

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:35 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, Christopher Heugel, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, Dave Vollrath (Arrived at 8:37 A.M.) and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman and Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 and OCTOBER 10, 2019 MEETINGS:

Commissioner Majerek moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 26, 2019 and October 10, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

October 10, 2019 Minutes

3 ABSTAIN: Chickering, Freehling and Heugel. (Due to being absent at the October 10, 2019 meeting.)

September 26, 2019 Minutes

1 ABSTAIN: Freehling (Due to being absent at the September 26, 2019 meeting.)

REQUISITION REVIEW:

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

Annette Christie stated Kathy McTavish, a former teacher who taught in this building when it was Washington School, donated to the County a plaque displaying newspaper articles regarding school events that will hang in the Administration Center.

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): None.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Equalization Director Tony Meyaard gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 Berrien County Apportionment Report. The report is compiled of 237 different millage rates that are levied throughout Berrien County. The report shows the impact of millage rates. He stated the Board must approve all millages to be spread across all taxing authorities throughout Berrien County. The Equalization Department has verified that all reduction fractions have been applied where necessary. Tony Meyaard discussed the following:

- Overview of 2019 Apportion Report
 - Interesting fact.
 - The goal of the report.
 - Statutory Responsibilities of the Board.
 - What are these Reduction Fractions you speak of?
 - Breakdown of taxing authorities.
 - Mills apportioned by the Board.
 - Ad valorem taxable values for each taxing authority.
 - Millage rate comparison charts.
 - School district total pre-millage rate comparison.
 - Local unit total millage rate comparison.
 - Township and City breakdown sheets.
 - Recap of taxing authorities showing countywide totals.
 - How we compare to other counties.

Discussion was held.

Commissioner Chickering spoke about the Park Board approving to increase the Parks' millage. He stated there is a resolution waiting for capital improvements until the Board decides to move it forward, to increase the Park's budget. Next week at the Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board would like to have a discussion on a Park millage increase. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held on holding a meeting on the 5th Thursday, October 31, 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on October 24, 2019.