

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 7, 2022**

**CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Board of Commissioners' (BOC) meeting to order at 10:40 A.M. in the BOC's room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:**

Commissioner R. McKinley Elliott 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, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2022 MEETING:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2022. Motion carried and no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners, a resolution urging State Legislature to amend the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act to address a reimbursement cap for auto accident victims, received on March 18, 2022.
- Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners, a resolution of solidarity for residents of Ukrainian descent, received on March 18, 2022.

Commissioner Yarbrough spoke about the amendment to the Michigan Auto Insurance Reform Act and how it may affect residents in the County.

**PRESENTATION: Chief Public Defender Paul Jancha, Jr. – Emerging Adults Task Force:**

Chief Public Defender Paul Jancha, Jr. presented information on a proposed expansion of the public defense program for Berrien County juveniles. He spoke about creating an "Emerging Adults Task Force." Paul Jancha described the plan to request funding for the program from the State of Michigan to add staff and take on additional work providing defense to local juveniles. Jancha is working to secure funding from the State of Michigan to provide the added level of service.

The following two resolutions will be presented next week:

- Resolution #A2204231 – Approve request to MIDC for special project funds related to the establishment of the Emerging Adult Task Force.
- Resolution #P2204232 – Approve complement change for Public Defender pending approval of special project funds for the Emerging Adult Task Force.

Discussion was held.

**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). The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Bell, to include Added Resolutions (#P2204226 and #P2204230) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2204025	Weekly Bills & Road Payables
B2204072	Weekly Requisitions
F2204119	Road Payables
P2204220	Amend CPBC Agreement Health Department
A2204221	Approve agreement with Priority Dispatch
A2204222	Approve service agreement with Priority Dispatch
P2204224	Appointment of Building and Grounds Superintendent
P2204226	Approve MOU with City of Benton Harbor
P2204230	Contract with Midwest Strategy Group for Consulting Services

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.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):**

The following resolutions were moved to the Consent Calendar:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2204226	Approve MOU with City of Benton Harbor
P2204230	Contract with Midwest Strategy Group for Consulting Services

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

The Personnel & Human Services, Finance and Administration Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://www.berriencounty.org).

Deputy David Albers, Homeland Security Specialist, spoke about the proposed mobile incident command vehicle. Discussion was held.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside committee reports.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator’s 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):**

Melissa Clapper, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke in favor about the Public Defenders’ office and proposal.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about his beard. He spoke about BOC members speaking during presentations and that BOC members need to wait. Chairperson Elliott responded back to Mr. Pelzer.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Reminder was made to the BOC members to get their email program updated.

Chairperson Elliott stated the following announcement is on today's Agenda:

- County facilities will be closed on Friday, April 15, 2022 for the Spring Holiday.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***