

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2020**

**Staff Present:** Clerk Sharon Tyler  
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator  
Brian Dissette, County Administrator

**BOC Present:** None

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:07 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**A MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE:**

Chairperson Elliott requested a Moment of Remembrance of September 11, 2001.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Jim Curran 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of August 27, 2020.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received the following communications:

- Three emails with the same communication from email address [advocacy@bluestatedigital.com](mailto:advocacy@bluestatedigital.com) with different names and no addresses, regarding "Michiganians deserve a fair election in November and beyond," received on August 28th and 31st, and September 6, 2020.
- Dawn Marie Smith, St. Joseph, an email on Napier Avenue improvements are a welcome change for the community, received on September 1, 2020.
- Terri Rushlow, St Joseph, an email commending the Board on the new Napier Avenue design, received on September 1, 2020.
- Rachel Wade, Stevensville, an email praising the Board on the new Napier Avenue design, received on September 2, 2020.
- Isaac Jacobson, Lowell, MA, a sales email for coronavirus testing, received on September 3, 2020. Administrator Brian Dissette responded to the email on September 4, 2020.

- Michael Mahlon, Niles, an email regarding his neighbors in Niles, received on September 6, 2020. Administrator Brian Dissette responded to the email on September 8, 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:** None.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2009046	Weekly Bills
B2009091	Weekly Requisitions
F2009125	Road Payables
A2009321	Approve contract for Social Workers
A2009322	Accept grant for Social Workers

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S):**

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

**COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):**

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

**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, spoke about the Road Department on Facebook versus the County's website.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Curran discussed the replacement of Judge Scott Schofield as the Circuit Court Judge on the Community Corrections Advisory Board with Judge Jennifer Smith.

Motion: Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to replace Judge Scott Schofield as the Circuit Court Judge on the Community Corrections Advisory Board with Judge Jennifer Smith, term expiring 12/31/2022.

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

10 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran and Elliott.

1 NAY: Vollrath.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- 9-14-2020 FY2021 Budget Hearing – VIRTUAL – 8:30 A.M.
- 9-15-2020 FY2021 Budget Hearing – VIRTUAL – 8:30 A.M.
- 9-16-2020 FY2021 Budget Hearing – VIRTUAL – 8:30 A.M.
- 9-17-2020 Finance Committee Meeting – VIRTUAL – 9:00 A.M.
- 9-17-2020 Board of Commissioners Meeting – VIRTUAL – 10:30 A.M.
- 9-17-2020 Brownfield Authority Meeting – VIRTUAL – 1:30 P.M.

Commissioner Meeks asked for time for his wife Barbara Meeks to speak. Barbara Meeks, Benton Charter Township, spoke about her refund check for Benton Charter Township Recount for Township Clerk.

Commissioner Curran announced the Broadband meeting at 2:15 P.M. today.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 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 next BOC meeting.***