

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

2 ABSENT: Christopher Heugel and Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 28, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the regular minutes of March 28, 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):

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about last week's night meeting and night meetings, and the new election law changes.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the following: coffee pots for departments; police department and an animal control incident; current judge situation; and bike paths versus road repairs.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about coffee versus juice machines; and bike paths versus road repairs.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Freehling spoke about the priority and long term strategic planning on broadband access in Berrien County.

Community Development Director Dan Fette gave a PowerPoint presentation on the USDA ReConnect Loan & Grant Program Applicant Eligibility, and discussed the following:

- Entities who are eligible to apply for assistance under the ReConnect Program
- Eligible Service Areas
- Engineering and Financial Requirements
- Network Design
- Network Diagram
- Buildout Timeline
- Project Costs
- Financial Requirements
- Environmental Requirements

Administrator William Wolf discussed other broadband providers and grantees.

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 18, 2019.