

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 22, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, in the Frank Walterhouse Board of Commissioners Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Roelofs.

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner Roelofs and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amended, removing Action Item F - Headlee reset resolution. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the regular session minutes of August 8, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Comment

James Dulzo, Case Road, was here last time when you were talking about PACE Clean Energy. Really what PACE does is help property owners improve their buildings. Some wonder how does this work. The power of energy efficiency is what most of these programs do, by making the buildings in better shape and way more efficient.

9:06 a.m. Public Comment closed.

Cory Ellis, 911 Director provided a written report.

PUBLIC HEARING - COUNTY'S 23/24 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET:

9:06 a.m. Public Hearing Open

Josh Stolz, Executive Director of Grow Benzie, stated that in the last 15 years, we have grown to become a Community Development Organization. They are ~~re-formalization~~ reorganizing as a Rural Prosperity Incubator and the future looks good for not only our organization but the organizations we represent. As a Rural Prosperity Incubator, we are the backbone of the organization, by helping with early childcare, youth mental health, substance abuse, and education networks to name a few. Several organizations in this county rely on our backbone services. Do not have a request today but want to stay on your radar.

9:09 a.m. Public Hearing Closed

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve payment of the bills from August 8, 2023, through August 22, 2023, in the amount of \$602,088.76, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot
Motion carried.

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Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, stated that the Treasurer foreclosure sale is this Friday, there are 5 properties.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sabra Boyle, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and was present to answer any questions.

Chip Johnson, Executive Director for Centra Wellness was present and provided the Centra Wellness Network 2022 Annual Report and answered any questions.

Undersheriff Greg Hubers spoke regarding the Deputy Social Worker position.

Dan Thornell, Health Officer for Benzie Leelanau Health Department presented their 2022 Annual Report and answered any questions.

9:49 a.m. Presentation from Representative Betsy Coffia 103rd District:

Representative Coffia stated that she has been looking forward to coming in and speaking to you today. Spoke regarding the Septic Code, and thanked everyone for their services with local government, schooling busing, emergency tower funding, housing, childcare, and infrastructure dollars. She has a coffee hour on the second Monday of the month at the Red Door Café in Lake Ann.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:25 a.m. Reconvene

ACTION ITEMS

Consider approving the amended colocation agreement with Merit: Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, that the Amended Colocation Agreement between Merit Network, Inc. and Benzie County for the lease of space for fiber equipment and network access points for a five-year period, be approved, with Merit to pay Benzie County for the leased space according to the schedule outlines in the communications from the County Administrator dated August 17, 2023, and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign such agreement, with one automatic five-year renewal allowed as defined in the terms of Schedule 1 exhibit. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider approving the accretion of three positions into the POAM Corrections unit: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the accretion of the Jail Secretary, Detective Secretary, and Maintenance Coordinator positions into the Police Officers Association of Michigan Corrections Unit and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider approving services agreement extension with Benzie Senior Resources: Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to approve a three-year extension of the Services Agreement with Benzie Senior Resources to provide senior services to the community utilizing county millage dollars, subject to review by legal counsel and authorize the Chair to sign. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider approving Bomb Swatting Policy: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adopt the Bomb Swatting Policy and rescind all related policies. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

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Establish an Ad Hoc Interview Committee for DHHS Board: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to establish an ad hoc interview committee to make a recommendation for one term expiring October 31, 2026, on the DHHS Board, and that the Chair, Commissioner Sauer, Commissioner Jeannot, and an Administrator Designee be appointed to such committee. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider accepting the proposal from Motorola for the Emergency Communication Tower: Rebecca Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to waive the competitive bidding process and accept the proposal from Motorola Solutions dated August 14, 2023, for the installation of an emergency communications tower and the total project cost not to exceed \$2,650,000, with funds available in the capital projects fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider approving road maintenance agreements with Road Commission: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to authorize the Government Center Roads and the Jail Access Road Maintenance and the Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance Agreements, and agrees to the terms, with the Benzie County Road Commission, expiring September 30, 2028, subject to review by legal counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Authorize the County Administrator to balance the budget: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Nye, to authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfers between department and funds to balance the 2022/2023 budgets for all funds. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider renewing service contract with Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for animal control services: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to authorize the Professional Services Contract with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for animal control services in the total amount of \$300/quarter, expiring September 30, 2025, subject to review by legal counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Consider approving a Letter of Support for Grow Benzie: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Warsecke, to authorize a letter of commitment to Grow Benzie to support their mission as a Rural Prosperity Incubator, fostering projects and initiatives in Benzie County communities and authorizes the Chair to sign. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Village of Lake Ann meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Cunningham provided a written report.

Comm Nye attended the Village of Beulah, Benzonia Township meeting, Centra Wellness meeting, Benzie School Board meeting, and EDC meeting.

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Comm Markey attended the Centra Wellness Board meeting, Village of Honor meeting, and Benzie Senior Resources meeting.

Comm Warsecke provided a written report.

Comm Sauer provided a written report. He had received a call last week from Scott Harrison, stating Nate Loop resigned from the Maples, and Megan Garza is named interim Director for now. Attended the Village of Elberta meeting. Wanted to give recognition to Karen Korolenko and Friends of Benzie County Republican Party, they bought a pig and beef at the Manistee County Fair, and they are going to give it out to veterans in need.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

2023 Michigan Association County Conference is from October 1, 2023, through October 3, 2023 – Early Bird Special is before September 8, 2023. Rose is back and our office is fully staffed. Grand Traverse County has reached out to see if Benzie County wants to be part of an Opioid Task Force. Open Enrollment for benefits starts tomorrow. Has been speaking to Scott Clark, from Mercury to set up a meeting.

STUDY SESSION- None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS -None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Leelanau Health Department August 23, 2023, Agenda
- Charlevoix County Resolution
- Letter from Livingston County Board of Commissioners

11:10 a.m. Public Comment

Ryan King, Benzonia, gave a public comment regarding Benzie County school districts and Benzie County Sheriff's Department, and Cooley Law School.

Michelle Thompson commented regarding Representative Betsy Coffia and Transportation funding for rural communities.

Mike Ross, Benzonia Township, spoke regarding Action Item F – Headlee, hope it stays on the table as this county needs funding.

11:14 a.m. Public Comment Closed

Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to adjourn at 11:16 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

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2. Approve the regular session minutes of August 8, 2023, as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from August 8, 2023, through August 22, 2023, in the amount of \$602,088.76, as presented.
4. The Amended Colocation Agreement between Merit Network, Inc and Benzie County for lease of space for fiber equipment and network access points for a five year period, be approved, with Merit to pay Benzie County for the leased space according to the schedule outlines in the communications from the County Administrator dated August 17, 2023 and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign such agreement, with one automatic five-year renewal allowed as defined in the terms of Schedule 1 exhibit.
5. Approve the accretion of the Jail Secretary, Detective Secretary, and Maintenance Coordinator positions into the Police Officers Association of Michigan Corrections Unit and authorize the Chair to sign.
6. Approve a three-year extension of the Services Agreement with Benzie Senior Resources to provide senior services to the community utilizing county millage dollars, subject to review by legal counsel and authorize the Chair to sign.
7. Adopt the Bomb Swatting Policy and rescind all related policies.
8. Establish an ad hoc interview committee to make a recommendation for one term expiring October 31, 2026, on the DHHS Board, and that the Chair, Commissioner Sauer, Commissioner Jeannot, and an Administrator Designee be appointed to such committee.
9. Waive the competitive bidding process and accepts the proposal from Motorola Solutions dated August 14, 2023, for the installation of an emergency communications tower and the total project cost not to exceed \$2,650,000, with funds available in the capital projects fund.
10. Authorize the Government Center Roads and the Jail Access Road Maintenance and the Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance Agreements, and agree to the terms, with the Benzie County Road Commission, expiring September 30, 2028, subject to review by legal counsel.
11. Authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfer between department and funds to balance the 2022/2023 budgets for all funds.
12. Authorize the Professional Services Contract with the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for animal control services in the total amount of \$300/quarter, expiring September 30, 2025, subject to review by legal counsel.
13. Authorize a letter of commitment to Grow Benzie to support their mission as a Rural Prosperity Incubator, fostering projects and initiatives in Benzie County communities and authorizes the Chair to sign.

**Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
August 22, 2023**

- **8/10 – Platte Township**
 - Met with Paul Solem (Supervisor) and Alison Michalak (Clerk). Discussed the upcoming Iron Man competition, election day changes and community concerns regarding the management of the zoning and planning. At the community's request, a sound system has been installed at the meeting hall.
- **8/14 – Inland Township**
 - I made a brief presentation.
 - There was discussion about a blight issue. Commissioner Warsecke is working with the undersheriff for assistance.
 - Commissioner Warsecke will give a full report.
- **8/14 – Almira Township**
 - Several items under old and new business were discussed. There is a need to determine placement of absentee voter drop box and camera. The fee for copies under FOIA were increased. Potential buyer for township owned property at Mistwood Greens. A special meeting was set to discuss use of ARPA funds.
- **8/17 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
 - The "Early Head Start" program at Betsie Valley School has been re-located to Mesick schools. This was a result of Benzie Central Schools canceling or not renewing the contract. I will be working with the agency staff to identify a Benzie County location for school year 2024-2025.
 - Fundraising results has grown in the past 2 years after hiring a professional to manage this effort.
- **8/18 – EDC/BRA**
 - I will share any relevant information at our commissioner meeting.
- **8/21 – Northern MI County Association**
 - I will share any relevant information at our commissioner meeting.
- **Other –**
 - August 10th, met with Mitch Shapiro and Dan Barcheski by zoom to discuss an upcoming conversation with Eclipse and Cherry Capital.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
August 22, 2023

August 8 – Village of Beulah

- Cintas contract discussed; Board approved buying out the contract to remedy frustrating situation.
- Discussion regarding marking parking lot to maximize parking; may require power pole relocation and prudent to wait because of possible sewer line replacement.
- Audit deficiencies discussed and corrective action plan addressed.
- Amended budget per State requirements to be in compliance.
- Several entities were represented for a Non Point Source Grant walk about; effective event to highlight issues and concerns residents have regarding proposed efforts.

August 9 – Benzonia Township

- Board approved transfer of marijuana license from GLNR to OUI'D.
- H. Rose was approved as new candidate/addition to fire department.
- Superintendent reported there were 216 transfers of ownership this year in the township.

August 10 – Centra Wellness Board Retreat

- Mission/Vision/Value Statements reviewed as well as by-laws, strategic plan and goals.
- Red Book Overview – a compilation of court cases and historic events that tie back into the Mental Health Code and clarify relationship of entities.

August 14 – Benzie School Board

- Bus garage plans are moving forward; proposed square footage under sprinkling requirement. Plan includes three bays, one will allow for bus washing. Intent is to extend RFP in October with selection and approval in November.
- Negotiations for the sale of Crystal Lake Elementary are continuing.
- Verizon rep attended to answer questions regarding proposal to build a 300' high cell tower on 100' x 100' footprint on school property; rental and buyout options discussed.
- Homestead Hills Ribbon Cutting Ceremony August 30th at 4:30.
- First day of school September 5th.

August 18 – EDC

- Merit is underwriting a pilot program creating task force to build framework for digital equity piece of Robin and BEADS grants, Benzie is participating. This exercise will position Benzie at the forefront of the digital equity requirement.
- Tim Maylone provided an written update on the Benzie 'Internet For All' effort, this can be viewed in the EDC packet online; 785 households will be receiving postcards making them aware that fiber will be an option.
- True North Convenience Store in Honor has received permits to begin underground work. Meeting scheduled to establish timeline of project.
- Discussion regarding draft of Community Coordinator job description.



22 Aug 23 BoC

Commissioner Cunningham, District 3

kcunningham@benzieco.net

231.822.4067

Attended/Presented

- 9 Aug Point Betsie Light House Richard Taylor reviewed Shoreline project. Board discussed future events.
- 15 Aug Frankfort City Council, public comment, pickleball has raised 17,000+ to support the sport. Dos Arboles to have a pickleball fundraiser in September. Frankfort dog park will be privately funded. Glider rides have been very successful, to date 270 rides and will continue to offer rides on the weekend throughout the summer. Two Grove Street houses sold to local families/move in date September. Frankfort Land Grant Housing is one of three finalists for TC 100+ Women/ award 100+K. Chief Cederholm, Frankfort Fire Dept is writing a resolution for a firefighter cadet program, he will be approaching the school systems.
- Chris Spence, treasurer/clerk wrote, Protecting MI Pension Grant, the city was awarded \$254,953 from the Michigan State Treasury. The award will be applied to the police 02 division. She will coordinate with MERS regional manager for accurate figures for the 2024/25 budget year.
- 15 Aug Crystal Lake Twp, public comment citizen concerned about the growing "squatter" population in two areas near the airport. He was concerned about safety, theft and property value. He asked who is responsible to enforce safety, county/township? CLTwp meetings may be viewed through the website and will shortly have a YouTube channel.
- 16 Aug Human Services Collaboration Benzie, Sue Campana/Benzie Early Childhood Coordinator outlined position. The position is funded by a one year grant. First strengthen home base childcare in Leelanau/Benzie/Grand Traverse. Purpose to offer quality care and education. She will survey providers (9 home child care known in Benzie). Priority, to connect them, identify and support their needs, offer central communication, help them navigate CDC/state funding. Learned regular Head Start is cancelled in Benzie; reason the school needed the classroom. Childcare class being coordinated with schools, Katie Johnston, Childcare professional is certified to teach. A known need, support with emotional issues of children.

Community

- 10 Aug Invited to attend NW Michigan County Fair, manned booth with Grand Traverse.
- 15 Aug Animal Welfare Treasurer, Leslie, would like to serve on the upcoming Ad Hoc committee for EMS/Animal Services. She shared that she is new with Animal Welfare, they recently granted substantial funds to three, local animal support groups.
- 16 Aug Business Accelerator CANCELLED.
- 18 Aug Coffee with local farmer.
- 18Aug plan to attend The Maples Luau.
- 19 Aug plan to attend Frankfort Art Fair.

Report submitted 16 Aug 23

Tammy Bowers

From: Evan Warsecke
Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2023 3:19 PM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: district 6 report - E. Warsecke

08-09-2023 - Colfax Twp

The township along with neighbors are having issues with a home on S. Carmean Rd with blight and animal issues. I assisted the citizen with contacting animal control.

08-14-2023 - Inland Twp

Business as usual

08-17-2023 - Conservation District

Native seedling sale begins 08-17-23 - catalog available on line.
Received a Rotary grant for \$8,500
Currently working on their budget for the upcoming year.

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Tammy Bowers

From: Gary Sauer
Sent: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 2:48 PM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: Commissioner Report District 7

Gilmore Twp. 8-8-2023

Passed Article 9 of the zoning ordinance. Discussed power washing the stairs down to Lake Michigan at the end of Grace Road. They will accept credit card payments for taxes in the future.

Weldon Twp. 8-8-2023

Normal business

Road Commission 8-10-2023

Received grant from state for MERS put them in good shape. Matt Scheels to retire this week will distribute his job among other employees until a replacement is found. Discussed turning over the access to the new elementary school to the school to maintain. Would like input from commissioners on this because we were asked and gave money for this project. They also decided to order 3 trucks this year and next because of the increase in costs. Concerned about the the new emissions standards coming in 2025.

Village of Thompsonville 8-14-2023

Vacancy of village council because of a resignation, they are to reach out to a couple of people that applied the last time to maybe see if still interested.

Will report on any other meetings I have.

Gary Sauer
Commissioner District 7

Sent from my iPad