

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14, 2019**

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

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:36 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:

12 PRESENT: William Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Christopher Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek (Arrived at 8:37 A.M.), Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, Dave Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2019 MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 7, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**REQUISITION REVIEW:**

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

**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:**

Administrator William Wolf introduced GIS Mapping Director Lex Winans, who will be the point person on the 2020 census for Berrien County. Lex Winans introduced Berrien Community Foundation President Lisa Cripps-Downey and Census Hub Coordinator Kathy Stady, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Be Counted Berrien - Berrien County 2020 Census Hub" and discussed the following:

- Berrien County Population.
- Census-based funding.
- Census data for redistricting.
- Census data for business decisions.
- Who are the Hard-to-Count populations?
- How is the 2020 census different from the 2010 census?
- Confidentiality and the Census.
- County Commission Districts.
- How you can help?

Discussion was held.

Administrator Wolf and Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper gave a PowerPoint presentation on the "Pension Multiplier" and discussed the following:

- Countywide Elected Officials letter to the Chair.
- Countywide Elected Officials except the Sheriff and the Judges.
- Vesting is now 10 years for everyone.
- No retiree health insurance. Went into effect between 1/1/12 – 9/1/18.
- Chart of the eleven employee groups, for accounting purposes, within the groups are sub-group identifiers based on date of hire.
- With the exception of the Road Department, the effective date for pension and benefit changes has been January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Timing of a decision.
- Who is affected?

- The cost.
- GRS Retirement Consulting
- Berrien County Employees Amended Retirement Plan – Supplemental Actuarial Valuation.
- Draft resolution.

County Clerk Tyler commented that the Prosecutor, Register of Deeds and she were previously employed by the County under a higher multiplier and now the multiplier has changed, since they were elected.

Discussion was held.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 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 November 21, 2019.***