

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 9, 2020**

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Chairperson Elliott gave the invocation.

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

Treasurer Bret Witkowski 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:

10 PRESENT: William Chickering, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: Jim Curran and Christopher Heugel.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:**

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve the Organizational meeting minutes of January 2, 2020. Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

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

- A resolution from the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners, supporting House Bills 4937 – 4938 and Senate Bills 504 – 505 to enact four-year terms for county commissioners, dated December 18, 2019 and received on January 6, 2020.
- A resolution from the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners, supporting the Enbridge's proposed tunnel replacement project, dated November 10, 2019 and received on January 6, 2020.
- A letter from James Jesse, Jesse Law Office, regarding the great staff of bailiffs in Berrien County, dated December 27, 2019.
- A letter from James Jesse, Jesse Law Office, regarding the rate of pay that Berrien County Courts are paid for guardian-ad-litem, attorneys for mentally ill, guardian-ad-litem and related service by attorneys, dated December 27, 2019.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST REPORT:**

Chairperson Elliott spoke about the Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms which need to be turned in by next week to Corporate Counsel James McGovern or Annette Christie. Corporate Counsel McGovern explained the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form. 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):**

Darin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about the Road Department and Commissioners.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Chairperson Elliott stated Commissioner Chickering and Commissioner Scott requested Resolution #A2001135 be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion and to be presented separately.

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to pull Resolution #A2001135 from the Consent Calendar for further discussion and to present it separately, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2001014	Weekly Bills
B2001061	Weekly Requisitions
F2001108	Road Payables
A2001140	Approve Road Abandonment
F2001141	Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Chickering, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #A2001135 - Approve Refugee Placement

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Chickering, to approve Resolution #A2001135 - Approve Refugee Placement.

Commissioner Chickering and Commissioner Scott both supported the resolution. Commissioner Scott was concerned about the homeless too. Administrator William Wolf distributed additional information on Resolution #A2001135 and discussed the federal Executive Order 13888, involving the consent of local municipalities to welcome refugees to their communities. Discussion was held.

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):** None.

**PARENT COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

Commissioners' reports were waived until the next meeting.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:** None.

**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):**

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, spoke about increasing the number of night meetings.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about the Sheriff's Department being paid by Red Bud, but not by the PGA.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Administrator William Wolf announced the Brownfield Development Authority Board will meet at 1:30 P.M. today.

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- County Facilities will be closed on January 20, 2020 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- No Board of Commissioner meetings will be held on Thursday, January 30, 2020 (5th Thursday).

- A brief Committee on Committees meeting will be held after today's meeting.

Commissioner Freehling announced that today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 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 full board meeting on January 16, 2020.***