

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Virtual Board Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021

Staff Present: Sheriff Paul Bailey
(In-person at Adm. Center) County Parks and Recreation Commission Director Jill Adams
Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper
County Administrator Brian Dissette
Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie
County Clerk Sharon Tyler

BOC Present: R. McKinley Elliott
(In-person at Adm. Center)

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) virtual regular meeting to order at 10:32 A.M. in the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Rayonte Bell gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner David Vollrath 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Don Meeks.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Majerek moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the BOC virtual regular meeting minutes of June 3, 2021.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board the following communication(s):

- Crawford County Board of Commissioners, a resolution supporting four-year terms for County Commissioners, received on June 3, 2021.

PARENT COMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. 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 YouTube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village. The public should refer to the resolution # that they are commenting on as a part of their comments: **None.**

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Scott, to pull Resolution #P2106241 - Health Department Position Creation from the Consent Calendar for further discussion and present it separately, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2106034	Weekly Bills
B2106081	Weekly Requisitions
F2106119	Road Payables
P2106237	Approve Contract with United Way for COVID Outreach
F2106238	Approve Contract for Strategic Planning Services
A2106239	Contract for New Buffalo Office Space for Sheriff
P2106242	Health Department Complement Change
P2106243	Accept Land Acquisition Grant for Madeline Bertrand County Park

County Parks and Recreation Commission Director Jill Adams reviewed Resolution #P2106243 - Accept Land Acquisition Grant for Madeline Bertrand County Park. Commissioner Yarbrough spoke about the park and embankment along the river. Discussion was held.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

Resolution #P2106241 - Health Department Position Creation

Commissioner Scott spoke about the new Community Health Worker union position and what happens if the grant ceases to exist. Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper and Commissioner Harrison responded to the comment.

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve Resolution #P2106241 - Health Department Position Creation.

Discussion was held.

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

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

Motion carried, no nays.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S): None.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Dissette gave his Administrator’s Report. Administrator Dissette discussed the Press Release on returning to in-person meetings. The BOC enacted a State of Emergency on March 25, 2021 for the purpose of allowing continued virtual meetings and to be compliant with the Open Meetings Act. In declaring the State of Emergency, all public bodies in Berrien County could maintain continuity of government. The State of Emergency is set to expire June 30, 2021. The BOC will return to in-person meetings effective Thursday, July 1, 2021, located at the Berrien County Administration Center. Until then, the BOC meetings will continue virtually with the Board participating in a virtual format and the public attending via the live stream on YouTube.

Administrator Dissette discussed Silver Beach had a swim advisory on Tuesday due to high levels of the bacteria E. coli in the water. On Wednesday, the Berrien County Health Department stated it was safe to swim at Silver Beach. Commissioner Scott asked why the E. coli levels were up. Administrator Dissette discussed the heavy rain and will have Jill Adams prepare for the Board reasons for the high levels.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – Those speaking through the YouTube chat during public comments shall identify themselves by name (including last name) and city, township, or village:

Adolf Pelzer, Hagar Township, commented about the Resolutions on the County’s website. Executive Assistant to the Administrator Annette Christie explained where they were located.

Donald Richardson, Royalton Township, commented about Health Officer/Director Nicole Britten’s headliner in the newspaper that the pandemic is not over and the reported COVID-19 numbers.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS – All meetings being held virtually:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- Personnel & Human Services Committee meeting will be held virtually at 8:00 A.M., Thursday, June 17, 2021.
- Administration Committee meeting will be held virtually at 9:00 A.M., Thursday, June 17, 2021.
- Board of Commissioners meeting will be held virtually at 10:30 A.M., Thursday, June 17, 2021.
- Brownfield Development Authority Board will meet today at 1:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.