

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016
5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, John Nugent called the special called meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Jimmy Parker, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Steve Sumner and Commissioner Doc Sumner.

A. ELECTION SUPERVISOR APPOINTMENT – Administration is requesting the appointment of a new Election Supervisor. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated that the Election Board had 17 applicants. Commissioner Steve Sumner added that out of those 17 applicants there was one application whose mother serves on the election board and three applicants who is related to someone on the Commission Board so we asked the question to County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, how we should proceed to have a majority vote. Her advice was if the name submitted as the final candidate is related to a Board Member then that board member should abstain from the vote that way there will still be a majority vote. The Board was in agreement. Brenda Ferrell read the recommendation from the Elections Board which consisted of Elliott Garner, Carla Parrish and Sandra Vaughn. The recommendation was to appoint Melanie Ray as the Election Supervisor. Brenda Ferrell distributed a copy of the recommendation from the Elections Board as well as Mrs. Ray’s resume. Commissioner Jimmy Parker abstained from the vote due to Melanie Ray being related. After review by the board, Commissioner Steve Sumner stated he supports the recommendation of the Election Board and made a motion to approve Melanie Ray as the Election Supervisor, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioners John Nugent, Doc Sumner, Robert Griner and Steve Sumner voted YES. Commissioner Jimmy Parker ABSTAINED. The motion carried.

Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that he would like to suggest having Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator, work with Elliott Garner on increases after 90 days and upon certification as there is a great deal of training involved in getting certified. The Board was in agreement.

B. Administration is requesting discussion on the CDBG Project, King Rd. and Benefield Ln. The total project cost is \$347,289.00. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, discussed several ways to reduce the per person cost. The most feasible way was for the Board to approve purchasing the pipe and completing all labor on the pipe, complete the fencing and rough grading of the road. This is an estimated \$58,000.00 in-kind contribution. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the proposal of \$6,357.17 cost per person which includes pipe and labor, fencing and rough grading of the road, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Chairman, John Nugent

Vice Chairman, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk