

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**April 25, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chairperson Freehling called the regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Hinkelman gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Yarbrough led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL:**

Vice Chairperson Freehling 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 Mamie Yarbrough.

1 ABSENT: R. McKinley Elliott.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 18, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Deputy Clerk Christie reported that two communications was received via email and distributed to the Board:

- Michael Fryback, email received on 4/18/2019 – regarding a draft version of a property tax plan.
- Cheboygan County Commissioners, email received on 4/24/2019 – Resolution 19-06 Supporting House Bill 4227- “The Creation of a “Committee on Michigan’s Mining Future”.

**PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Resolutions on the website.  
Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – Resolution P1904204

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
F1904027	Approve Weekly Bills
B1904074	Approve Requisitions
P1904201	Approve Agreement with Fair Food Network
P1904204	Approve Agreement with Be Healthy Berrien /United Way Contract 4 X 4
P1904214	Approve Annual County Equalized Valuations
A1904215	Approve Submission of CCAB Grant
A1904218	Approve Road Abandonment of Fedore Road in Buchanan Township
P1904219	Approve Complement Change for Information Systems Department
F1904220	Approve Waiving Rights for the Establishment of a Rehabilitation District
P1904221	Approve Grant Application for the Michigan Health Endowment Fund
A1904222	Approve Contract with CASA
P1904223	Approve Complement Change Health Department

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, and Yarbrough. Motion carried, no nays.

1 ABSTAIN: Chickering.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
A1904224	Approve Grant Request for Public Defender Office

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to approve Added Resolution A1904224 - Approve Grant Request for Public Defender Office.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Scott expressed that he is supportive of the Public Defender program. He expressed a concern with the amount that keeps increasing to operate the program. He expressed a concern with the number of employees that also continues to grow due to the size of the building that the Public Defender is housed in and the lack of extra space in that building. He repeated his support for the program and what they do, but noted it is the costs that concern him.

Commissioner Chickering commented about the program.

Administrator Wolf clarified some of the concerns that were expressed.

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

9 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering. Motion carried.

1 NAY: Scott

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Commissioner Chickering made the motion to re-appoint the following individuals, supported by Commissioner Majerek. Motion carried, no nays:

Vanessa Brown, Linda Strohl, and Margaret Kohring – Board of Health – 5-year term – Expires 4/30/2024.

Edward Meny, Marion Maier, E. Arthur Robertson – Mental Health Authority – 3-year term – Expires 3/31/2022.

**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 given.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – Public Comments

Michael Hoyh, Watervliet – Blossomtime Events

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Copies of handouts available for public.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – Audits of Senior Centers and County Department audits.

Tony Dloughy, Lincoln Charter Township – Funding from the Federal and State government.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Scott – Bidding in the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Chickering – Night meeting next week at St. Joe/Lincoln Senior Center.

Commissioner Yarbrough – Auditing of County Departments and Senior Centers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

- April 25, 2019 – Strategic Planning from 12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Berrien County Administration Center.
- May 2, 2019 – Night Meeting at 6:00 P.M. at the St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

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Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

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Annette Christie, Deputy Clerk

*Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on May 2, 2019.*