

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 3, 2024

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in an Organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by County Clerk Tammy Bowers at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: Commissioners Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke

The invocation was given by Commissioner Roelofs followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Election of Chair:

Commissioner Warsecke nominates Commissioner Roelofs.

Commissioner Sauer nominates Commissioner Jeannot.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to close nominations for Chair. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeannot and Roelofs advocated for themselves.

Secret Ballot Vote: Commissioner Roelofs received 4 votes.

Commissioner Jeannot received 3 votes.

Commissioner Roelofs was elected Board of Commissioners Chair and took over conducting the remainder of the meeting.

Election of Vice Chair:

Commissioner Jeannot nominates Commissioner Sauer.

Commissioner Nye nominates Commissioner Markey.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to close nominations for Vice Chair. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

VOTE: Commissioner Markey received 5 votes.

Commissioner Sauer received 2 votes.

Commissioner Markey was elected Board of Commissioners Vice Chair.

Agenda:

Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:09 a.m. Public Comment – None

Meeting Dates and Times:

Commissioner Warsecke stated that the meetings for the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month work well. Since we do not have a Study Session on the 4th Tuesday of the month, he would like to see an evening regular meeting starting around 5:30 p.m., so the public has a better option to attend.

Commissioner Cunningham is in support of an evening meeting.

Commissioner Sauer commented on how it affects the staff in the County Administrator office and the County Clerks office, as it puts a burden on their office. We have tried evening meetings in the past and it was a flop and very few people attended.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 4

January 3, 2024

Walter Armstrong, District Court Magistrate, stated that it makes sense, but there is no easy solution. It does involve issues with the staff, but does that outweigh the public's ability to attend.

Paula Eberhart, Register of Deeds, stated that she feels the same way as Commissioner Sauer. We tried this in the past, not very many people showed up. The County Clerk and County Administrators office employees struggle now trying to make it work.

Commissioner Roelofs stated that six to seven years ago, when the public was upset with county government, we had many people attending the meetings. They chastised this board on how things were done. I think we have done a good job cleaning things up and we have shown the public that. He is not opposed to an evening meeting, but not in favor of them either. He will be here either way.

Katie Zeits stated that she would make it work, but she had left a previous employment because of night meetings, and it was taxing on her family. If we have a night meeting, please expect flexible work weeks, as I will not expect my staff to be here at 8:00 a.m. the next day if they are here until 8:00 p.m. the night before.

Commissioner Jeannot is not in support of evening meetings. We just stated we want to support the employees. Employees are telling us it could be somewhat of a burden. I want the employee here at 8:00 a.m. to service the public.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham to have meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The first meeting will remain at 9:00 a.m. start time, but the second meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. for a six-month trial period, then revisit. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Nye, and Warsecke
Nays: Jeannot, Markey, Roelofs, and Sauer Motion failed.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to remove the March 26, 2024, regular meeting date. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt the 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting dates and times as amended. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Board Rules:

Changes to be made:

Section:1.12 Meetings. Removing "Annual meeting will be held on the first meeting of the Fiscal Year in October".

Section 5.1 Order of Business. Changes made to the Board of Commissioners agenda layout.

Commissioner Jeannot suggests that the Commissioner Report agenda item be only at the second meeting of the month. He also suggests that the election of the Chair and Vice Chair be for a 2-year term instead of a 1-year term.

Katie stated that the resolution regarding election of the Chair and Vice Chair, previously passed would need to be rescinded and a new resolution adopted. Statutory you could not make this change until an odd year.

Policy on Compensation

Section 5. All per diem requests shall be submitted to Administration by the Wednesday before the next regularly scheduled Accounts Payable check run to avoid delay in payment. All per diems will be reviewed by a designated board member before processing.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 4

January 3, 2024

Board Practices

Section 10. Requests for per diem payments shall be submitted on a monthly basis.

Commissioner Sauer would like to add to the Board Rules, that a Commissioner having a concern about an employee's negative conduct needs to be addressed through the County Administrator and not by the Commissioners to the individual.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to add to the Board Rules, that a Commissioner having a concern about an employee's negative conduct needs to be addressed through the County Administrator and not by the Commissioners to the individual. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the 2024 Board Rules as amended. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Comment Statement:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt the Public Comment statement as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Committee Appointments:

Jon Throop, Conservation District, was present to request that the Board of Commissioners consider adding Benzie Watershed Coalition to their committee list.

Commissioner Cunningham questioned if Kinship Coalition should be added to the committee list. It was suggested that Benzie Chamber of Commerce, Benzie Central School Board, and Frankfort-Elberta School Board be removed from the committee list.

Commissioner Jeannot would suggest that the Frankfort County City Airport Authority representative be changed to a voting member and not a liaison.

Commissioners are to turn in their request for appointments to committees, to Katie, by the end of the week. Then they will be presented to the Chair and Vice Chair for assignment and brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, that Benzie Watershed Coalition be added to the committee list. That Benzie Chamber of Commerce, Benzie Central School Board, and Frankfort-Elberta School Board be removed from the committee list. And that the Frankfort County City Airport Authority representative be changed to a voting member and not a liaison. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Resolutions:

Depositories: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to adopt resolution 2024-001 Depositories as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACH: Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt resolution 2024-002 ACH (Automatic Clearing House) Electronic Transfer Transactions as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 4

January 3, 2024

Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

Fair Housing: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adopt resolution 2024-003 Fair Housing Resolution as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Nye suggested that Commissioners participate in Agenda Review and Accounts Payable Review on a rotating basis.

Commissioner Sauer stated that we have had a lot of interest income in the last few years, and we do not see any reports on it. It is very important that we know what we are making in interest. Also, for the Chair and Vice Chair, that they consider input from the Commissioners if they would like to have something put on the agenda.

Katie reminded the Commissioners that when they go to a meeting they need to stay for the whole meeting or a major portion of the meeting.

10:26 a.m. Public Comment – None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 10:27 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chairman

Tammy Bowers – Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. To close nominations for Chair.
2. To close nominations for Vice Chair.
3. To approve the agenda as presented.
4. To remove the March 26, 2024, regular meeting date.
5. To adopt the 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting dates and times as amended.
6. To add to the Board Rules, that a Commissioner having a concern about an employee's negative conduct needs to be addressed through the County Administrator and not by the Commissioners to the individual.
7. To approve the 2024 Board Rules as amended.
8. To adopt the Public Comment statement as presented.
9. That Benzie Watershed Coalition be added to the committee list. That Benzie Chamber of Commerce, Benzie Central School Board, and Frankfort-Elberta School Board be removed from the committee list. And that the Frankfort County City Airport Authority representative be changed to a voting member and not a liaison.
10. To adopt resolution 2024-001 Depositories as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
11. To adopt resolution 2024-002 ACH (Automatic Clearing House) Electronic Transfer Transactions as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
12. to adopt resolution 2024-003 Fair Housing Resolution as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.