

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2020

Staff Present: Clerk Sharon Tyler
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator
William Wolf, County Administrator
Nicki Britten, Health Officer (via phone call in)
Braeden Wilson, Information Systems
Captain Rockey Adams (Arrived at 11:15 A.M.)

BOC Present: Chairman R. McKinley Elliott

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:37 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

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

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

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 19, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC meeting minutes of March 19, 2020.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners' Resolution supporting the passage of legislation to adopt 4-year terms for County Commissioners, received on March 24, 2020.
- Jon Cool, President of the Michigan Railroads Association regarding essential rail movements across Michigan and local orders, received on March 30, 2020.

HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE – Nicki Britten (via phone):

Health Department Director Nicki Britten, gave an update on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). She stated there are thirty-nine (39) cases confirmed and they know there are more cases that are not confirmed. The Berrien County COVID-19 Response Hotline is (800) 815-5485. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Heugel left the meeting at 11:01 A.M.

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 Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2004025	Weekly Bills
*B2004071	Weekly Requisitions
F2004216	Road Payables
C2003207	Appoint 911 Director
P2003211	Complement Change Health Department
P2004212	Approve amendment to the CPBC Agreement
B2004213	Approve extension to the Local State of Emergency
P2004214	Approve agreement with Fair Food Network
A2004215	Approve addition of Traffic Control Device
A2004217	Approve amended agreement for Drug Lab

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

*Commissioner Freehling abstained from Requisition #43081 – REV Excavating, LLC, due to possible conflict of interest.

PARENT COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

Finance Committee Chairperson Yarbrough gave the Parent Committee Report for the Finance Committee. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: None.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator William Wolf stated the County is open, but closed to public access. He discussed the Employee Log, which is a tracking report that is submitted every two weeks by the departments, using status categories on the employees during this time of the COVID-19.

The Board thanked the staff for the job they are doing.

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):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the Parks and Road Departments' employees.

David Yardley, St. Joseph City, thanked the Board for holding a virtual meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Chickering announced that he was not seeking re-election for County Commissioner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the EOC briefing at 1:00 P.M. and all municipalities briefing at 2:30 P.M. today.

Commissioner Curran spoke that Commissioners Harrison, Vollrath and himself attended the last EOC briefing and the meeting was very informative. He stated that Health Department Director Nicki Britten does an excellent job.

Commissioner Scott announced that Commissioners Curran, Freehling and himself will be attending a virtual broadband committee meeting at 2:00 P.M. today.

Chairperson Elliott stated a decision will be made on Tuesday, whether we will hold a BOC meeting on April 9, 2020. The Committee of the Whole meetings will be cancelled at this time until further notice. The Parent Committee meetings will be held as needed. The first night meeting to be held on May 7, 2020 at 1839 Courthouse may be cancelled. Chairperson Elliott stated the extension of local state of Emergency declaration COVID-19 (BC EO 2020-1) is until April 30, 2020.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

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

CLOSING PRAYER:

Commissioner Hinkelman gave the closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.