

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) regular meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. in the BOC room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOE ZANGARO AND RON KIENZLE:

Commissioner David Vollrath spoke that it's the 5th year anniversary of the terrible tragedy that befell upon our courthouse on July 11, 2016 and a moment of silence was held in remembrance of Joe Zangaro and Ron Kienzle.

INVOCATION:

Commissioner Vollrath gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Friend of the Court Director Tom Watson 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, Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

0 ABSENT.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2021 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and supported by Commissioner Majerek, to approve the BOC regular meeting minutes of July 1, 2021. Motion carried and no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

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

- Better Business Bureau (BBB) Educational Foundation Director Troy Baker, serving Western Michigan, regarding partnering with BBB to protect our seniors, received on July 7, 2021.

SHERIFF'S PRESENTATION - Honors and Awards:

Sheriff Paul Bailey, Undersheriff Chuck Heit and Chief Deputy Robert Boyce gave a presentation. Chief Deputy Boyce sadly spoke about Dakota "Cody" Yergeau, who lost his life on the pier. The family members of Cody Yergeau (Jannette Yergeau, mother; Courtney Yergeau, sister; and Ashely Warren, sister) presented the Sheriff's Department with the AquaEye equipment. The AquaEye equipment is an underwater scanner to assist rescuers. Chief Deputy Boyce demonstrated the AquaEye equipment.

Sheriff Paul Bailey, Undersheriff Chuck Heit and Chief Deputy Robert Boyce honored the following civilians and officers with awards:

Richard Vanerman	Citizen Sheriff's Award for Excellence
Ashli McCarty	Citizen Lifesaving Award
Ricky Ferrell	Citizen Lifesaving Award
Deputy Michael Troup	Lifesaving Award
Deputy Jason Roe	Certificate of Commendation
Deputy Preston Huddleston	Certificate of Commendation

Captain Randy Miller
Deputy Brandon Crosby
Deputy Matthew Grimm
Deputy Benjamin Eberly
Deputy Robert Plane

Certificate of Commendation
Certificate of Commendation
Certificate of Commendation and the Meritorious Service Award
Certificate of Commendation and the Meritorious Service Award
Certificate of Commendation and the Meritorious Service Award

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:

Darren Schaer, Pipestone Township, asked about Resolution #F2107273 - Update ADM-6030 Purchasing Policy and why is it necessary.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to pull Honorary Resolutions #B2107256 and #B2107270 from the Consent Calendar and to be presented separately, and to add Resolution #A2107275 from Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar.

Discussion was held. Commissioner Yarbrough requested Resolution #P2107259 - Appoint Friend of the Court be pulled from the Consent Calendar and to be presented separately for further discussion.

Commissioner Curran amended his motion and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to pull Resolution #P2107259 and Honorary Resolutions #B2107256 and #B2107270 from the Consent Calendar and to be presented separately for further discussion, to add Resolution #A2107275 from Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar. Motion carried and no nays.

Commissioner Bell moved and supported by Commissioner Vollrath, to pull Resolution #P2107259 and Honorary Resolutions #B2107256 and #B2107270 from the Consent Calendar and to be presented separately for further discussion, to add Resolution #A2107275 from Added Resolution(s) to the Consent Calendar, and to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F2107038	Weekly Bills
B2107085	Weekly Requisition Approval
F2107121	Road Payables
A2107269	Approve Road Abandonment
F2107273	Update ADM-6030 Purchasing Policy
F2107274	Agreement with William & Works
P2107276	Contract with Nicki Britten
A2107275	Emergency Traffic Control Order

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.

Resolution #P2107259 - Appoint Friend of the Court:

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve Resolution #P2107259 - Appoint Friend of the Court.

Lisa Jardine introduced herself to the Board. Friend of the Court Director Tom Watson spoke about Lisa Jardine. Lisa Jardine would be the new Friend of the Court Director effective August 2, 2021.

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 and no nays.

Honorary Resolution #B2107256 :

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2107256:

WHEREAS, Thomas G. Watson, a lifelong Michigan resident, graduated from St. Joe High School, Lake Michigan College, and ultimately Michigan State University with a BA Degree in Business Administration, Accounting & Finance (GO GREEN); and

WHEREAS, following his college graduation in 1975, he returned to SW Michigan, putting his expertise to work in the financial institution industry where he remained for 28 years; and

WHEREAS, in March of 2000, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners passed Resolution #P0005090 which appointed Mr. Watson as the "Friend of the Court" ; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, the Friend of the Court office has implemented three new case management systems including a pilot of the MISCES system, was the first in Berrien County to transition the office's files to an electronic file management system, undergone significant reorganization and improvement; and

WHEREAS, through the efforts of Mr. Watson, the Friend of the Court and Berrien County Trial court have gained statewide recognition through his participation on the Michigan Friend of the Court Association Board as an Officer and longstanding Treasurer, as a leader and active participant on the Michigan Office of Child Supports' Performance Management Workgroup and as a mentor and respected leader to Court and County colleagues; and

WHEREAS, not just a resident, but community minded, he has been involved in the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Economic Club of SW Michigan, Lakeshore Youth Baseball/Softball Association and is a United Way of SW Michigan Leadership Donor; and

WHEREAS, the actions of Thomas G. Watson echo the mission of Berrien County by providing leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management and planning, thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners formally recognizes Thomas G. Watson for his 21 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Berrien County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Watson's life, actions, and contributions reflect most favorably upon himself, his family, the Friend of the Court office, the County of Berrien, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America.

Commissioner Hinkelman moved and supported by Commissioner Wuerfel, to approve Honorary Resolution #B2107256.

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

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

Motion carried and no nays.

Chairperson Elliott thanked Tom Watson for his 21 years of service to the citizens of Berrien County and presented him with a signed resolution. Tom Watson thanked the BOC. He introduced his family and spoke about when he became the Friend of the Court Director.

Honorary Resolution #B2107270:

Chairperson Elliott read the following Honorary Resolution #B2107270:

WHEREAS, Nicole Britten earned her Masters of Public Health degree from Yale University; and

WHEREAS, she had a concentration in Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases as well as research associate experience with the Yale Emerging Infections Program; and

WHEREAS, during the interview process with the Berrien County Health Department, she demonstrated an impressive scope of knowledge of infectious and chronic disease surveillance and commitment to the improvement of local public health; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, she was hired as the Epidemiologist for the Berrien County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, she went on to be promoted to Director of Community Health Planning, Deputy Health Officer, and ultimately the Health Officer, her current position; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Berrien County Health Department is to serve the residents of Berrien County by preventing disease, protecting health, and promoting an optimal quality of life for all and under Ms. Britten's leadership the Berrien County Health Department has done just that; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Britten is ending her employment with Berrien County on July 9, 2021 and it is appropriate to thank her for her time and talents to make Berrien County a better place to live, work, and play.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners thanks Nicki Britten for being a true asset to the citizens of Berrien County and wishes her much luck in her future endeavors.

Commissioner Harrison moved and supported by Commissioner Meeks, to approve Honorary Resolution #B2107270.

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

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

Motion carried and no nays.

Chairperson Elliott thanked Nicki Britten for her years of service to the Health Department and presented her with a signed resolution. Nicki Britten thanked the BOC and spoke about her time in the Health Department. Nicki Britten is ending her employment with Berrien County on July 9, 2021.

ADDED RESOLUTION(S):

The following resolution was moved to the Consent Calendar.

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
A2107275	Emergency Traffic Control Order

APPROVE 2021 BOARD MEETING CALENDAR:

Chairperson Elliott reviewed the Board Meeting Calendar for 2021. Chairperson Elliott stated we may cancel the September 2, 2021 meetings due to the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Commissioner Vollrath moved and supported by Commissioner Curran, to approve the 2021 Board Meeting Calendar. Motion carried and no nays.

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

The Personnel & Human Services, Administration and Finance Committees presented their Committee Reports. Discussion was held. Parent Committee minutes are available at www.berriencounty.org.

COMMISSIONER REPORT(S):

The Commissioners presented their outside Commissioners' Reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Brian Disette gave his Administrator's Report. He reviewed the next BOC meetings to be held on July 15, 2021. The meeting schedule is the following: Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting with presentation scheduled at 8:00 A.M. – shortened committee meetings, if needed 10:00 A.M., BOC meeting at 10:30 A.M.

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, spoke about picture day, gave advice on how the BOC should vote and is supportive of the BOC meetings being on YouTube.

Michael Hoyh, Benton Harbor City, spoke about Benton Harbor Strong Community Action Group. He spoke about remembering Joe Zangaro and Ron Kienzle.

Darrin Schaer, Pipestone Township, spoke about the Road Department and asked how are they going to maintain Park Road?

Tony Benhart, Sodus Township, spoke about the signs on I-94 regarding the detour and asked what will the State and County do to enforce truckers to travel the detour route?

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS:

Chairperson Elliott announced the following:

- July 15, 2021 – Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting with presentation scheduled at 8:00 A.M. – shortened committee meetings, if needed 10:00 A.M., BOC Meeting at 10:30 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next BOC meeting.