

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:37 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

INVOCATION:

Pastor Rodney Chester Gulley, President of the Southwest Michigan Ministerial Alliance gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL:

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

12 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Harrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 24, 2019.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays and one abstention (Commissioner Chickering due to not being in attendance at the meeting).

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger received and distributed the following communications:

- Two resolutions from the Alger County Board of Commissioners, received on October 24, 2019:
 - Opposed to the Trial Court Funding Commission Interim Report dated April 8, 2019.
 - Supporting House Bill 4590, to create a Tourism Reinvestment Excise Tax.
- An email from Kris Martin, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, inviting the Board to the Indiana Michigan River Valley Trail Celebration and grand opening, to be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 9:00 A.M., received on October 28, 2019.
- A resolution from the Otsego County Board of Commissioners, supporting the Enbridge's Line 5 Tunnel, received on October 30, 2019.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2020 General Fund Budget Hearing:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to recess the regular meeting at 10:42 A.M. and open the Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2020 General Fund Budget Hearing.

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

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

Director of Financial Services Doug James and Assistant Director/Budget Coordinator Ben Reynnells presented the proposed Berrien County 2020 Annual Budget.

2020 Primary Government Proposed Budget Summary

Sources of Funds:

Revenues	\$ 135,468,548
Transfer, Indirect, and Administrative	31,622,310
Use of Fund Balance/Net Position	<u>11,686,579</u>
Total	<u>\$ 178,777,437</u>

Uses of Funds:

Expenditures	\$ 145,718,949
Transfer, Indirect, and Administrative	31,622,310
Surplus of Fund Balance/Net Position	<u>1,436,178</u>
Total	<u>\$ 178,777,437</u>

Net Change in Fund Balance/Net Position **\$ (10,250,401)**

A copy of the presentation and budget document have been made available to the public on the County website at www.berriencounty.org under the Budget Reports link.

Chairperson Elliott asked the public if they had any questions.

- Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Suggested the budget should be tied to the cost of living.
- Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – Would like to see a copy of the budget made available prior to the Public Hearing. Administrator Wolf stated that the Public Notice published last week stated that copies of the budget were available for the public to pick up at the Administration Offices.

Chairperson Elliott asked the Board if they had any questions.

- Commissioner Scott stated that the Board heard budget presentations from each department and elected official prior to putting the budget together.
- Administrator Wolf stated that \$1.5 million contingency funds do not come from the General Fund.

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to conclude the Public Hearing at 11:24 A.M. and return to regular session.

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Stated he opposes Resolution P1911324 - Support for 4-Year Commissioner Terms.

Darrin Schaer, Sodus Township – Stated that he opposes Resolution P1911324 - Support for 4-Year Commissioner Terms.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
F1911051	Approval of Weekly Bills
B1911098	Approval of Weekly Requisitions
F1911129	Approval of Road Payables
P1911324	Support for 4-Year Commissioner Terms
A1911325	Approve Traffic Control Order Adams Road – Niles Charter Township
A1911326	Accept Swift & Sure Grant Program Award
A1911327	Accept Drug Treatment Court Grant Award
A1911328	Accept Mental Health Court Grant Award
P1911329	Approve Kayak/Stand Up Rental Agreement Silver Beach

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

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

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the following Board appointments to the Berrien County Transportation Advisory Committee with terms expiring January 1, 2022:

- Vacant, Board of Commissioners
- Jim Curran, Board of Commissioners
- Bob Harrison, Board of Commissioners
- Richard Huff (or Designee), City of Niles
- Bill Marx, City of Buchanan

Paul Gillespie, TCATA (City of Benton Harbor)
Juan Ganum, City of Bridgman
Michelle Heit, New Buffalo Township
R. Tyler Dotson, City of Watervliet

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Administration, Finance and Personnel and Human Services Committees presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioners gave their outside committee reports.

Commissioner Heugel departed the meeting at 11:57 A.M.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jerry Sirk, Benton Charter Township – Expressed concern about standing water at the corner of Main Street and Fair Avenue in the City of Benton Harbor and it may be a possible breeding place for mosquitos.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – Stated that he opposes adding more stop signs/lights locations within the County without eliminating other locations.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – U.S. 20 in South Bend has been turned from a four lane road to a three lane road with a walking/biking path. He stated snow plows with a larger blade could be a cost savings.

Darrin Schaer, Sodus Township – Spoke about Eastern Equine Encephalitis and said that the mosquitos are gone for now, but what about next spring? He stated that if your neighbor opts out of the spraying, there is a 1000 foot leeway from their property line.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on the County Board of Commissioners taking over the Road Commission and making it a County department and who is to oversee the day to day operations. Chairperson Elliott indicated that it is the Board's standard operating procedure to have the County Administrator oversee departments.

Commissioner Hinkelman reported that he had a constituent inquire about who is responsible for adding a streetlight at the 31 Bypass and Napier Avenue intersection. Administrator Wolf stated that Michigan Department of Transportation would be responsible, but that he would confirm that information with Jason Latham, Director of the Road Department.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- November 28, 2019 – No meetings – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 26, 2019 – No meetings will be held.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on November 14, 2019.

