

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**June 2, 2022**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular night meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. at the Berrien County Youth Fair, Youth Memorial Building, 9122 U.S. Hwy. 31, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Pastor Dennis Page, Village Seventh Day Adventist Church, Berrien Springs, Michigan gave the invocation.

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

BCSD Lieutenant Corey Burks, Fair Board President, 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:

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, James Martin, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING:**

Commissioner Freehling moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC special meeting minutes of May 19, 2022. Motion carried and no nays. 1 Abstain: Martin (Commissioner James Martin was appointed as the Commissioner of District #3 at the Special Board meeting held on May 19, 2022.)

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2022 REGULAR MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of May 19, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) the following communications:

- Menominee County Board of Commissioners, a resolution opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4732, received on May 25, 2022.
- Tuscola County Board of Commissioners, a resolution opposing Michigan House Bills 4729, 4730, 4731, and 4732, received on June 1, 2022.

**REQUISITION REVIEW:**

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

**AGENDA AMENDMENT:**

Commissioner Curran moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to amend the Agenda to include a Honorary Resolution Presentation for Lee Lull. Motion carried and no nays.

**HONORARY RESOLUTION PRESENTATION:**

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2206128:

**R E S O L U T I O N**

**WHEREAS**, Lee Lull was born and raised in Southwest Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, he served four years on active duty in the U.S. Navy and 17 years in the U.S. Navy Reserve before retiring as a Yeoman Chief Petty Officer (E-7), Master Training Specialist; and

**WHEREAS**, he began working for Berrien County in 1986 as a Deputy Probate Register for the Probate Court and then continued in his service to the citizens of Berrien County for an additional 10 years as the Director of Veterans Services; and

**WHEREAS**, he has gone beyond the boundaries of the Berrien County Veterans Affairs office helping veterans and dependents as a County Veterans Service Officer, working through the disability compensation claims, pension claims, and appeals process for the veterans and dependents of Berrien County; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of Lee Lull, as a former member of the armed services and as an advocate for veterans and their families is to be applauded.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners formally recognizes and honors Lee Lull for his 35 years of dedicated service for the citizens of Berrien County and wish him a well-deserved retirement filled with good health and happiness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Lee Lull's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, Veterans all over Berrien County, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Lee Lull introduced his wife, spoke about his employment at Berrien County and thanked the BOC.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR (BCYF) PRESENTATION – Director Karen Klug:**

Chairperson Elliott introduced BCYF President Corey Burks.

Corey Burks welcomed the BOC and county residents to the fairgrounds. Corey Burks introduced Secretary and Fair Manager Karen Klug and their Board of Directors. Corey Burks and Karen Klug gave a presentation on the BCYF and spoke about their 2022 Summer Event Listing. The BCYF is to educate citizens and youth about the area's agricultural heritage. Fair volunteers reach out to area schools during the year. The BCYF was able to secure a \$600,000 grant and will be constructing a new public safety building on the fairgrounds. Discussion was held.

**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):** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2206033	Approve Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2206080	Approve Requisition List
A2205276	Swift & Sure Program Grant Request
A2205277	Drug Treatment Court Grant Request
A2205278	Mental Health Court Grant Request
*P2205280	Establish Berrien Community Foundation Fund for Parks
P2205284	Emerging Threats Grant Amendment Health Department
P2205285	Children's Trust Fund Grant Application for Abuse/Neglect Reduction
F2205286	MEDC Revitalization & Placemaking Grant

\*Commissioner Harrison abstained on Resolution #P2205280 - Establish Berrien Community Foundation Fund for Parks. Commissioner Harrison is the President of the Berrien Community Foundation.

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

12 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, \*Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):** None.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

Commissioner Yarbrough presented the BOC with a plaque from the Professional Golfers' Association of America thanking Berrien County for its commitment to the game of golf and outstanding hospitality as the Host County of the 82<sup>nd</sup> KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship held at Harbor Shores on May 25 – 29, 2022.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

**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):**

Heidi Manger, Shoreham Village, works at Animal Control and spoke about adopting animals.

Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin spoke about the quarterly drain maintenance report.

Richard Hinsel, Benton Harbor City, who is on the Benton Harbor Downtown Development Authority and Benton Harbor Planning Commission, spoke about the Benton Harbor master plan.

Sarah Rhein, Berrien Center, Private Duty Home Healthcare, St. Joseph, MI, spoke about the impact of certain aspects of the auto no fault reform on Berrien County residents. She would like the BOC to consider adopting a resolution urging the state legislatures to take up auto no fault legislation and reform the law to protect auto injury survivors.

Carol Rinehart spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform and how it has affected their family.

Lori Costanza, Sodus Township, spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform and would like the topic to be placed on the BOC's agenda.

Karen Mulkey Water, Watervliet, spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform and how it has affected her.

Joy Yerington, Bainbridge Township, was a victim of the auto insurance no fault reform.

Nathanael Bryan, Berrien Township, spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform.

Barbara Richmond, Benton Harbor, sister of Joy Yerington, spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform.

Annette Christie, spoke about the about the Juneteenth Holiday and expressed her concerns about the court being closed and other departments opened.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Road Department constructing a new garage.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Elliott and Administrator Brian Dissette spoke about the auto insurance no fault reform legislation. The County will do more research on the topic. They will have Corporate Counsel work on this issue and prepare a draft resolution. Discussion was held.

Chairperson Elliott spoke about June 30, 2022 being a 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday and no meetings are scheduled at this time. Chairperson Elliott recommended to hold a BOC special meeting for to honor former Sheriff Nick Jewel. Discussion was held.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Martin, to approve holding a BOC special meeting on June 30, 2022 at 10:30 A.M.

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

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Martin, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Freehling, thanked BCYF for their presentation and for their services.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Next night meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, hosted by Three Oaks Township and the Village of Three Oaks and will be held at 19 North by Froehlich's (Event Center), 19 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, Michigan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.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 next BOC meeting.***