

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular COW meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) 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: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

The Board sang "Happy Birthday" to Commissioner Vollrath.

PRESENTATION(S):

- **Introduction**

Administrator Brian Dissette discussed the schedule for today. He introduced Eau Claire Village's Attorney Frank DeFrancesco and Eau Claire Village President John Glassman.

- **Village of Eau Claire Annexation Request – Attorney Frank DeFrancesco:**

Attorney Frank DeFrancesco gave a presentation on the Eau Claire Village's annexation request. The owner of land is AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., which is to be utilized as the location for a new substation. The land is located in the Township of Pipestone. The annexation is necessary to help support the Village of Eau Claire and the services it provides its residents through the payment of real property taxes and for public safety. This would make the site eligible to receive municipal water. Eau Claire Village President John Glassman spoke in favor of the project.

Commissioner Hinkelman strongly supports this project in his district. Discussion was held.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on January 13, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion. An update on the requisitions will be given at the BOC meeting. Annette Christie spoke about the MAC Legislative Conference to be held on March 21 – 23, 2022.

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.

PRESENTATION(S) Continued:

- **ARPA Fund Update – Community Development Director Dan Fette**

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Community Development Director Dan Fette. Dan Fette gave a PowerPoint presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act: Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Title IX, Part 8, Subtitle M, Sec. 9901; 42 USC 801 et seq.) – Berrien County is expected to receive \$29,796,346 and discussed the following:

- Allowable Uses for Recovery Funds
- Ineligible Uses and Penalties
- Fund Administration and Reporting Requirements

- Berrien County – Uses of Recovery Funds
- Lost Revenue – Calculations and Uses
- External Community Projects – Uses
- Broadband Projects – Application and Project Management

Discussion was held.

Administrator Dissette thanked Community Development Director Dan Fette and Corporate Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth for the ARPA Fund presentation.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.