

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**May 23, 2019**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Majerek gave the invocation.

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

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

**ROLL CALL:**

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

10 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: William Chickering and Ezra Scott.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2019 MEETING:**

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the regular minutes of May 16, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS - Public comments at this portion of the meeting must be related to resolutions listed on today's agenda only. 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):**

Debbie Boothby, Benton Charter Township, spoke in favor of Resolution #F1905235 - Authorize Establishment of Transportation Advisory Committee.

Greg Kovack, Benton Charter Township, spoke against Resolution #F1905235.

Mark Johnson, Lincoln Charter Township, spoke in favor of Resolution #F1905235.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke against Resolution #F1905235.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Resolution #B1906237 – Approve Commissioner Objectives:

Commissioner Harrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to table Resolution #B1906237 to have further discussion that was planned to be on the Agenda for June 6, 2019.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Consent Calendar:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to include Added Resolutions

#F1905236 - Approve Millage Rates and #F1905241 - Approve Annual FY19 5311 Contract with MDOT to the Consent Calendar; to pull Resolution #F1905235 - Authorize Establishment of Transportation Advisory Committee from the Consent Calendar; and to approve today's Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F1905031	Approve Weekly Bills
B1905078	Approve Requisitions
F1905236	Approve Millage Rates
F1905241	Approve Annual FY19 5311 Contract with MDOT

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #F1905235 - Authorize Establishment of Transportation Advisory Committee:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Resolution #F1905235.

Discussion was held.

Commissioner Hinkelman spoke about his fears from the study needing \$1.8 million dollars and how to fund the project. He is concerned about needing a millage in the future. Until knowing the funding needs, he hopes the pilot project will determine those needs. He has long term concerns, if it requires a millage.

Commissioner Freehling spoke in favor of the pilot project and believes this will give them more measurable data to have the understanding of the needs for making further decisions. The pilot program will decide whether this is justifiable.

Commissioner Yarbrough spoke in support of the pilot project and the pilot project will give more information and more measurable data. She hopes this will give a solution to Berrien County's needs for transportation.

Community Development Director Dan Fette spoke about the different models of public transportation. He discussed Washtenaw County's public transportation model. He spoke about the challenges we have now with transportation and the need to make sure the analysis is correct. The County needs more evidence. He hopes the pilot program will give us enough information to make a determination.

Chairperson Elliott spoke about whether this is something we really need and that we can afford. He stated it is something we need and the pilot program will determine its affordability. Chairperson Elliot spoke about funding.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolutions #F1905236 - Approve Millage Rates and #F1905241 - Approve Annual FY19 5311 Contract with MDOT were moved to the Consent Calendar.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioner Curran to the Berrien County Historical Association Board for a three year term, ending May 23, 2022.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the recommendation by the Administration Committee to appoint Audrey Lester to the 911 Advisory Board to fill a term, ending December 31, 2021.

**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:**

Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

Commissioner Freehling left the meeting at 11:10 A.M.

**GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS - 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):**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the spelling of his name, blocking the entrance door of the conference room and Resolution #F1905236 - Approve Millage Rates.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- May 27, 2019 – County Facilities will be closed for Memorial Day.
- May 30, 2019 – No Board meetings (5th Thursday).
- June 6, 2019 – Night meeting at MSU Extension, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Commissioner Yarbrough announced the following:

- June 6, 2019 – Night Meeting will hold a Finance Committee at MSU Extension at 5:30 P.M.
- May 23, 2019 at Noon, the Joint Pension Committee and Trust Investment Advisory Committee will be meeting today.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on June 6, 2019.***