

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2019

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson Elliott called the regular meeting to order at 8:35 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, 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, Christopher Heugel, Jon Hinkelman, Michael Majerek, Don Meeks, Dave Vollrath, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

2 ABSENT: William Chickering and Ezra Scott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2019 MEETING:

Commissioner Freehling moved, seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the regular minutes of May 16, 2019. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW:

Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners' Bylaws, 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):

Eric Lester, St. Joseph Charter Township, spoke about public transportation. He gave the Board a handout.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

Resolution #F1905236:

Equalization Director Tony Meyaard discussed Resolution #F1905236 – Approve Millage Rates. Resolution #F1905236 will be on the Consent Calendar today. The Equalization Department has certified that the County millages to be levied on all taxable property in Berrien County have been reduced, if necessary, to comply with Article 9, Section 31 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, and to comply with MCL 211.24e, 211.34, 211.34d, 211.36, 211.37. The estimated County revenue based on the 2019 Taxable Value, after reduction of Renaissance Zone properties, totaling \$8,008,054,855, and using the following approved millage rates total:

- Estimated Revenues
 - General Operating 4.7723 mills X \$8,008,054,855 = \$38,216,840.18
 - 911 Service .4500 mill X \$8,008,054,855= \$3,603,624.68
 - Law Enforcement .3500 mill X \$8,008,054,855= \$2,802,819.20
 - Senior Citizens .3000 mill X \$8,008,054,855= \$2,402,416.46
 - Parks (PA 90) .1000 mill X \$8,008,054,855= \$800,805.49
- Total: \$47,826,506.01

Resolution #F1905236 is requesting the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to authorize the 2019 summer levy of: 4.7723 mills - General Operating. The 2019 winter levies of: .4500 mill - 911 Service; .3500 mill - Law Enforcement; .3000 mill - Senior Citizens; .1000 mill - Parks (PA 90). The authorized millages are reported on the attached Michigan Department of Treasury form 614, also called form L-4029: 2019 Tax Rate Request.

Discussion was held.

U.S. 31 Bypass Expansion Project:

Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin updated the Board on the U.S. 31 Bypass expansion project. Christopher Quattrin has been working with MDOT on the rerouting of the following five drains: Carmichael and Closson Drain, John Habberman/Smith and Sweedman Drain, George and Johnston Drain, and Wright and Woodley Drain. He stated it could possibly effect a sixth drain too. He stated the rerouting of the drains project will need to move quickly and there is some funding through MDOT. A retention pond will be needed for this project. Discussion was held.

Resolution #B1906237:

Chairperson Elliott discussed Resolution #B1906237- Approve Commissioner Objectives. The resolution was scheduled to be on the Agenda for June 6, 2019. After the discussion, the Board decided to table Resolution #B1906237 until holding a Committee of the Whole meeting to further discuss the resolution with the whole Board in attendance.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the full board meeting on June 13, 2019.