

**BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2021**

**Staff Present:** Sheriff Paul Bailey  
County Administrator Brian Dissette  
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie  
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 10:34 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

**INVOCATION:**

Commissioner David Vollrath gave the invocation.

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

Commissioner Curran 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: Rayonte Bell (via Zoom in St. Joseph City, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom in Niles Charter Township, MI), Teri Freehling (via Zoom in Baroda, MI), Robert Harrison (via Zoom in Lincoln Charter Township, MI), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Watervliet, 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), Julie Wuerfel (via Zoom in Royalton Township, MI), Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in Benton Harbor, MI) and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

**COMMUNICATION(S):**

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communications:

- Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners, a pandemic resolution, received on January 21, 2021.
- Cheryl Marie, of the Lynch family, New Buffalo Township, an email regarding COVID-19 resolution dilemma solved, received on January 23, 2021.
- Dr. Desmond Murray, Berrien Springs, an email regarding an Andrews University virtual lecture event with speaker Dr. Corbett on "Safety & Effectiveness of COVID-19 MRNA Vaccines" on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 P.M., received on January 24, 2021.
- Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners, a pandemic resolution, received on January 25, 2021.
- Cheryl Marie, of the Lynch family, New Buffalo Township, an email regarding a resolution for your consideration on non-enforcement of MDHHS orders that fail to include the citizens' choice of utilizing natural measures that prevent and cure the COVID-19 virus, received on January 26, 2021.
- Jim Kriner, Three Oaks, an email in support of Cheryl Marie, of the Lynch family's resolution regarding the COVID-19 virus, received on January 26, 2021.

**APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2021 MEETING:**

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2021.

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

12 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Administration, Personnel & Human Services and Finance Committees:**

The Administration, Personnel & Human Services and Finance Committees presented their Committee Report. Discussion was held. 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 Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2101001	Monthly Per Diems
F2101016	Weekly Bills
B2101062	Weekly Requisitions
A2101146	Public Defender Office Lease Agreement
A2101161	Contract for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

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

12 YEAS: Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

**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:** None.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Yarbrough asked Administrator Dissette for a summary of the Governor’s State of the State address. He will send a summary to the Board.

Commissioner Majerek asked about home title thefts being stolen from the internet by forging names on deeds. Chairperson Elliott discussed the issue.

Commissioner Freehling will have more of an update on Berrien Bus next week.

Commissioner Scott thanked Sheriff Paul Bailey for attending the BOC meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:**

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Administration Committee meeting to be held at 12:30 P.M. today.
- Next BOC Meeting is next Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.
- Wednesday, February 3, 2021 a COVID-19 Briefing will be held at 11:00 A.M.
- Finance Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 A.M.

---

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

---

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

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