

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

911 Director David Agens gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

County Highway Engineer Brian Berndt led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

ROLL CALL:

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

11 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Bill Chickering.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Curran moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 11, 2019 and the minutes of the Strategic Planning Session of April 11, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief Deputy Clerk Mensinger reported that the following communications were received via mail:

- St. Joseph City Commission, letter received April 11, 2019 - They have scheduled a public hearing for April 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing public comments on the proposed establishment of a Commercial Rehabilitation District pursuant to Public Act 210 of 2005, as amended.
- County of Antrim Board of Commissioners, resolution received April 15, 2019 – Resolution #17-2019 supporting the process of Legislators to revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003.

DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Jack Fisher, Chairperson of the 9-1-1 Advisory Committee, introduced the nominees for the Dispatcher of the Year Award: Christina Grabowski, Sarah Blurton, Serina Elder, Susan Gillespie, Kristina Burks, Amanda Kowalk, Cindy Napier, Christy Casto, Curtis Howard, Ryan Luckner, Doris Horton, Bobbie Evans and Nikki Metz.

Mr. Fisher presented the award to Nikki Metz from the Niles Police Department. Ms. Metz went above and beyond the call of duty to ID a felony counterfeiting suspect. This was a suspect in several Indiana cases as well as in Michigan. With her diligence and extra effort, the officers would not have been able to help the police department solve multiple felony counterfeiting cases.

PRESENTATION

Chairperson Elliott read Honorary Resolution #B19041984:

Honoring Brian Berndt

B19041984

April 18, 2019

***WHEREAS**, Brian Berndt was born in August 1954 and is a life-long resident of Berrien County; and*

***WHEREAS**, after earning college degrees in Civil Engineering and Business Administration in the great State of Michigan, he returned to Berrien County to put his talent and education to work right here; and*

***WHEREAS**, he began his career in public service in 1984 when he was hired as the Chief Engineer at the Berrien County Road Commission; and*

***WHEREAS**, Brian, now the County Highway Engineer with the Berrien County Road Department has provided exemplary service to the citizens of Berrien County for 35 years; and*

***WHEREAS**, he has continuously set an example of excellence through dedication and commitment over the course of his employment; and*

***WHEREAS**, Brian will be missed as he moves on to the next chapter in the book of his life, retirement; and*

***WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners deems it appropriate to honor Brian Berndt for his many years of service to the citizens of Berrien County.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners thanks Brian Berndt for being a true asset to the citizens of Berrien County and wishes him a retirement filled with happiness and good health.*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Brian Berndt's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.*

Respectfully submitted,
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIOERS

Commissioner Harrison moved, seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve Honorary Resolution B19041984. Motion carried, no nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING RESOLUTIONS:

Public comments at this portion of the meeting must be related to resolutions listed on today’s agenda only. Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – commented on Resolution F1904114 - Approve Road Payables and the purchase of an asphalt roller.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – commented on Resolution F1904216 – Approve Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund for 2018 Taxes and asked what this money is used for.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Heugel moved, seconded by Commissioner Majarek, to approve today’s Consent Calendar as presented.

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
P1904004	Weekly Per Diems
F1904026	Weekly Bills
B1904073	Approve Requisitions
F1904114	Approve Road Payables
F1904216	Approve Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund for 2018 Taxes

Chairperson Elliott instructed the Clerk to take roll call with the following results:

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

ADDED RESOLUTION:

<u>RESOLUTION #</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
B19041984	Honorary Resolution

See Presentation above.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Administration, Finance, and Personnel and Human Services presented their committee reports. Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Commissioners gave their outside committee reports.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Michael Hoyh, Berrien County Strong – shared upcoming events of the Benton Harbor Chapter to help clean up the city. Events include a city wide clean up on May 10th and 11th and a tire clean up on May 17th.

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township – attended the Area Agency on Aging Legislative Meeting and complimented Brian Berndt’s work over the years.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township – commented on the Health Department grant writing efforts and inquired what these grants are used for. He also inquired if Southwestern Michigan Planning Commission is a regional group or not.

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township – commented on Road Department expenses and inquired if coffee/beverage expenses were legal or not.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Freehling:

- Acknowledged that this is 9-1-1 Dispatchers Week and Animal Control Officers Week. She publically thanked both staffs for all of their hard work.
- Clarified that the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is a regional organization covering three counties.

Chairperson Elliott clarified that the Health Department depends on grants as their livelihood and for the enhancement of the lives of the people of Berrien County.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

- April 19, 2019 – County Facilities closed for the Spring Holiday.
- April 25, 2019 – Strategic Planning 12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Berrien County Administration Center.
- May 2, 2019 – Night Meeting 6:00 P.M. – St. Joseph/Lincoln Senior Center, 3271 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph.
- Land Bank, Brownfield Authority and EDC meetings scheduled for today have been cancelled.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on April 25, 2019.