

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY: Your County Personnel and Human Services Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, on or about 2018, Berrien County ("County") developed the Paw Paw River County Park ("Park") in the City of Watervliet on the Paw Paw River Water Trail ("Trail"), which includes a trail-head, parking, barrier-free walkways, benches, a barrier-free kayak launch and other amenities known as Phase I; and

WHEREAS, based on observed attendance, the park quickly proved to be a popular regional recreation attraction; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the County has acquired an adjacent additional 63 (sixty-three) acres to expand the Park, to be developed into a future duplication of Phase I amenities; and

WHEREAS, in December 2019, the County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2020-2024 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan which included but is not limited to the further expansion of the Park; and

WHEREAS, a property owner near the Park, with approximately 35 (thirty five) undeveloped acres along the Trail known as the Woodruff Property, has a desire for their property to become part of the Park; and

WHEREAS, this acquisition would protect the land from future development, increase public access to land along the Trail, and increase the acreage available for recreational activities within the Park; and

WHEREAS, contained in the 2020-2024 5-year Parks & Recreation Plan and listed as a proposed action for 2023, is the acquisition of the 35 (thirty-five) acres referred to as the Woodruff Property as depicted on the attached boundary map of the location of the property; and

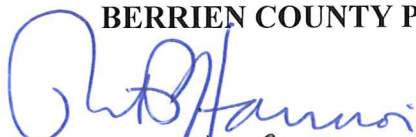
WHEREAS, an Option to Purchase Agreement has been written between Mary E. Woodruff Revocable Trust and the County, for the County to pay \$100 (from the Parks budget) to the Trust for exclusive and irrevocable right and option to purchase the real property; and

WHEREAS, the agreed upon purchase price of the property under this Option to Purchase Agreement is \$95,000 and the option shall remain in effect for one year from the effective date of the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the intent to purchase 35 acres of property located along the Trail and authorizes the Chairman to execute and enter into this Option to Purchase Agreement for \$100.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

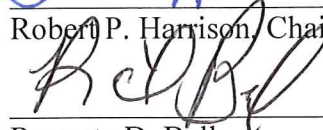
BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE




Robert P. Harrison, Chairperson



Michael J. Majerek, Vice-Chairperson



Rayonte D. Bell

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrative 	Date 4-20
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel TH	Date 4/20/22
Comments Attached _____	