

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 17, 2020**

**Staff Present:** Clerk Sharon Tyler  
Treasurer Shelly Weich (Left at 11:26 A.M.)  
Brian Bailey, Parks and Recreation Director (Left the meeting at 10:54 A.M.)  
Nicki Britten, Health Department Director (via Zoom and left at 11:09 A.M.)  
Sheriff Paul Bailey (Arrived at 11:12 A.M.)  
Annette Christie, Executive Assistant to the Administrator  
Brian Dissette, County Administrator

**BOC Present:** Commissioner David Vollrath

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner David Vollrath 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, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Ezra Scott.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of September 10, 2020.

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

10 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

Commissioner Yarbrough was in attendance but had technical difficulty and was unable to hear and vote on the September 10<sup>th</sup> BOC minutes.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET HEARINGS HELD: SEPTEMBER 14, 2020, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 AND SEPTEMBER 16, 2020:**

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Budget Hearing meetings minutes held on September 14, 15 and 16, 2020.

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering and Elliott.

1 ABSTAIN: Majerek.

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received the following communications:

- Thirty-one form emails with the same communication from the 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 September 15, 2020 and one form email of the same information, received on September 16, 2020.

**PARKS UPDATE – Brian Bailey:**

Parks and Recreation Director Brian Bailey discussed the vandalism at Silver Beach Parks and the South Pier. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who owns the pier, has asked the County to paint over the graffiti. Discussion was held. Administrator Brian Dissette will coordinate with all parties involved to clean up the property and prosecute anyone who was involved with this vandalism.

**GENERAL UPDATE COVID-19 – Health Officer Nicki Britten:**

Health Department Director Nicki Britten gave a COVID–19 update presentation. Nicki Britten stated Berrien County is in Phase IV and she is not recommending at this time to restore the Emergency Declaration. Discussion was held.

**TAX FORECLOSURE DISCUSSION – Treasurer Shelly Weich:**

Treasurer Shelly Weich discussed the Tax Foreclosure sale that is being held online on September 26, 2020 from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Discussion was held.

**ROAD DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION – Jason Latham – Bridge Asset Management Plan:**

Jason Latham, Managing Director of the Road Department, had technical difficulty and was unable to join the meeting to discuss the Bridge Asset Management Plan. Administrator Brian Dissette spoke about how the Bridge Asset Management Plan presentation is connected with Resolution #A2009323 - Approve Bridge Asset Management Plan & Goal. 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 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 Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

| <u>Resolutions #</u> | <u>Description</u>                                |
|----------------------|---|
| P2009009             | Monthly Per Diems                                 |
| F2009047             | Weekly Bills                                      |
| *B2009092            | Weekly Requisitions                               |
| F2009126             | Road Payables                                     |
| A2009323             | Approve Bridge Asset Management Plan & Goal       |
| A2009325             | Approve grant acceptance for Emergency Management |
| P2009326             | Complement Change Road Department                 |

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

\*Commissioner Freehling announced she will be abstaining from requisitions #45508 and #45509 on Resolution #B2009092 - Weekly Requisitions, due to possible conflict of interest.

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

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S):**

The Personnel and Human Services Committee 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.**

An individual recommended there is a company in Stevensville who can clean up the pier.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Hinkelman apologized for not attending the Budget Hearings due to the harvest season. He may be missing other meetings in the future due to the harvest season.

Sheriff Paul Bailey updated the Board that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has hired a firm to clean the South Pier, so that the water is not contaminated. Discussion was held. Brian Dissette will coordinate the efforts to clean up and prosecute anyone who was involved with this vandalism.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- 9-17-2020 Brownfield Authority Meeting – VIRTUAL – 1:30 P.M.
- 9-24-2020 Finance Committee – VIRTUAL – 9:00 A.M.
- 9-24-2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – VIRTUAL – 10:30 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 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.***