

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Jimmy Parker, called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskins, John Nugent and Kylon Fort.

Invocation: Commissioner Kylon Fort

Pledge: Commissioner Pixie Harrod

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the September 19, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes, September 19, 2025 Executive Session Minutes, September 30, 2025 9:0 am Public Hearing Minutes, September 30, 2025 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing Minutes, October 7, 2025 Regular Session Minutes, October 10, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes, October 10, 2025 Executive Session Minutes and the October 30, 2025 Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Cole Livingston Subdivision – Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Parker opened the floor for comments and stated that it appears we have a large crowd and ask that speakers would designate a spokesperson for or against the subdivision.

Mr. Danny Studstill spoke on behalf of Cole Livingston. He stated that Mr. Livingston has done everything according to the Berrien County Land Use Ordinance. Mr. Studstill stated that Mr. Parish Aikens with the Planning Commission made a disapproval and said he did not want more development. Mr. Studstill said he was not sure he made a roll call vote. Mr. Livingston provided his impact for the county. He has complied with the ordinance. We are requesting the board approve the subdivision.

Lisa Sumner – Is speaking on behalf of the community in the area against the subdivision. She gave the board information for them to review as she was speaking on highlights. She expressed her concern regarding the proposed vote. If approved, this action could set a precedent that opens the county up to developments that go against the original intent of our land use with potential long-term consequences. She is asking that the board uphold the Planning Commission's vote to deny this project.

John Beville – Mr. Beville stated he has an adjacent landowner. He wanted to know who requested the property be subdivided and who it was not posted. Mr. Beville stated he owned the property at the time and he did not request is to be subdivided.

Commissioner Gaskins asked how many houses would be on this section. The answer was six proposed houses on the 15 acres. Four were already approved on the other land. Teresa Willis, Planning Commission, stated you can have one house per two acres. Commissioner Gaskins confirmed if the subdivision is denied Mr. Livingston can still build the four houses on the one parcel. Danny Studstill stated that the Ad Valorem Tax would be approximately \$45,000.00 on the houses built. Teresa Willis stated the four front lots were already there, he just changed the lines but it was purchased in four lots.

Della Gladieux – Provided the board with a petition against the subdivision. She spoke about per capita costs. She stated she turned in a complaint and never heard anything back. She turned in the complaint in person during the public hearing and demanded a response in three days.

Chairman Parker called for a show of hands against the subdivision. There were 15 against it. Chairman Parker called for a show of hands for the subdivision. There was one.

With no other comments, Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move out of public hearing and into regular session at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUEST:

John Quarterman – Cat Creek Plan – He has concerns with something getting into Cat Creek, Beaverdam Creek and the Withlacoochee River. He stated that they are building a Nine-Element Plan for Cat Creek. They are not asking for funding but would like the board to designate staff to attend the meetings.

Tammy Owens – Called and asked to be removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COLE LIVINGSTON SUBDIVISION – Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to deny the subdivision, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

B. EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE – ROAD – Administration received a request from Ben Warren to purchase maintenance items for stock from Yancey in the amount of \$1,085.20. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

C. TRAUMA GRANT – EMS – Administration received a request from Gerald Sumner to apply for the EMS Trauma Grant. The county will be awarded \$9,275.50. Gerald supplied a list of the items he would like to purchase. It is 100% reimbursable. The total of these items is \$9,289.19. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the grant and purchase the items, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

D. UNIFORM ACQUISITION – RECREATION – Administration received a request from Joe Barkman, Recreation Director, to purchase soccer all star uniforms. The cost is \$25.00 per jersey from Downtown Dogwood. This is the only quote provided.

E. 2025 LRA LMIG – ROAD – Administration received notification from Shon Hampton, Watkins & Associates, where the bids came in low for the 2025 LRA LMIG and we have a total of approximately \$255,048.57. Ben suggested Popular Springs Church Rd. which is approximately 900 feet with an approximate cost of \$40,000.00 and Mt. Pleasant Church Rd with an approximate cost of \$233,066.75. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins reminded the board that we agreed to apply what was left to N. Coffee Rd. He said he was in agreement to do Poplar Springs and Mt Pleasant Church Roads but would like to make sure we get N. Coffee on our 2026 LMIG. County Administrator stated we have a quote for N. Coffee and it is in excess of \$500,000.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to add the approximately 900 feet on Poplar Springs Church Rd and Mt. Pleasant Church Rd to the 2025 LRA LMIG, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

F. RESOLUTION – COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENTS – Administration received a request from Marc Mathis stating ISO is requesting a Resolution specifically stating the Berrien County Fire Departments serve the unincorporated areas of Berrien County. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

G. SOLID WASTE LICENSE – 2026 – Administration received 2026 Solid Waste License renewals from Greenway Services, Inc., Advanced Disposal / Waste Management, JBS United Disposal, LLC, Golden Environmental and Rest EZ Country Waste Disposal. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

H. ROAD NAME CORRECTION – AULIE VICKERS RD. TO AULY VICKERS RD. – Administration received a request from Monty Vickers who stated that a road name was misspelled and has been for many years. Aulie Vickers Road should be Auly Vickers Road. The family who the road was named after is requesting it be changed. Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to approve the correction of the spelling, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

I. BOARD APPOINTMENTS – DFACS -Administration received a request from Mendi Johns, Berrien County DFCS Director, for appointments to the DFCS board. Mr. Myron Harper's term expired and is willing to serve another term. The DFCS Board is recommending a reappointment through June 30, 2030. There is another vacancy which would fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2028. The DFCS Board is recommending Deborah Fortune. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the appointments as presented, seconded by Commissioner Kylon Fort. The motion carried unanimously.

J. RATIFICATION ITEMS - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Yancy Brothers – Road	\$1,354.00
Bush Whacker – Road	\$1,351.16
Reynolds-Warren – Road	\$1,927.62
Kingline - Road \$1,	\$1,025.86
Winsupply - Road	\$6,508.00
Cherokee Culvert – Road	\$6,871.23
Yancey Brothers – Road	\$4,400.00
Days Transmission – Road	\$1,400.00
Microgenics Corporation/Thermo Fisher – Drug Court	\$8,538.73
Microgenics Corporation/Thermo Fisher – Drug Court \$	\$346.50

Commissioner Kylon Fort made a motion to ratify the items presented, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Marc Mathis – ISO will be here tomorrow to do inspections.

COMMISSIONERS ITEMS:

Jimmy Parker –

- The Hog Show is coming up. He asked for the \$50.00 donation from each commissioner. This is a personal donation and not county funds.

Kylon Fort –

- It sounds like we may need to update our codes. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog stated they are very old and could use updating. There are some funding options available and we can look at those. Commissioner Gaskins stated SGRC could possibly help.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- Updated the board on home delivered meals for the senior center with a cost increase to \$6.02 per meal. There were other options discussed and administration will continue to look for solutions more feasible.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

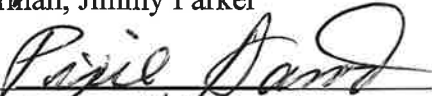
James Watson – Stated he went through the EMT class that Berrien County held. He said that we would like to work some hours in Berrien County to help out but is being told he can't. Gerald Sumner explained that there are some labor laws that affect it because of him being on the volunteer fire department. The board assured him we will look into it and get back with him.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Chairman, Jimmy Parker




Commissioner, Pixie Harrod



Commissioner, Kylon Fort



Commissioner, John Nugent



Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

ATTEST: 

County Clerk