

**Berrien County Board of Commissioners
Finance Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2026
Kenneth L. Wendzel Conference Room**

Finance Committee called to order at 9:28 a.m.

Commissioner Mamie L. Yarbrough-Chairperson
Commissioner Jon Hinkelman - Vice-Chair
Commissioner Rayonte Bell
Commissioner Teri Freehling

Attendance:

Present
Present
Present
Present

Others Present: Annette Christie, Brian Dissette, Shelly Weich, Dan Fette, Mac Elliott, and Stacy Loar-Porter.

The meeting was called to order at 9:19 a.m.

Administrator and Chair Q & A

The committee didn't have anything for the Administrator or the Chairman.

Dan Fette, Community Development Director

Dan reviewed the three resolutions that are coming to the committee from his department and answered any questions the committee had.

Committee Business

Minutes: Meeting minutes of December 18, 2025 meetings - Motion by Commissioner Hinkelman, supported by Commissioner Freehling, to approve minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Bid Results Reviewed:

BID #	DEPT	FOR	RESULTS	PROJECTED:
2025-059	BUILDING & GROUND	2100 Empire Building Fence replacement	Wolff's \$95,000 IBID \$147,850	\$50,000
Discussion was held regarding how much more the bids came in over the projected cost. The committee requests that the department come to the Finance Committee to talk about the bids. Annette is to reach out to Don Trail and have him come to review the project with the committee.				
2026-001	ROAD DEPT.	Royalton Twp. HMA	Rieth Riley \$309,072.24 Michigan Paving \$356,749.60 TBD Construction \$410,330 Kalin Construction \$448,642	\$350,000
2026-002	ROAD DEPT.	Royalton Twp. Ultra Thin	Rieth-Riley \$83,196.72 Michigan Paving \$98,663.02 TBD Construction	\$100,000

			\$122,272.20	
<p>Motion by: Commissioner Hinkelman Support by: Commissioner Freehling to refer the bids to the department with the approval to move forward with the lowest bidder. If they are an approved responsible bidder that meets specifications and requirements. In addition, they authorize the County Administrator to execute any subsequent contract associated with the bid and any contract modifications up to \$10,000. Communication from the Road Department must be submitted to the Finance Committee in the event that they want to move forward with a bidder that was not the lowest bidder to provide justification and obtain additional approval. Motion carried.</p>				

Contract Modification: NONE

Resolution(s): The following resolution was signed to move on to the full board:

F2601110 – Approve Harbor Shores Parcel 1 & 2 – Brownfield
F2601111 – Partial termination Brownfield Plan Harbor Shores
F2601118 – Set 2026 mileage and meal reimbursement rates
F2601119 – Acceptance of grant for CDBG Home Improvement Program
F2601126 – Deed work for foreclosed property

Waivers signed by Chairperson:

Waiver #	Vendor	Reason	Department	Budgeted Amount	Waiver Amount
2026-01-08-01	D & K Truck Co.	(4) Western Star 47X Single Axle Trucks	Road	667,500.00	667,500.00
2026-01-08-02	AIS Construction Equipment	Grader Repair	Road	13,057.00	13,057.00
2026-01-08-03	Immanual Lutheran Church	Early Voting Facility Rental	Clerk	13,400.00	13,400.00
2026-01-08-04	Berger Chevrolet	(3) 2026 Chevrolet Tahoes	Motorpool	230,000.00	170,787.00
2026-01-08-05	Berger Chevrolet	205 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 4WD Plow Truck	Motorpool	135,000.00	87,368.00
2026-01-08-06	Siemans Ford	(2) 2026 Ford F-150 XL	Motorpool	135,000.00	87,368.00
2026-01-08-07	Dinges Fire Company	(5) Hazmat Suits	Sheriff	21,530.00	18,500.00

Clerk Stacy Loar-Porter was on hand to provide additional information on Waiver #2026-01-08-03.
Treasurer Shelly Weich was available to provide additional information on Resolution #F2601126

Chairperson Mamie Yarbrough inquired about the per diem rates and asked for background on that for discussion at a future meeting.

Public Comments: None

Meeting Adjourned: 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Christie