

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2021

Staff Present: County Administrator Brian Dissette
Clerk Sharon Tyler
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie

BOC Present: Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott
(In-person)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner David Vollrath 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 (via Zoom in St. Joseph City, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom in Winter Haven, FL), Teri Sue Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda Township, MI), Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Watervliet, MI), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Niles, MI), Don Meeks (via Zoom in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath (via Zoom in Coloma Charter Township, MI), Julie Wuerfel (via Zoom in Royalton Township, MI), Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor City, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 4, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of March 4, 2021.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communications:

- Sally Schmuhl, St. Joseph, a comment on placing the Road Department Director on leave, received on March 9, 2021.
- Glenn Pool, Benton Charter Township, an email supporting Jason Latham, received on March 9, 2021.

PRESENTATION(S): None.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

- **Administration Committee**
- **Personnel & Human Services Committee**
- **Finance Committee**

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

AMENDED CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott requested that Resolution #B2103185 be moved from Added Resolution(s) and to be included on the Consent Calendar.

Resolution #B2103185

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to move Resolution #B2103185 - Support for Senate Bill 207 from Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar.

Administrator Brian Dissette reviewed Senate Bill 207 and Resolution #B2103185. Discussion was held.

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.

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 through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today's amended Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2103022	Weekly Bills
B2103069	Weekly Requisitions
A2103173	No Wake Zone Grant Fund Application
A2103174	Riverwood MST Agreement Family Division
A2103175	Traffic Control Order – Signage on E. Euclid
A2103176	Traffic Control Order - Signage on Yore Ave.
B2103178	Support for local Parks Grant Opportunities
A2103181	Accept Grant Funds
F2103182	Authorize Agreement
B2103185	Support for Senate Bill 207

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Resolution #B2103185 - Support for Senate Bill 207

Resolution #B2103185 - Support for Senate Bill 207 was moved to the Consent Calendar.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports. Discussion was held.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Those speaking through the You Tube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village:

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, commented on the Road Department and suggested they should have an audit done on the department.

Adolf Peltzer, Hagar Township, asked about property owners placing boulders around the beach.

Eric Lester, St. Joseph Charter Township, was thankful to the BOC for making the meetings available to the public.

Discussion was held by Board Members regarding Adolf Pelzer's comment.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairperson Elliot read the following statement in regards to Resolution #F2103182 - Authorize Agreement:

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved a settlement agreement with Mr. Jason Latham. We wish Mr. Latham well in his new endeavors. In the coming weeks, we will begin the process of identifying the best person to lead the County Road Department. As part of our commitment to transparency, we are providing a copy of the signed settlement agreement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Brownfield Authority virtual meeting today at 1:30 P.M.
- Finance Committee virtual meeting Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.
- Board of Commissioners' virtual meeting next Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.
- Public Works virtual meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 9:30 A.M.
- Administration Committee virtual meeting Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.
- Finance Committee virtual meeting Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.
- Board of Commissioners' virtual meeting next Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.