

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 9, 2024**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 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, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke

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

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of December 12, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Sauer, to approve the organizational minutes of January 3, 2024, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Comment

David Egeler introduced himself and announced that he will be running for Benzie County Probate Judge. He was born and raised in Benzie County. He plans on having a court that has resources, including sobriety court. He feels the resources are underused and they would benefit this county greatly.

9:06 a.m. Public Comment closed.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Sheriff Rosa would like to recognize today is National Law Enforcement Officers Appreciation Day.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, gave an update on the lower-level construction project, it is going well. Planning an Open House for the middle of February.

Bert Gale, Associated Government Services, provided the Benzie County Building Code and Safety Enforcement Quarterly Report for October, November, and December 2023.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Director, provided a written report.

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Nye, to approve payment of the bills from December 12, 2023, through January 9, 2024, in the amount of \$1,553,324.30, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that the Land Bank demolition occurred at two locations in the Village of Thompsonville, and working on a third building. Planning on renovating the home in the Village of Benzonia and working on funding for that. Auditing is going well and working to complete it for it to be presented in March. Announced that she is retiring February 29, 2024. She is looking for support for a transition period of 30 days to hire personnel to start training.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR APPROVAL**

The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with by one Commission motion without discussion. Any member of the Commission or staff may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed therefrom and placed elsewhere on the agenda for individual consideration by the Commission; and such requests will be respected. If an item is not removed from the consent calendar, the action noted in the minutes will approve the entire consent calendar.

Commissioner Nye removed item D of the Consent Calendar.

The following actions as recommended on the amended Consent Calendar portion of the agenda were approved:

- A. That the Board of Commissioners declare the Solid Waste and Recycling truck plow attachment as surplus and authorizes its sale, with funds to be deposited into the general fund.
- B. That Resolution 2024-004, declaring up to \$625,000 in Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds surplus for the lower-level expansion project, be adopted.
- C. To approve the corresponding Budget Amendments to recognize the extra expenditure for Workers Compensations in funds, 218 and 216 and to authorize the Administration office to complete the amendments.
- D. Removed from Consent Calendar
- E. That the Board of Commissioners authorizes the purchase of four iPad and related equipment from Grand Traverse Mobile Communications in the not to exceed amount of \$5,950, with funds available in the EMS/ALS fund.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve items on the Consent Calendar as amended, with the removal of Item D. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR**

Item D from the Consent Calendar was discussed.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, that the Board of Commissioners amends their July 26, 2022, motion to allow for flexibility in the allocation of funding for the broadband expansion initiative and authorizes Administration to agree to partnerships with agencies and organizations, within county policies, to maximize its approach in obtaining additional grant funding for broadband expansion and the implementation of a digital equity compass. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

9:30 a.m. Jon Throop presented the Conservation District Annual Report and was available to answer any questions.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

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### NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Change Order – Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project: Chuck Clarke was present to answer any questions. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Jeannot, to approve Change Order #5 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$89,300, and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$89,300 for the project to allow for reimbursement of revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County, be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.
- B. Approve addendum to construction contract to include Parole/Probation: Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes an addendum to the construction contract with Grand Traverse Construction to include the Parole and Probation Remodel, with funds available in the Capital Fund in the not to exceed amount of \$220,000. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.
- C. Consider approval of position reclassifications and related budget amendments for District Court: Jackie Palfey was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the wage increases for the above-listed positions and the County Administrator to complete the budget adjustment of \$23,420.23 from contingency to corresponding wage line with the wage increases to take effect on January 21, 2024, with no step increases to occur until the 24/25 fiscal year on each of the employee's anniversary. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Katie handed out an e-mail from Jackie Borozan who is helping us with the digital equity task force. Platte Township has provided the resolution in support of the Headlee reset. We have Platte Township, Crystal Lake Township, Inland Township, Benzonia Township and Lake Township's resolutions in support of Headlee reset.

Goal and Strategic Plan will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Will be looking at putting the Jail millage, EMS/ALS millage and Benzie Senior Resource millage on the 2024 Ballot.

Commissioner Nye reported that there will be a meeting tonight at the Mills Community House. It will be the Village of Beulah discussing their wastewater changes and application for funding. This is a time to ask questions. It will be at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

Commissioner Jeannot stated that Almira Township has approved ~~will be sending~~ a letter they are sending to Katie of support regarding for the Headlee reset.

### PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority November 2023 Income Statement
- Letter from Gilmore Township regarding Notice of Proposed Master Plan
- Letter from Networks Northwest regarding Almire Township Master Plan Update

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10:32 a.m. Public Comment

Jim Gribble and Heidi Bolger were present as they thought that the RAISE grant application for the Betsie Valley Trail was on the agenda.

10:38 a.m. Public Comment Closed.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 10:38 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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2. Approve the regular session minutes of December 12, 2023, as presented.
3. Approve the organizational minutes of January 3, 2024, as presented.
4. Approve payment of the bills from December 12, 2023, through January 9, 2024, in the amount of \$1,553,324.30, as presented.
5. Approve items on the Consent Calendar, with the removal of Item D.
6. The Board of Commissioners amends their July 26, 2022, motion to allow for flexibility in the allocation of funding for the broadband expansion initiative and authorizes Administration to agree to partnerships with agencies and organizations, within county policies, to maximize its approach in obtaining additional grant funding for broadband expansion and the implementation of a digital equity compass.
7. Approve Change Order #5 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$89,300, and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$89,300 for the project to allow for reimbursement of revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County, be approved.
8. Authorizes an addendum to the construction contract with Grand Traverse Construction to include the Parole and Probation Remodel, with funds available in the Capital Fund in the not to exceed amount of \$220,000.
9. Approve the wage increases for the above-listed positions and the County Administrator to complete the budget adjustment of \$23,420.23 from contingency to corresponding wage line with the wage increases to take effect on January 21, 2024, with no step increases to occur until the 24/25 fiscal year on each of the employee's anniversary.