

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Robert Harrison gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

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 (Arrived at 10:42 A.M.), Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman (Arrived at 10:42 A.M.), Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott (Arrived at 10:42 A.M.), David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough (Arrived at 10:44 A.M.) and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Meeks moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of January 27, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Steve Salisbury, President of the Baroda Area Business Association, Baroda, MI, advocating for Rural Broadband connectivity for their area, email received on January 26, 2022.
- Leelanau County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting the Community Mental Health Authority and opposing current state legislation to change the CMHA, email received on January 27, 2022.
- Christopher Pfahler, St. Joseph, MI, sharing a panel discussion in the U.S. Senate on "COVID-19: A Second Opinion," email received on January 28, 2022.
- Ashley Regal, Buchanan Chamber Executive Director/Main Street Manager, requesting a letter of support for a Buchanan City grant from the Michigan's DNR to support the extension of McCoy Creek Trail, email received on February 2, 2022.
- State Senator Kim LaSata, supporting the Oronoko Township's grant application to expand broadband, letter dated February 1, 2022.

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 Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to include Added Resolutions (#F2202018, #A2202195, #B2202196 and #A2202198) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2202017	Weekly Bills
B2202064	Weekly Requisitions
F2202111	Road Payables
A2202187	Approve Act 51 Certification Maps
A2202180	Authorize K-9 Retirement and Purchase
P2202188	Approve Parks Fee Increase for Disc Golf
P2202189	Approve Vendor Agreement with Parks
P2202192	Approve memo of understanding with Family Empowerment
F2202193	Authorize sale of vehicle to Village of Galien
B2202194	Senior Center Terms of Appropriation
*A2202161	Approve Wellpath agreement amendment
P2202383	Approve agreement with the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs
F2202018	Weekly Bills
A2202195	Approve 800 MHz funds for Fire & EMS
B2202196	Honorary Resolution
A2202198	Community Corrections Grant Acceptance

*Commissioner Wuerfel abstained on Resolution #A2202161 - Approve Wellpath agreement amendment.

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

8 YEAS: Curran, Harrison, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, *Wuerfel, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2202018	Weekly Bills
A2202195	Approve 800 MHz funds for Fire & EMS
B2202196	Honorary Resolution
A2202198	Community Corrections Grant Acceptance

PRESENTATION(S) - 1. Berrien County Sheriff's Office K-9 Retirement:

Sheriff Paul Bailey introduced Deputy Jason Haskins and Mika. Deputy Haskins is Mika's handler and new owner. He spoke about Mika's services to the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Bailey spoke about Resolution #2202193 – Authorize sale of vehicle to Village of Galien that was adopted. Galien Village is in need of a replacement patrol vehicle that was purchased from the County more than ten years ago. The BOC approved to sell to Galien Village the 2017 Ford Police Utility Vehicle for one dollar (\$1.00). Chairperson Elliott gave one dollar (\$1.00) to the Sheriff to pay for the vehicle.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS – Finance and Personnel & Human Services Committees:

Recommendations by the Finance Committee

Commissioner Yarbrough spoke about the recommendations by the Finance Committee for the appointments to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Yarbrough moved and seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the following recommendations by the Finance Committee:

Appoint Alex Little, to a three (3) year term on the Planning Commission that expires on 12/31/2024.

Appoint Brian Savage, to fill a term on the Planning Commission that expires on 12/31/2022.

Motion carried, no nays.

Recommendations by the Personnel & Human Services Committee

Commissioner Harrison spoke about the recommendation by the Personnel & Human Services Committee for the appointment to the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission.

Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the following recommendation by the Personnel & Human Services Committee:

Appoint Gary Wood, a member of the Berrien County Planning Commission, to fill that spot designated on the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission that expires on 12/31/2023.

Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie updated the Board on the requisitions. Discussion was held.

PRESENTATION(S) – 2). Honorary Resolution #B2202196 – Continued:

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2202196 into record:

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Sheila M. Beckmann, a lifelong Michigan resident, graduated from Lake Michigan Catholic High School and attended college at Lake Michigan College; and

WHEREAS, in September of 1975, she was hired as a data entry clerk for the Berrien County Circuit Court File Room; and

WHEREAS, she has maintained her service to the residents of Berrien County since that time, moving up the ranks until becoming the Circuit Court Clerk Manager where she remains today; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, she has served under five different County Clerks and 35 different Judges; and

WHEREAS, Sheila has consistently received excellent and outstanding marks on evaluations and has proven to be a great asset to the County Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler states that she is a very dedicated employee with an enormous amount of knowledge of the Court system and the County Clerk's Office, all while treating others with kindness and compassion; and

WHEREAS, the actions of Sheila M. Beckmann echo the mission of Berrien County by providing leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management and planning, thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners formally recognizes Sheila M. Beckmann for her 46 years and 4.5 months of dedicated service to the citizens of Berrien County and wishes her a happy, healthy retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ms. Beckmann's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon herself, her family, the Berrien County Clerk's Office, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

Chairperson Elliott and County Clerk Sharon Tyler thanked Sheila Beckmann for her service in the Clerk's Office. Chairperson Elliott presented her with a signed resolution. Sheila Beckmann thanked the BOC.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Administration, Personnel & Human Services and Finance

Committees:

The Administration, Personnel & Human Services 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:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report. Administrator Dissette spoke about the following Committee of Whole meetings:

- February 17, 2022 – Abonmarche will have a lengthy presentation on our building assessments.
- February 24, 2022 – COW meeting will be cancelled.
- March 3, 2022 – The building assessment presentation will continue.

Commissioners Wuerfel, Harrison and Yarbrough will be attending a Parks meeting on February 15, 2022 at 3:30 P.M. to discuss the Silver Beach Improvement Plan.

Commissioner Freehling gave an update on the broadband.

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):

Peter Colovos, Hagar Township Trustee, spoke about broadband and discussed having a plan on how to allocate the ARPA monies.

Annie Brown, South Haven, introduced herself as a candidate for State Representative, District 38.

Shawn Hill, St. Joseph City, complimented the Berrien Springs Public Schools for removing the quarantine mandate and face mask option. He discussed the Health Department.

Matt Kirkus, New Buffalo, spoke about protecting human rights.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, spoke about the County's restrooms at the Administration Center. He spoke about face masks and individuals' rights.

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about the Berrien Springs Public Schools and about face masks.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Wuerfel spoke about the Health Department and asked about Berrien County's mask mandates.

Commissioner Scott stated he attended the Sewer and Septic Appeals Board with our Corporate Counsel.

Chairperson Elliott stated the BOC will be going into Closed Session after the announcements. The BOC will then reconvene to Open Session and approve the Closed Session minutes of December 9, 2021 and may approve a resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- County facilities will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents' Day.

CLOSED SESSION Per MCL 15.268 (c) – “For strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining unit if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing” – Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:49 A.M., for strategy and negotiations connected with a collective bargaining unit if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 11:53 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:12 P.M.

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the Closed Session minutes of December 9, 2021. Motion carried, no nays.

BOARD ACTION - Resolution Approval:

Commissioner Hinkelman read the following Resolution #P2202388 into record:

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, the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOPLC), Civilian Unit, represents general County employees for the purposes of collective bargaining; and

WHEREAS, the collective bargaining agreement between the County and the FOPLC expired on 12/31/2021; and

WHEREAS, the parties reached a tentative agreement containing the terms and conditions of employment for the successor agreement on January 14, 2022, which was recently ratified by the bargaining unit membership.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners ratifies the settlement culminating in the agreement covering the terms and conditions of employment for the period January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024.

Motion:

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to approve Resolution #P2202388 as presented.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

County facilities will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2022 in observance of Presidents' Day

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.