

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners' Room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, in St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

The Chairperson instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

7 PRESENT: Jim Curran, Teri Sue Freehling, Robert Harrison, Alex Ott, Sharon Tyler, David Vollrath, and R. McKinley Elliott.

5 ABSENT: Rayonte Bell, Jon Hinkelman, Chokwe Pitchford, Julie Wuerfel and Mamie Yarbrough.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2026, MEETING:

Commissioner Tyler moved and was seconded by Commissioner Harrison, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from February 19, 2026. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:

Executive Administrative Assistant 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, 3.9 B-C): None.

CLOSED SESSION – Closed Session - MCL 15.268(1)(h) "To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute", memo from Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth.

Chairperson Elliott stated that the COW will be going into Closed Session, the meeting will no longer be virtual and will adjourn after the Closed Session.

Motion

Commissioner Curran moved and supported by Commissioner Harrison, to recess the public meeting and go into Closed Session at 8:37 A.M., Per Closed Session - MCL 15.268(1)(h) "To consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute", memo from Counsel Thaddeus Hackworth.

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

7 YEAS: Curran, Freehling, Harrison, Ott, Tyler, Vollrath and Elliott.

Motion carried, no nays.

The Board recessed at 8:37 A.M. to go into Closed Session.

Chairperson Elliott reconvened to Open Session at 9:11 A.M.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE TWO CLOSED SESSION MEETINGS HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026, IN THE TWO CLOSED SESSIONS HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026 IN THE BOC MEETING.

Commissioner Ott moved and was seconded by Freehling, to approve the two closed session minutes of the February 12, 2026, for the two closed sessions held at the February 12, 2026, BOC meeting, with the changes suggested. Motion carried, no nays.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Stacy Loar-Porter, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.