

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2020

Staff Present: Clerk Sharon Tyler
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator
Brian Dissette, County Administrator
Braeden Wilson, Information Systems

BOC Present: Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott (Left at 11:00 A.M.)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Don Meeks gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Ezra Scott 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 (Left at 10:55 A.M.), Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott (Left at 11:00 A.M.).

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of August 20, 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 the following communications:

- Leelanau County Board of Commissioners, a resolution to condemn racism in Leelanau County, received on August 22, 2020.
- J. B. Hoyt, Lincoln Charter Township, an email on the newly paved Napier Avenue between the river and Colfax, received on August 23, 2020.
- Five emails with the same communication from email address advocacy@bluestatedigital.com with different names and no addresses, regarding "Michiganians deserve a fair election in November and beyond," received on August 22 thru 25, 2020.
- Alcona County Board of Commissioners, the following two resolutions, received on August 24, 2020:
 1. Resolution in opposition of continuing Covid emergency executive orders from Lansing.

2. Resolution opposing executive directive 2020-9, protester violence, the false narrative of American being systemic racist and false history and support for local law enforcement unjustly portrayed.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the following Board appointments and re-appointments:

Recommendation by the Administration Committee for the following appointments to the Community Corrections Advisory Board:

- Appoint Mary Jo Schnell, Citizen position – term expiring 12/31/2021.
- Appoint Dan Unruh, Police Chief position – term expiring 12/31/2022.
- Appoint Paul Jancha, Jr., Criminal Defense Attorney position – term expiring 12/31/2022.
- Appoint Dr. Anne Cornell, Mental Health Services position – term expiring 12/31/2021.

Recommendation by the Finance Committee:

- Re-appoint James Roberts to the Trust Investment Advisory Committee – term expiring 6/7/2023.
- Re-appointments to the Land Preservation Board – all terms expiring 6/30/2023:
 - Re-appoint Edward Kretchman.
 - Re-appoint Dan Baiers.
 - Re-appoint Rod Krieger.

Board re-appointments by Chairperson Elliott:

- Re-appoint Commissioner Jon Hinkelman to the Land Preservation Board – term expiring 6/30/2023.
- Re-appoint Commissioner Don Meeks to the Land Bank Authority – term expiring 5/22/2024.
- Re-appoint Commissioner Ezra Scott to the Land Bank Authority – term expiring 5/22/2024.
- Re-appoint Commissioner Ezra Scott to the Pokagon New Buffalo Area LRSB – term expiring 7/31/2024. Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott will be the alternate.

Discussion was held.

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.

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: None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2008044	Weekly Bills
*B2008089	Weekly Requisitions
**A2008316	Approve agreement with CASA for child advocate services

*Commissioner Freehling abstained from requisitions #45201 – REV Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$10,000 and #45221 – REV Excavating, LLC, in the amount of \$8,500 on Resolution #B2008089, in abundance of caution.

**Commissioner Chickering abstained from Resolution #A2008316 - Agreement with CASA for child advocate services. His spouse is the President of the CASA Board of Directors.

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

The Finance and Administration Committees presented their Committee Report. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

Chairperson Elliott excused himself from the BOC meeting at 11:00 A.M. Vice Chairperson Scott chaired the meeting.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

The Board congratulated Clerk Tyler on her election to serve as the President of the Michigan Association of County Clerks for 2021.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette 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.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, commented that the roundabout on Crystal Avenue and Napier Avenue has begun.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie announced that Berrien County has received the "Best Campaign Growth" award for achieving outstanding results with your workplace campaign from the United Way of Southwest Michigan – 2019 Campaign. Vice Chairperson Scott thanked Annette Christie, who spearheaded the United Way of Southwest Michigan's 2019 Campaign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Vice Chairperson Scott announced the following:

- The Administration Committee will be meeting today at noon virtually.
- No meetings will be held on Thursday, September 3, 2020.
- Thursday, September 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting will be held virtually at 10:30 A.M. at the Administration Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.