

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the meeting to order at 8:35 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:

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

1 ABSENT: Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Majerk moved, seconded by Commissioner Heugel, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 7, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

- Dan Fette, Community Development Director - Bonding issue for Paw Paw Water Treatment Plant
Director Fette discussed a new, proposed Public Works project at the Paw Paw Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project involves making \$800,000 repairs to the plant and refunding \$600,000 of existing debt. The total cost is expected to be \$1,475,000. The four communities that own the plant (the City of Coloma, Coloma Township, the City of Watervliet and Watervliet Township) have passed resolutions requesting that the Berrien County Board of Public Works undertake the project on their behalf and issue a bond to defray the project costs. The Finance Committee will consider a Resolution today directing the Board of Public Works to undertake the project. This Resolution is expected to be on next week's Board of Commissioners' consent calendar. In the coming weeks, the Board of Public Works will present a Bond Resolution to the Board of Commissioners authorizing the sale of a bond to pay for the project. Prior to the introduction of the Bond Resolution, the Berrien County Compliance Committee (comprised of Administrator Wolf, Finance Director Doug James, Treasurer Bret Witkowski, Community Development Director Fette) will convene to review the financial viability and legal compliance of the project, and make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners about whether to proceed with the bond sale.
- Jason Latham, Road Department Director – Announced awards received at the County

Road Association Conference last week:

Excellence in Collaboration (for work done during the spring flooding last year).

Excellence in Operations (for asset management program)

Excellence in Communication (for their Facebook Page, Twitter, etc.)

- Lynda Elie, Rendel Eli & Associates, PLC - Senior Center Audits

All seven (7) Senior Centers received a Clean Audit Opinion. Ms. Elie reported that her company had created a standardized chart of accounts for the centers to use; however; at the time of the audit, only one (1) center had implemented it.

The County had given the auditing firm 28 internal controls that should be implemented by the centers. Ms. Elie noted that the implementation of internal controls is not part of the audit process, but are addressed with the Centers' Directors and Boards.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 9:24 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Diane Mensinger, Chief Deputy Clerk

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