

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2020

Staff Present: County Clerk Sharon Tyler
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator
Brian Dissette, County Administrator
John Axe, Clark Hill PLC
Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin (Left at 10:57 A.M.)
Sheriff Paul Bailey (Left at 11:31 A.M.)
Treasurer Shelly Weich
Dan Fette, Community Development Director (via Zoom)
Braeden Wilson, Information Systems (via Zoom) (Left at 11:31 A.M.)

BOC Present: Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:34 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:

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

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 23, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of July 23, 2020.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received an email communication from Watervliet City Manager R. Tyler Dotson, regarding Resolution #F2008309, full faith and credit for the South Watervliet Drainage Project, received on August 5, 2020.

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:

Watervliet City Manager R. Tyler Dotson supports Resolution #F2008309 - Pledge full faith and credit of the South Watervliet Drain Project.

Commissioners Vollrath, Yarbrough and Hinkelman support Resolution #F2008309 - Pledge full faith and credit of the South Watervliet Drain Project.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott clarified to the Board that Resolution #B2008311 - Recognition of American Disabilities Act Anniversary is not on the Agenda or the Consent Calendar today.

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2008041	Weekly Bills
B2008086	Weekly Requisitions
F2008123	Road Payables
A2008308	Traffic Control Order – York Rd., Bertrand Township
F2008309	Pledge full faith and credit South Watervliet Drain Project
P2008317	Veterans Grant Application Letter of Intent

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

The Personnel and Human Services and Finance Committees presented their committee reports. Discussion was held.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Disette 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.

Julie Wuerfel, Royalton Township, is looking forward to serving on the County Board of Commissioners and will be on the virtual meetings.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, says good morning.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, announced that MDOT will be holding a virtual public meeting for the US-31 completion project in Berrien County at 3:00 P.M. today.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Sheriff Paul Bailey gave an update to the Board on fatal accidents in Berrien County, assisting Benton Harbor City Public Safety Director Dan McGinnis and the Sheriff's Office. Discussion was held.

Commissioner Curran spoke about the Board's association memberships and their benefits. He recommended Commissioners Vollrath, Freehling and himself to review the Board's association memberships. Consensus was made by the Board to review the Board's association memberships. Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioner Freehling to the National Association of Counties, Commissioner Vollrath to the Michigan Association of Counties and Commissioner Curran to the Michigan Township Association to review the association and membership benefits and give a report back to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Thursday, September 10, 2020 – originally scheduled for a night meeting – will be held at the regular time of 10:30 A.M. and will be held virtually at the Administration Center.
- Thursday, August 13, 2020, will be held at 10:30 A.M. and will be held virtually at the Administration Center.
- The Parent Committees will start being held virtually at the Administration Center on a rotation schedule.
- The Board will be holding a virtual regular meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

Commissioner Scott announced the following:

- Thursday, August 13, 2020, the Finance Committee meeting will be held virtually at 9:00 A.M. at the Administration Center.

Chairperson Elliott announced after the Closed Session the Board will reconvene to Open Session and then to adjourn the meeting.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” – Case 2013-0317.

2. MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” - Fredrick Granger, Jr. vs. Ionia County.

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 11:31 A.M., to consult with its attorney concerning the following:

1. MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” – Case 2013-0317.
2. MCL 15.268 (e) – “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with pending litigation” - Fredrick Granger, Jr. vs. Ionia County.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Chickering left the meeting at 12:20 P.M.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:44 P.M.

ENTERED BACK INTO REGULAR MEETING:

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Curran, to approve the final settlement discussed in Closed Session.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Clerk Tyler stated Closed Session minutes will not be approved until the Board resumes to a non-virtual regular Board meeting, so the minutes can be received in person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott re-announced the following:

- Thursday, September 10, 2020 – originally scheduled for a night meeting – will be held at the regular time of 10:30 A.M. and will be held virtually at the Administration Center.
- Thursday, August 13, 2020, will be held at 10:30 A.M. and will be held virtually at the Administration Center.
- Thursday, August 13, 2020, the Finance Committee meeting will be held virtually at 9:00 A.M. at the Administration Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 P.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.