

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2020

Staff Present: County Administrator Brian Dissette
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie
Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger
Sheriff Paul Bailey
Parks Director Brian Bailey (arrived at 10:43 A.M.)
Financial Services Director Douglas James
Don Meyer, Information Systems
Attorney Andrew Brege (via Zoom)

BOC Present: None
(In-person)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Ezra Scott 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:

District 11 Commissioner Jim Curran gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

District 9 Commissioner Ezra Scott led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

The Vice-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 in Niles, MI), Teri Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda, MI), 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, 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).

1 ABSENT: Mac Elliott.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2020 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Meeks, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of November 5, 2020.

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

11 YEAS: Chickering, Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Scott. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger received the following communications:

- Email Notice received on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from the Board of Education of the St. Joseph Public Schools, that an emergency meeting was held on November 8, 2020 to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the District and possible alternate instruction.

- Email Notice received on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 from the Board of Education of the Buchanan Community Schools, that an emergency meeting was held on November 10, 2020 to discuss the rise in COVID-19 cases and quarantined students and staff in the district and how to proceed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Administration, the Personnel and Human Services, and the Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

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:

Vice-Chair Scott announced that Requisition F2011365 - Approve FY21 Budget be pulled from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented minus Resolution F2011365 - Approve FY21 Budget:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2011054	Weekly Bills
B2011099	Weekly Requisitions
F2011130	Road Payables
A2011371	Royalton Township Speed Study
A2011372	New Buffalo Township Speed Study
P2011374	CPBC Amendment
A2011378	Move positions from Prosecutor to Friend of the Court
A2011379	Approve amended fee schedule for Animal Control
P2011380	Accept additional Hazard Pay from State
P2011381	Authorize data share with Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
P2011382	Complement Change Health Department

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

11 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering and Scott. Motion carried, no nays.

<u>Resolution #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2011365	Approve FY21 Budget.

Discussion was held regarding F2011365 - Approve FY21 Budget.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve Resolution F2011365 - Approve FY21 Budget.

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

11 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran and Scott. Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S): Commissioner Reports were foregone and will be held next week.

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: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- November 19, 2020 – Finance Committee Virtual Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- November 19, 2020 – Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- November 26, 2020 – No Board meetings
- November 26-27, 2020 – County facilities closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

CLOSED SESSION:

CLOSED SESSION – Per MCL 15.268 (e): “To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy” – Abbott v. Berrien County of et. al. Case No. 1:19-cv-00969-HYJ-PJG, pending in the Western District of Michigan.

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to recess the regular meeting to go into closed session per MCL 15:268 (e).

Vice-Chair Scott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling and Scott. Motion carried, no nays.

Regular Meeting recessed at 11:38 A.M. A five minute break will be taken.

Regular meeting reconvened at 12:05 P.M.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to accept the recommendation of legal counsel Andrew Brege with regard to settlement of the Abbott v. Berrien County of et. al. matter.

Vice-Chair Scott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 YEAS: Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Chickering, Curran, Freehling Harrison and Scott. Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 P.M.

Ezra Scott, Vice-Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.