

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Teri Sue Freehling called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner James Curran gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

ROLL CALL:

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

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

1 ABSENT: R. McKinley Elliott.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Christina Dahlquist, Coloma, MI, regarding the pandemic and our constitutional rights, received on January 12, 2022.
- Heather Schoonveld, St. Joseph, MI, regarding two communications on Lakeland Hospital, and children and Covid, received on January 13, 2022.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

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

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2201001	Monthly Per Diems
F2201015	Weekly Bills
B2201062	Weekly Requisitions
F2201109	Road Payables
P2201160	Comprehensive Agreement Amendment
P2201164	EGLF Funding Agreement for Water Sanitation

F2201174 Approve land lease
P2201175 Complement Change Health Department
P2201176 Approve contract with Michigan Public Health Institute

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Freehling.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S) - Personnel & Human Services, Administration and Finance Committees:

Commissioner Harrison, Chair of the Personnel & Human Services Committee, distributed to the Board the Performance Evaluation form for County Administrator Brian Dissette. Commissioner Harrison explained the process and requested the form be returned to Human Resources Director Shelly Jasper by next Thursday. This same process will be used for the Corporate Counsel's position. Discussion was held.

The Personnel & Human Services, Administration and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: No 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):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the County's vacancies and recommended new hiring requirements.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling discussed the American Rescue Plan Strategic Initiatives Prioritization in regards to the ARPA dollars that will be expiring in 2024. She requested a willingness to move forward first with the application process next week. Administrator Dissette spoke about the ARPA dollars. Discussion was held on adopting the strategic plan, rolling it out to the municipalities, and the variety of projects. There was a consensus of the willingness of the Board to move forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Freehling announced the following:

- Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce (BCBit) meeting today at 1:00 P.M.
- EDC meeting at 2:00 P.M. will probably be cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 A.M.

Teri Sue Freehling, Vice Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.