

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2021

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Ezra Scott called the regular meeting to order at 8:03 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

12 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell (Arrived at 8:07 A.M.), Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek (Arrived at 8:06 A.M.), Don Meeks (Arrived at 8:15 A.M.), Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott (Arrived at 8:06 A.M.).

0 ABSENT.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the last Committee of the Whole minutes held on March 19, 2020. Discussion was held. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW: None.

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):

Peter Colovos, Hagar Township, spoke about having a robust strategic plan.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Transportation Update – Community Development Director Dan Fette:

Community Development Director Dan Fette gave a Berrien Bus Update PowerPoint presentation and discussed the following:

- Introduction and Summary
- Berrien Bus Timeline of Events 2020 – 2021
- Berrien Bus Operations and Finances
- Transit Funding Basics – Per Hour Cost Calculations
- Berrien Bus Operations and Finances – 2021 and Beyond
- Berrien Bus: Options for Continuing Operations
- Berrien Bus: Options – Annual Appropriation
- Berrien Bus: Options – Merger
- Berrien Bus: Options – Community Contracts
- Berrien Bus: Options – Service Contracts Only
- Berrien Bus: Options – Timing

Discussion was held.

Short break at 8:33 A.M to 8:44 A.M.

Strategic Planning – Jim Hettinger, JHUDS, LLC:

Administrator Brian Dissette introduced Jim Hettinger of JHUDS, LLC.

Jim Hettinger of JHUDS, LLC gave his past history and spoke about how to carve out a future recovery. He gave a Strategic Planning PowerPoint presentation and discussed the following:

- Vision Language (Where we want to be in five to ten years)

- Mission (What we are doing now)
- Mission Language
- Formal Statement of the Values Promoted by Berrien County Government
- Values Statement Language Options
 - Constitution
 - Ethical
 - Services
 - Employees
 - Diversity
 - Stewardship
- General Observations
- Alternative Education
- Beach Resiliency
- Immediate Future

He spoke about conducting a county-wide survey, prioritizing a list, broadband, mental health, port development, expanding agriculture year round, small business recovery and rural transportation.

The Planning Commission at this time is working on a master plan. Chairperson Elliott discussed the county-wide survey and working with Williams & Works to avoid duplicating efforts with the Planning Commission. The Board may authorize this survey during the Board of Commissioners meeting under Other Business.

Discussion was held.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Administrator Dissette stated they will have short committee meetings today. They are working on a resolution for an opioid settlement.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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