

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 22, 2020**

**Staff Present:** Caitlin Sampsel (via Zoom – left at 10:46 A.M.)  
911 Advisory Board Member Jack Fisher (via Zoom – left at 10:46 A.M.)  
Melissa Hensley, Dispatch Center (via Zoom – left at 10:46 A.M.)  
Sarah Blurton, Dispatch Center (via Zoom – left at 10:46 A.M.)  
Undersheriff Chuck Heit (via Zoom)  
Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin (Left at 11:04 A.M.)  
Equalization Director Warren Parrish (Left at 11:28 A.M.)  
County Administrator Brian Dissette  
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie  
Don Meyer, Information Systems  
Clerk Sharon Tyler

**BOC Present:** Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott  
(In-person)

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

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:35 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 Michael Majerek 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 (via Zoom in St. Joseph, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom Sanibel, FL), Teri Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda, MI), Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Christopher Heugel (via Zoom in South Bend, IN), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Niles, MI), Don Meeks (via Zoom in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath (via Zoom in Coloma, MI), Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Jon Hinkelman.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of October 15, 2020.

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:

- A form letter email from the email address [advocacy@bluestatedigital.com](mailto:advocacy@bluestatedigital.com) with a name and no address, regarding "Michiganians deserve a fair election in November and beyond," received on October 21, 2020.
- Iosco County Board of Commissioners, a resolution recommending the impeachment of Governor Whitmer, received on October 21, 2020.

**911 TELECOMMUNICATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD – Caitlin Sampsell:**

911 Administrator Caitlin Sampsell and 911 Advisory Board Member Jack Fisher presented the 911 Telecommunicator of the Year Awards to Melissa Hensley and Sarah Blurton.

Commissioner Scott recommended when the Board resumes to a regular meeting, to dedicate time to go back and acknowledge the awards that were presented during COVID-19 pandemic.

**SB321 – Chuck Heit:**

Undersheriff Chuck Heit spoke about SB321, that amends the Michigan Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Act to include on the memorial the names of all of the following: each law enforcement officer and reserve law enforcement officer from Michigan who died in the line of duty; and each individual from Michigan who qualifies as an officer who died in the line of duty for purposes of inclusion on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The Senate Bill was sponsored by Senator Kim LaSata. Discussion was held.

**DRAIN ROLLS PRESENTATION – Christopher Quattrin:**

Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin reviewed the 2020 Annual Drain Assessment Rolls. The Drain Special Assessment Rolls for the year 2020 were filed on September 30, 2020 in the Clerk's office. The total for the drain assessment is \$3,213,268.97 representing drain maintenance and drain projects. Discussion was held.

**EQUALIZATION APPORTIONMENT REPORT PRESENTATION – Warren Parrish:**

Equalization Director Warren Parrish gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Berrien County Apportionment Report and discussed the following:

- Report Objective.
- Interesting Fact.
- Report Updates.
- Statutory Responsibilities of the Board.
- Types of Rollback Fractions:
  - Headlee Rollback Fraction.
  - Truth in Taxation Rollback.
  - Unlike the Headlee Rollback.
  - Truth in Assessing.
  - Truth in Equalization.
- Breakdown of Taxing Authorities.
- Apportionment Report:
  - Mills Apportioned by the Board.
  - AdValorem Taxable Values.
  - Millage Rate Comparison Charts.
  - Township and City Details.
  - Recap Showing Overall Totals.
  - Michigan County Millage Rate Comparison.
  - Public Safety Millage Rate Comparison.
  - Dispatch Millage Rate Comparison.
  - Senior Millage Rate Comparison.
  - Parks Millage Rate Comparison.
- The November Ballot.

The numbers are likely to change after the November election. The report will be sent to the local Clerks and will be placed on the County's website. 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 Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2010052	Weekly Bills
B2010097	Weekly Requisitions
F2010349	Approve Drain Rolls
F2010356	Approve Apportionment for Equalization
P2010361	Renew Contract for ROD & Clerk
A2010367	Apply for federal funds (no cost to County) for trail project
F2010368	Road Department Budget Amendment

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.

**ADDED RESOLUTION(S):** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Finance Committee presented their Committee Report. 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:** None.

**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 counties receiving broadband grants.

Julie Pioch, MSU Extension District 13 Director, thanked the Board for holding virtual meetings.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

No Board of Commissioner meetings will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 – 5th Thursday.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 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.***