

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2020**

**Staff Present:** County Administrator Brian Dissette  
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie  
Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger  
Sheriff Paul Bailey  
Dr. Loren Hamel, M.D. President of Spectrum Health Lakeland (via Zoom, St. Joseph, MI) Departed meeting at 11:24 A.M.  
Nicki Britten, Berrien County Health Officer (via Zoom Benton Harbor MI) Departed meeting at 11:24 A.M.  
Warren Parrish, Director of Equalization  
Atty. James Straub, Berrien County Legal Counsel

**BOC Present:** Mac Elliott  
(In-person)

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

Chairperson Mac Elliott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:34 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

District 10 Commissioner and Board Chair Mac Elliott gave the invocation.

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

County Administrator Brian Dissette 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:

12 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 St. Joseph Township, MI), 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) and Mac Elliott.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2020 MEETING:**

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of November 12, 2020.

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger received the following communications:

- Email received on November 12, 2020 from David Allen regarding other sanctuary resolutions for your consideration.
- Email received on November 18, 2020 from J.B. Hoyt announcing his retirement from the County Planning Commission and County Parks Commission effective 12/31/2020.

**COVID-19 UPDATE- Spectrum Health Lakeland President Loren B. Hamel, M.D. and Berrien County Health Officer Nicki Britten:**

Dr. Hamel, M.D. and Health Officer Nicki Britten discussed the current COVID-19 trends in Berrien County and advised to keep washing your hands, wear a mask and social distancing to keep the numbers from growing.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Finance Committees presented their Committee Report. Parent Committee minutes are available at [www.berriencounty.org](http://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:**

Commissioner Chickering requested to pull Resolution P2011342 - Elected Official Salary FY2021-2022 from today's Consent Calendar for further discussion.

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve today's Consent Calendar minus Resolution P2011342 - Elected Official Salary FY2021-2022.

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2011011	Per Diems
F2011055	Weekly Bills
B2011100	Weekly Requisitions
P2011376	Spectrum Health Lakeland MOU
P2011383	Approve FOPLC Salary Schedule
A2011384	Accept Snowmobile Grant Funding
B2011386	Approve amended COVID Response Plan
F2011387	Amend Apportionment Report

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

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

Discussion was held on Resolution P2011342 - Elected Official Salary FY2021-2022.

Commissioner Chickering moved, seconded by Commissioner Majerek, to approve Resolution P2011342 - Elected Official Salary FY2021-2022.

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

10 YEAS: Harrison, Heugel, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough, Curran and Elliott.

2 NAYS: Freehling and Chickering.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Scott asked that the minutes reflect his statement that the Board of Commissioners can amend the budget to adjust the Elected Officials' salaries for FY2022.

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

Commissioner Yarbrough serves as the Board of Commissioners Chaplin and shared a verse from Galatians 5:22 in reflection of Thanksgiving next week.

**ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator's Report.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

Sheriff Bailey gave an update on the COVID-19 status at the jail.

**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:**

Board Appointments:

Commissioner Scott moved, seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the appointment of Daniel Stange to the Public Works Board to fill a vacancy with a term expiring December 31, 2021 and Lee VanGinhoven to the Planning Commission to fill a vacancy with a term expiring December 31, 2023.

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

- November 26, 2020 – No Board meetings.
- November 26-27, 2020 – County facilities closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- November 25, 2020 – Administration Committee will meet via ZOOM to review the 911 Tower Agreement.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Per MCL 15.268 (e): "To consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy" – Fowler vs. Berrien County – Attorney James Straub.

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to recess the regular meeting to go into closed session per MCL 15.268 (e), to consult with its attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy" – Fowler vs. Berrien County.

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

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

Regular Meeting recessed at 12:09 P.M.

Regular meeting reconvened at 12:20 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 P.M.

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Mac Elliott, Chairperson

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Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.***