

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 10:30 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 take a roll call with the following results:

10 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Freehling, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Ezra Scott, Dave Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: William Chickering and Christopher Heugel.

INVOCATION:

Pastor Carl Pagel, Grace Lutheran Church (retired), gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

Commissioner Jon Hinkelman led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular minutes of February 14, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

COMMUNICATION(S):

County Clerk Sharon Tyler received and distributed to the Board a communication from Craig Knoche, Union Pier, regarding Kruger and Basswood Roads being ground up, received on February 16, 2019.

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 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): None.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to approve today's Consent Calendar as presented:

<u>Resolutions #</u>	<u>Description</u>
F1902019	Weekly Bills
B1902066	Approve Requisitions
B19021969	Honorary Resolution
P1902166	Kalamazoo County Household Hazardous Waste Agreement
F1902168	Transportation System

The Chair instructed the Clerk to call the roll resulting as follows:

10 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Hinkelman, Majerek, Meeks, Scott, Vollrath, Yarbrough and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

ADDED RESOLUTION: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Appointments:

Chairperson Elliott setup an Interview Committee consisting of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Chairperson of each Standing Committee, Administrator Wolf and Human Resources Director Shelley Jasper for the Information Systems Director position.

Chairperson Elliott appointed Commissioners Curran, Freehling and Harrison to the Berrien County Advisory Transportation Team (BCATT).

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):

Former Commissioner Willie Askew spoke about the experience he had shared with former Commissioner Kenneth Wendzel and congratulations for the day.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

DEDICATION CEREMONY & PRESENTATION:

Welcome:

Chairperson Elliott welcomed everyone in attendance today and acknowledged the following former Commissioners in the audience today:

- Debra Panozzo
- Gloria Gillespie
- Dick Bartz
- Bret Witkowski (current Treasurer)
- Reverend Willie Askew
- Rolland Oselka

Chairperson Elliott gave regrets from Honorable Paul Maloney, U.S. District Court Judge and M. Louise Stine, former Berrien County Clerk who were unable to attend today's presentation, who wished to extend their best wishes to Kenneth Wendzel.

Comments:

The following guest speakers talked about their experiences with Kenneth Wendzel and honored him with a debt of gratitude:

- Jon Hinkelman, Commissioner District #2
- Rolland Oselka, Former Berrien County Commissioner
- Forrest "Nick" Jewell, Former Berrien County Sheriff
- John M. Henry, Former Berrien County Administrator
- Honorable Dennis M. Wiley, Berrien County Trial Court Judge
 - Judge Wiley presented a plaque to honor Kenneth Wendzel from the Trial Court Judges and Administrators.
- Dan Carrick, District Representative for Senator LaSata
 - Dan Carrick presented a Special Tribute dedicated to Kenneth Wendzel from the State of Michigan and signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer, U.S. Congressman Fred Upton, State Senator Kim LaSata, State Representative Pauline Wendzel and State Representative Brad Paquette.
- Commissioner R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Presentation:

Commissioner Hinkelman read the following Honorary Resolution #B19021969:

*Honoring Kenneth L. Wendzel
B19021969
February 28, 2019*

WHEREAS, Berrien County Policy #ADM-1260 dated November 11, 2002, provides the purpose and procedure of honoring and recognizing distinguished servants of Berrien County; and

WHEREAS, *Kenneth L. Wendzel was nominated to be honored in this manner in recognition of his (30) thirty years of uninterrupted service as a Berrien County Commissioner, 20 of which were in the position of Finance Committee Chairman; and*

WHEREAS, *per Policy #ADM-1260, the Memorialization Advisory Committee met on February 14, 2019 to review the application and unanimously endorsed the recognition of Kenneth L. Wendzel.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED *that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, in honor of Mr. Kenneth Wendzel's years of distinguished service to Berrien County, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America, authorizes renaming Conference Room #4C at the Berrien County Administration Center the:*

Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED *that the official dedication of the room will take place on February 28, 2019.*

***Respectfully submitted,
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS***

Commissioner Hinkelman moved, seconded by Commissioner Yarbrough, to approve Honorary Resolution #B19021969. Motion carried, no nays.

Chairperson Elliott read the following plaque to be mounted outside the wall of the *Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room:*

Dedicated to the honor and legacy of Kenneth L. Wendzel who proudly, admirably, and faithfully served the citizens of Berrien County for 30 years as a Berrien County Commissioner.

He was a leader, innovator, visionary, humanitarian, and concerned public servant who gave freely of his time and talents for the betterment of Berrien County and its citizens.

Mr. Wendzel is credited with steering Berrien County's financial position into the strong, solid place that it is today. With foresight and authority, he instilled a sense of financial discipline into elected officials and department heads alike which ensured funding for the fundamental services that Berrien County provides its citizens.

His leadership and meticulous nature led to additional appointments on the Economic Development Board, the Loan Administration Board, and the Building Authority, of which he remains the Chairman. Mr. Wendzel believed deeply in the democratic principles upon which this Country was founded. His service reflects great credit upon himself, his family, Berrien County, the State of Michigan and the Nation.

*Kenneth L. Wendzel
Berrien County Commissioner
1969-1998
Finance Committee Chairman
1979-1998*

Kenneth Wendzel spoke and told the Commissioners, "don't buy anything you can't afford" and "ask yourselves, is it something you want, or is it something the county really needs?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Vollrath moved, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:31 A.M. Motion carried, no nays.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on March 7, 2019.