.

Commissioner Elliott spoke about broadband and asked the Committee if they have discussed this topic. David Bunte stated they have discussed broadband, but have not taken the topic up at this time.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Pat Brandstatter, President of Kruger Plastic Products and Former Chair of the Berrien County Transportation Steering Committee, introduced Kim Thompson, Executive Director for the Strategic Leadership Council and staff. Pat Brandstatter gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Connect Berrien – Transportation Overview and spoke about the following:

- History
 - Berrien County Transit Service Areas And Fixed Routes
- Transportation Matters: It Is Vital To Access Life Essentials
- The Case For Change: The Landscape
- The Case For Change: Current Funding
- Why Do We Need To Change?
- What We Learned: The Studies
- Who Worked On This Study
- Local Funding Match Requirements

- 2017 Study Objectives
- Service Levels (Maps): Existing Transit Service and Recommended Transit Service
- Fixed Routes on Alternating Days
- Service Levels (Statistics): Before Existing Service and After Proposed Service
- Service Plan Recommendations
- Operating Cost
- Takeaways - Future: Facts, Improvements and Results
- The Ask – How Can Strategic Leadership Council Support This Work?
- Appendix
 - User Themes From Public Outreach
 - How Do We Achieve These Goals?
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Study Funding 2017 -2018
 - Working Team
- Conditions That Support The Plan
- Where Are The People
- When Are They Going?
- Berrien Bus Ridership
- Effective Berrien Bus Service Area
- Recommended Transit Service
- Overall Service Plan Characteristics
- Characteristics Span Of Service
- Evaluation: Service In Niles
- Evaluation: Service In Benton Harbor
- Evaluation: Service In Buchanan
- Capital Plan
- Critical Goals Met (With Transit Recommendation)
- What We Need From You – The Ask

Discussion was held.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on April 11, 2019.