

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021

Staff Present: County Administrator, Brian Dissette
Executive Assistant to the Administrator, Annette Christie
Chief Deputy Clerk, Diane Mensinger
Equalization Director, Warren Parrish
Equalization Assistant Director, Katie Bauer

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Vice Chairperson Scott called the virtual regular meeting to order at 10:36 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 Scott led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

The Vice Chairperson instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

10 PRESENT:

Rayonte Bell (via Zoom in City of St. Joseph, MI), Jim Curran (via Zoom in Niles Charter Township, MI), Teri Sue Freehling (via Zoom in Stevensville, MI), Jon Hinkelman (via Zoom in Watervliet, MI), Michael Majerek (via Zoom in Chattanooga, TN), Don Meeks (via Zoom, in Benton Charter Township, MI), Ezra Scott (via Zoom in New Buffalo Township, MI), David Vollrath (via Zoom in Coloma Charter Township, MI), Julie Wuerfel (via Zoom in Royalton Township, MI), and Mamie Yarbrough (via Zoom in City of Benton Harbor, MI).

2 ABSENT: Robert Harrison and Mac Elliott.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE April 8, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Meeks moved, seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the BOC virtual meeting minutes of April 8, 2021.

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

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough and Bell. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

Chief Deputy Clerk Diane Mensinger received and distributed the following communications:

- Dr. Carla Jackson Johnson of South County Republicans – petition received by postal mail on April 12, 2021 – Petition urging the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to join with other counties in resisting current and possible unilateral orders given by Governor Whitmer and state agencies in response to the Coronavirus.
- Cheboygan County Board of Commissioners – email received April 13, 2021 with Resolution #2021-09 – Supporting Passage of Legislation to Adopt 4-Year Terms for County Commissioners.

PRESENTATIONS:

Dispatcher of the Year – Caitlin Sampsell, 911 Director and Jack Fisher, Chairperson of the 911 Advisory Board

- Jack Fisher presented the nominees for the Dispatcher of the Year Award. They are: Sarah Blurton (911 Center), Cassidie Pointer (911 Center), Tyler Prenkert (911 Center) and Earl Shaffer (Niles City Police Dept.).
- The 911 Dispatcher of the Year Award was awarded to Tyler Prenkert.

2021 Equalization Report – Warren Parrish, Equalization Director

- The main function of the Equalization Department is to assist the Board of Commissioners with the development of the Equalization Report (adopted in April each year) and the Apportionment Report (adopted in October of each year).
- Equalization Reports are used for:
 - The report is a compilation of the level of assessments for each class of property within each local unit of Government. If a level of assessment is not within 49 to 50 percent, the value of that class shall be accordingly adjusted to reach 50 percent.
 - The report shows the concluded values for each class of property by each Township, City and School District.
 - The values listed in this report are the basis for the coming year’s tax collection.
 - Local Townships, Cities and School Districts use the report to estimate tax revenues.
- Quick Stats from the 2021 Equalization Report are:
 - Real Property Values

CEV = \$9,929,120,811	3.29% increase from 2020
TV = \$7,958,418,915	3.13% increase from 2020
 - Personal Property Values

CEV = \$541,084,629	0.59% increase from 2020
TV = \$538,911,427	0.61% increase from 2020
 - All Properties

CEV = \$10,470,205,440	3.15% increase from 2020
TV = \$8,497,330,342	2.96% increase from 2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Administration and Personnel and Human Services Committees presented their report. 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:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Freehling, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
P2104004	Monthly Per Diems
F2104027	Weekly Bills
B2104074	Weekly Requisitions
F2104115	Road Payables
P2104194	United Way Grant Term Extension
A2104196	Agreement for Title IV-D Cooperative Grant Funds
A2104197	Agreement with MGT for FOC and Prosecutor Grant
A2104197	MIDC Grant Submission for Public Defender Office Operations
F2104207	2021 Equalization Report Approval

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

9 YEAS: Freehling, Hinkelman, Meeks, Vollrath, Wuerfel, Yarbrough, Bell, Curran, and Scott. Majerek had technical difficulties and did not vote. Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S): None.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S 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 – thanked Administrator Dissette for his hard work on behalf of the County.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS: All Meetings *Virtual*

- Broadband Task Force Meeting, today at 1:30 P.M.
- Land Preservation Meeting, Monday, April 19, 2021 at 2:00 P.M.
- Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 3:00 P.M.
- Finance Committee Meeting, Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.
- BOC Meeting next Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 10:30 A.M.
- Land Bank Meeting, Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 1:00 P.M.
- No BOC Meeting on April 29, 2021 - *5th Thursday

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M.

Ezra Scott, Vice Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.