

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020

Staff Present: Interim Corporate Counsel John Dewane (Left at 10:57 A.M.)
Clerk Sharon Tyler
Health Officer Nicki Britten (via Zoom and left at 10:45 A.M.)
Captain Rockey Adams (Arrived at 11:07 A.M.)
County Administrator Brian Dissette
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie

BOC Present: Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott
(In-person) Commissioner William Chickering
Commissioner Teri Freehling
Commissioner David Vollrath

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:33 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Dave Vollrath gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Chairperson Elliott 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, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Christopher Heugel (via Zoom in South Bend, IN), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Bainbridge Township, MI), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Niles City, MI), Don Meeks (via Zoom in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor City, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Jim Curran.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of October 8, 2020.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S): None.

COVID-19 UPDATE – Health Officer Nicki Britten:

Health Officer Nicki Britten gave a COVID-19 update to the Board. Discussion was held.

LEGISLATION UPDATE – Interim Corporate Counsel John Dewane:

Interim Corporate Counsel John Dewane discussed and gave the highlights of Senate Bill 1108. Governor Whitmer plans to sign the Senate Bill 1108 today and will possibly go into effect immediately. Senate Bill 1108 allows Boards to hold meetings remotely which is similar to the Executive Order. For each member of the Board attending the meeting remotely, there will be a public announcement at the outset of the meeting by that member, to be included in the minutes. The Board member must announce the municipality and state where they are attending the meeting remotely. John Dewane stated he does not see any geographic restrictions. All actions by the Board are retroactive to March 18, 2020. On and after January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, only special circumstances for the purpose of a Board member permitted to attend a meeting electronically, which is medical conditions, military duties, local state of emergency or state disaster declared. Discussion was held.

BOARD APPOINTMENT – Annette Christie:

Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie explained that the Committee on Committee recommends Debra Reaume as an alternate for the Department of Human Services Board with a term expiring on October 31, 2023. Discussion was held.

Motion: Commissioner Harrison moved and seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve Debra Reaume as an alternate for the Department of Human Services Board with a term expiring on October 31, 2023.

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

11 YEAS: 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:

Chairperson Elliott requested that Resolution #F2010369 - Approve updated easement for Road Department Property be moved from the Added Resolution to the Consent Calendar.

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to pull Resolution #F2010369 from the Added Resolution to the Consent Calendar and to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2010010	Monthly Per Diems.
F2010051	Weekly Bills.
B2010096	Weekly Requisitions.
F2010128	Road Payables.
P2010335	MI Public Health Institute Amendment.
P2010337	Area Agency on Aging Contract.
P2010341	LMC Affiliate Agreement.
P2010345	Children’s Trust Fund Grant.
P2010350	Aids Ministries / Aids Assistance of Northern Indiana Agreement.
A2010353	Approve MOU between Veterans Medical Center and Sheriff’s Office.
A2010358	Accept EMPG funding FY2020.
A2010359	Approve Applying for EMPG funding FY2021.
A2010360	Approve MOU Emergency Management.
A2010362	Drug Treatment Court Grant Award.
A2010363	Mental Health Court Grant Award.
A2010364	Swift & Sure Sanctions Grant Award.
F2010369	Approve updated easement for Road Department Property.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

Added Resolution #F2010369 - Approve updated easement for Road Department Property was moved to the Consent Calendar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Finance Committee presented their Committee Report. Parent Committee minutes are available at 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:

Eric Lester, St. Joseph Charter Township, asked who is responsible at Lakeland Hospital regarding Covid-19 and recommends that the Board continues virtual meetings after COVID-19.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, commented "hey there."

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, commented about a Resolution with the wrong address and that Annette Christie will make the correction to the resolution. Also, commented on roads and manholes.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- 10-22-2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – VIRTUAL – 10:30 A.M.
- 10-29-2020 5th Thursday – No BOC meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.