

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners  
Committee of the Whole Minutes  
February 21, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Elliott called the meeting to order at 8:37 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center in St. Joseph, Michigan.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

12 PRESENT: Bill Chickering, Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Bob Harrison, Chris Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Mike Majerek (arrived at 8:39 A.M.), Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

**REQUISITION REVIEW**

- Annette Christie presented the requisitions for the Board's review.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Drain Commissioner Chris Quattrin announced that his office received an Innovation and Excellence Award from the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners for work completed on the Lighthouse Drain Project.

**SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:**

Transforming Harbor Mobility – Rob Cleveland – Cornerstone Alliance presented a Power Point Presentation.

Project Details:

- Cornerstone Alliance has partnered with Berrien County Community Development and Abonmarche to identify key harbor destinations in need of infrastructure.
- Berrien County will apply for a DNR Waterways grant for infrastructure upgrades.
- Cornerstone Alliance will provide matching funds required for grant application (\$150,000 of approximate \$350,000 total).

Infrastructure Will Allow:

- Maximization of our greatest natural resource in order to improve mobility, placemaking, business growth and community health.
- New business opportunities that better move residents and tourists throughout St. Joseph and Benton Harbor by creating new attractions and amenities.
- A foundation that jump starts further development to other communities upriver.
- Creation of state-identified Water Trails.

Public Engagement and Support:

- The infrastructure meets all five of the Top Ideas identified by the public: Developments, Transportation, Connectivity, Environment and Government.

- Bike racks have been added at all sites to promote mulita-modal transportation options.

Site Locations:

- Inn at Harbor Shores.
- East Basin/Water Tower.
- St. Joseph Arboretum.
- Riverview Drive.

Next Steps:

- Berrien County (with Cornerstone Alliance and Abonmarche support) to apply for DNR Waterways grant to fund infrastructure.
- Indemnification agreements to be drafted.
- Grant must be submitted by 4/1/2019.

**OTHER BUSINES:**

Administrator Wolf:

- Reviewed the afternoon Orientation Tour and Strategic Planning Session and announced that there will not be a tour next week.
- Asked the Commissioners to let him know during committee meetings if they wish to purchase one of the used iPads from the county for \$100, otherwise the iPads will go to auction. He explained that all iPads going to auction will be wiped totally clean (no operating system). In reference to the Finance Committee minutes of February 14, and as Information Systems prepares to phase out the Commissioner iPads and replace them with Surface Pros, the Commissioners gave consensus to waive the County Policy and instruct Information Systems to remove everything from the iPads with the exception of the original operating system.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 9:04 A.M.

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R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

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Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

***Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on February 28, 2019.***