

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 14, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 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, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Excused: Commissioner Markey

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

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of October 24, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the special session minutes of October 30, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Exc: Markey Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Comment - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from October 24, 2023, through November 14, 2023, in the amount of \$1,356,948.79, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey
Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer provided a written report. She stated that the Land Bank is looking at Round 3 funding, but it is restricted to only renovation or acquisition for the sale of low to moderate (<80%AMI) housing. If you know of anyone who has a project, please have them contact her. This money will have to be spent by March 31, 2024. She also attended the Housing Conference this week.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

ACTION ITEMS

Consider approving agreement with Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center: Carley Bailey, Director of Youth Services was present to answer any questions. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the agreement with Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center as presented and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 7

November 14, 2023

Consider accepting proposal for IT co-management services and consideration of the creation of an in-house IT coordinator position: Curtis Pennala and Matt L'Esperance with Karhu Cyber were present to answer any questions and provided a presentation. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to accept the proposal from Karhu Cyber for IT services in the annual amount of \$76,100, for a period of one-year with funds available in the General Technology Department and by grant funds and further, that the proposal for Interim IT services be accepted in the not to exceed amount of \$6,000 per month for a period of up to three months, with funds available in the General Fund Technology Department and that the related budget adjustments from contingency be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to authorize Administration to seek a contracted Information Technology Coordinator position, with the contract to come back before the Board of Commissioners for approval. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

10:05 a.m. Kristi Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, and Kelly Tomaszewski, Community President, from Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital (Munson Healthcare) were present and provided a presentation of the future changes with Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital. It was also stated that they are willing to start talks again regarding EMS Station 3, which is located on the property owned by the hospital.

10:40 a.m. Break

10:52 a.m. Reconvene

Consider approving the annual services agreement for MSU Extension services: Jennifer Berkey was present to answer any questions. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Agreement for Extension Services provided by MSU to Benzie County for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 in the amount of \$45,712, with funds available in the General Fund and authorizes the Board Chairman to sign the agreement. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Establish an Ad Hoc Interview Committee for Frankfort Airport Authority: Rose Roelofs was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to re-appoint Coury Carland to the Frankfort Airport Authority, with the term expiring December 31, 2027. With the understanding that the Memorandum of Understanding will be updated within the next 12 months. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Establish an Ad Hoc Interview Committee for Benzie-Leelanau Health Department: Rose Roelofs was present to answer any questions. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to re-appoint Dr. Mark Kuiper to the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department, with the term expiring December 31, 2025. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Establish an Ad Hoc Interview Committee for EDC/BRA: Rose Roelofs was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to re-appoint Betsy Evans to the EDC/BRA for a

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 7

November 14, 2023

six-year term expiring December 31, 2028. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeannot requested that the Board Chair have the EDC meet to clean up the by-laws and discuss recruitment for their committee.

Establish an Ad Hoc Interview Committee for Solid Waste Advisory Committee: Rose Roelofs was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to re-appoint Annie Browning to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2025, and establish an ad hoc interview committee to discuss the Solid Waste Advisory Committee vacant positions and that the Chair, Commissioner Warsecke, Commissioner Cunningham, Administrator Designee, and Jesse Zylstra, be appointed to such committee and set up interviews with other candidates. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving the purchase of three patrol vehicles for Road Deputy operations: Greg Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, that the 2017 and 2018 Chargers detailed in the memo from the Sheriff dated November 2, 2023, be declared surplus and authorize the sale on the MIBid Internet Auction system, with proceeds to be deposited into the 425-equipment replacement fund, patrol car expenses. And approve the purchase of three new patrol vehicles in the not to exceed amount of \$195,000, coming from the Capital Fund and the 425-patrol car expense. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving the purchase of one vehicle for drug enforcement operations: Greg Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the purchase of a new Drug Enforcement vehicle in the not to exceed amount of \$60,000, with \$30,000 coming from contingency in the TNT Officer Millage Fund and \$30,000 from Capital Improvements and approve all related budget amendments. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving remodel to the Mens' and Womens' bathrooms on the main floor: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer to approve the remodel of the main-floor Mens' and Womens' restrooms near Administration of the Governmental Center, in the not to exceed amount of \$25,000 with funds available in the Capital Fund and American Rescue Plan Fund and authorizes the Administrator to sign appropriate proposals. Westshore Plumbing and Heating is the winner of the bid and is awarded the contract. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Abstained: Nye Motion carried.

Consider accepting proposal from Western Detention regarding Jail Control Room Door: Greg Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to accept the proposals from Western Detention and Johnson Controls for the replacement of the deadlatch on the jail control room door in the jail, in the not to exceed amount of \$6,000, with funds available in the Capital Fund and the Jail Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving the purchase of a K9 animal for the Sheriff's Office: Greg Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to authorize the purchase of one police K9 dual purpose dog from Fresh Coast K9, LLC in the total amount of \$17,000, with

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 7

November 14, 2023

funds available from the K9 Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider authorizing a 2% grant application regarding Emergency Medical Dispatching: Cory Ellis was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Central Dispatch for Emergency Medical Dispatching and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving land use agreement with Crystal Mountain – small storage barn: Rebecca Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to authorize the land use agreement with Crystal Mountain for storage purposes, subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel, and authorize chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider accepting proposal for design and architectural for Parole/Probation expansion: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the proposal from Environment Architects for the Benzie County Parole/Probation Administrative Office Expansion, including construction management services in the not to exceed amount of \$36,925, with funds available in the Capital and ARPA funds. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider approving signage for Benzie County Government Center Campus: Rose Roelofs was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the quote from ProImage with funds available in the Capital Fund and American Rescue Plan fund and authorizes the Administration Office to sign the Lighted proposal for the Sheriff Department and the Non-Lighted proposal for all remaining signs. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Consider adopting a resolution to accept \$400,000 SPARKS Grant funding and terms for the Betsie Valley Trail paving Phase 1, and approving additional RAISE Grant for paving Betsie Valley Trail Phase 2 and 3: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the Resolution accepting Michigan Department of Natural Resources SPARK Grant Terms, Pro#ARPA-0997, Resolution 2023-014, authorizing the SPARK Grant Application for reimbursement funding for the paving of the Betsie Valley Trail from Beulah to Case Road and authorizes and further that Michigan State Spark Grant application and Federal RAISE Grant application, be approved for phases 2 and 3 of the paving project and that the Chair and County Administrator be authorized to sign the related site control and grant application documents. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the EMS/Animal Control Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Domestic Violence Task Force meeting, Headlee Reset Townhall meeting, Building and Grounds meeting, Agenda Review meeting, Veterans Day Ceremony, and Veterans Affairs meeting.

Comm Jeannot attended Lake Township meeting, MAC Finance and Governance Committee meeting, Platte Township meeting, Almira Township meeting, working with Housing North

COMMISSIONERS

Page 5 of 7

November 14, 2023

regarding housing needs in Benzie County, and met with Representative Coffia yesterday regarding House Bills that have gone through. A written report was provided.

Comm Cunningham attended the Airport Authority meeting, Lake Township meeting, MAC Environmental and Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting, and a Public Hearing in Frankfort regarding housing. A written report was provided.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review meeting, Benzie-Leelanau Health Department meeting, Headlee Reset Townhall meeting, Centra Wellness Executive Committee meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, Building and Grounds meeting, Benzonia Township meeting, Joint Court Public Defender Interviews, Centra Wellness Board meeting, Natural Rivers Zoning Appeals Board meeting, Benzie Central School Board meeting, and Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony. A written report was provided.

Comm Markey – excused

Comm Warsecke attended EMS/Animal Control Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Headlee Reset Townhall meeting, and Inland Township meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, Benzie County Road Commission meeting, Maples meeting, MAC Agricultural and Tourism meeting, Headlee Reset Townhall meeting, Workers Comp meeting, Blaine Township meeting, Buildings and Grounds meeting, Betsie Valley Trail Management Committee meeting, Joint Court Public Defender Interviews, Veterans Day Ceremony and Village of Thompsonville meeting. A written report was provided.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

The Headlee Reset Information has been placed on the website. Just a reminder that there are two Board of Commissioners meetings left for this year. If there is something you want on the agenda, please let me know. Broadband Digital Equity Taskforce has started to meet. Having conversation with Almira Township regarding EMS, more to come on that. Graze Fest is on December 8, 2023. Working on the County at a Glance informational sheet.

STUDY SESSION - None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Little Platte Lake Elevation Report
- Crystal Lake Elevation Report
- Benzie-Leelanau Health Department September 27, 2023, minutes
- Delta County Resolution #23-15 regarding opposing Solar and Wind Development
- Eaton County Resolution #23-10-118 opposing Solar and Wind Development

COMMISSIONERS

Page 6 of 7

November 14, 2023

- Livingston County Resolution #2023-10-185 opposing Solar and Wind Development
- Montcalm County Resolution 2023-12 opposing Solar and Wind Development

12:47 p.m. Public Comment

Tammy Bowers, County Clerk gave a report regarding the November 7, 2023, election and moving into 9-day early voting starting 2024. Election Source is coming in tomorrow to demonstrate the new tabulators.

12:50 p.m. Public Comment Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to adjourn at 12:50 p.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of October 24, 2023, as presented.
3. Approve the special session minutes of October 30, 2023, as presented.
4. Approve payment of the bills from October 24, 2023, through November 14, 2023, in the amount of \$1,356,948.79, as presented.
5. Approve the agreement with Ottawa County Juvenile Detention Center as presented and authorize the Chair to sign.
6. Accept the proposal from Karhu Cyber for IT services in the annual amount of \$76,100, for a period of one-year with funds available in the General Technology Department and by grant funds and further, that the proposal for Interim IT services be accepted in the not to exceed amount of \$6,000 per month for a period of up to three months, with funds available in the General Fund Technology Department and that the related budget adjustments from contingency be approved.
7. Authorize Administration to seek a contracted Information Technology Coordinator position, with the contract to come back before the Board of Commissioners for approval.
8. Approve the Agreement for Extension Services provided by MSU to Benzie County for the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 in the amount of \$45,712, with funds available in the General Fund and authorizes the Board Chairman to sign the agreement.
9. Re-appoint Coury Carland to the Frankfort Airport Authority, with the term expiring December 31, 2027. With the understanding that the Memorandum of Understanding will be updated within the next 12 months.
10. Re-appoint Dr. Mark Kuiper to the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department, with the term expiring December 31, 2025.
11. Re-appoint Betsy Evans to the EDC/BRA for a six-year term expiring December 31, 2028.
12. Re-appoint Annie Browning to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2025. And establish an ad hoc interview committee to discuss the Solid Waste Advisory Committee vacant positions and that the Chair, Commissioner

COMMISSIONERS

Page 7 of 7

November 14, 2023

Warsecke, Commissioner Cunningham, Administrator Designee, and Jesse Zylstra, be appointed to such committee and set up interviews with other candidates.

13. The 2017 and 2018 Chargers detailed in the memo from the Sheriff dated November 2, 2023, be declared surplus and authorize the sale on the MIBid Internet Auction system, with proceeds to be deposited into the 425-equipment replacement fund, patrol car expenses. And approve the purchase of three new patrol vehicles in the not to exceed amount of \$195,000, coming from the Capital Fund and the 425-patrol car expense.
14. Approve the purchase of a new Drug Enforcement vehicle in the not to exceed amount of \$60,000, with \$30,000 coming from contingency in the TNT Officer Millage Fund and \$30,000 from Capital Improvements and approve all related budget amendments.
15. Approve the remodel of the main-floor Mens' and Womens' restrooms near Administration of the Governmental Center, in the not to exceed amount of \$25,000 with funds available in the Capital Fund and American Rescue Plan Fund and authorizes the Administrator to sign appropriate proposals. Westshore Plumbing and Heating is the winner of the bid and is awarded the contract.
16. Accept the proposals from Western Detention and Johnson Controls for the replacement of the deadlatch on the jail control room door in the jail, in the not to exceed amount of \$6,000, with funds available in the Capital Fund and the Jail Fund.
17. Authorize the purchase of one police K9 dual purpose dog from Fresh Coast K9, LLC in the total amount of \$17,000, with funds available from the K9 Fund.
18. Approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Central Dispatch for Emergency Medical Dispatching and authorize the Chair to sign.
19. Authorize the land use agreement with Crystal Mountain for storage purposes, subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel and authorize chair to sign.
20. Accept the proposal from Environment Architects for the Benzie County Parole/Probation Administrative Office Expansion, including construction management services in the not to exceed amount of \$36,925, with funds available in the Capital and ARPA funds.
21. Approve the quote from ProImage with funds available in the Capital Fund and American Rescue Plan fund and authorizes the Administration Office to sign the Lighted proposal for the Sheriff Department and the Non-Lighted proposal for all remaining signs.
22. To adopt the Resolution accepting Michigan Department of Natural Resources SPARK Grant Terms, Pro#ARPA-0997, Resolution 2023-014, authorizing the SPARK Grant Application for reimbursement funding for the paving of the Betsie Valley Trail from Beulah to Case Road and authorizes and further that Michigan State Spark Grant application and Federal RAISE Grant application, be approved for phases 2 and 3 of the paving project and that the Chair and County Administrator be authorized to sign the related site control and grant application documents.

**Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
November 14, 2023**

- **11/2 – Lake Township**
 - Discussed the proposal regarding a Headlee reset. Several good questions were asked. Potential action at their December 7th meeting.
 - The Township continues to recruit a zoning ordinance enforcement officer.
- **11/3 – MI Association of Counties (Finance and Governance Committee)**
 - *Pending legislation regarding solar energy.* The language gives oversight of this ordinance to the State. Amendments that have been introduced would allow units of governments with ordinances in place to be the approving body---if they adhere to the State's ordinance. The effective date would be 1 year from the date the Governor signs the bill. I have contacted our elected officials stating my objection to this bill and its amendments (HB 5120-5123).
 - I have contacted our elected official stating my support for HB 4274 & 4275 regarding revenue sharing.
 - Apparently, there is a group organized under the name "First Amendment Auditors" that are contacting counties to determine their compliance to the constitution.
 - Anne Seurynck, President of the law firm Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith gave a presentation on FOIA. There was nothing new to learn from that presentation. However, it was a good refresher.
- **11/9 – Platte Township**
 - A modest turnout for the election. Approximately 50% of votes cast were mail in.
 - The next board meeting is in January and they plan to have the Headlee Reset resolution on the agenda at that time.
- **11/13 – Almira Township**
 - I will update you on any relevant information at our BOC meeting.
- **Other –**
 - I am working with Housing North to identify a resource that will focus on housing needs for Benzie and Leelanau Counties. I have also suggested that we discuss at a future BOC meeting the possibility of a tax abatement at the County level for developers of low to moderate income housing.
 - I had a few contacts regarding the Headlee Reset. Most were simply seeking additional information



14 Nov 23	Commissioner Cunningham
23 Oct	Benzie Chamber Advocacy Awareness. Updates from NMich Chamber, DTE, Charter Spectrum, Benzie Conservation District and more.
25 Oct	Benzie Human Services Collaborative. Combined agencies, (eg; Benzie Chamber, health services, housing agencies, childcare, kinship . . .), designing a New Benzie Resource Guide. Hunter from Crystal Community Ski Club, 501C3 introduced programs for youth, mission to remove barriers and instill lifelong appreciation for the out of doors, https://www.ccskiclub.org/ . Benzie/Manistee Kinship Care seeking to be included in an appropriate legislative caucus and has a printed flyer with QR code, contact debbiefribbie@gmail.com
26 Oct	Airport update, Dick Bayer, manager provided 23 airport improvements since 2017. Some of the significant changes were: received general license enabling them to apply for grants (3 grants totaling \$50,000), hangers are 100% leased (22 hangers, only four lessees are from outside of Benzie County), improved safety and efficiency of runway, fuel terminal and hangers. Economic impact to the county. 2016 community benefits was \$1,427,000.00 2019 community benefits was \$3,567,000.00 2020-2022 COVID 2022 community benefits were \$1,377,000 Overnight aircrews normally stay at local hotels, most frequent Baymont in Beulah.
30 Oct	Town Hall; Proposal A and Headlee. Main concerns: being educated of consequences of Headlee decisions and trust of elected officials to act in the interest of the public.
2 Nov	Lake Twp. Chris DeGood, concept plan for non-motorized boat launch, included accessible launch. Mark shared why accessibility was instituted/ "when young disabled veterans returned from tour they still wanted to be active. Discussion about Headlee Town Hall. Main concerns elected officials/commissioners supporting passed millages being spent as voted for, if and when that money is moved to the general fund.
Community	
20 Oct	Platte Lake (PLIA) Zoom
25 Oct	delivered Prop A/Headlee Guide to Lake and CLTwps., in preparation of the 30 Oct Town Hall, 5:30pm, county building.
26 Oct	County SWAT training
30 Oct	Senator Jon Bumstead, main topics of discussion: Karen/Vet Affairs, asked about vets affidavits and tax credit, stating it should not be delayed through MI Treasury, Sen Bumstead provided her with a contact for answers. Attended a special public hearing in Frankfort for final resolutions for: Residential Housing District and Attainable Housing District. Josh Mills/Frankfort Superintendent shared that on 2 Nov, Frankfort has a public hearing to discuss the creation of an Attainable Housing District. These districts allow the city to partner with the private sector for the creation of sustainable Workforce Housing.
6 Nov	Vet to Vet group
7 Nov	Attended Leelanau Solid Waste Committee.
9 Nov	Frankfort Business Incubator: information shared as needed.
Nov	Various meetings with constituents.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
November 14, 2023

October 25 – Benzie Leelanau District Health Dept.

- Entered into closed session to confer with health department legal counsel.
- Overall, the number of requests for land use services (including final inspections) during FY 2023 are up by 8.56% from FY 2022.
- Health Department will be changing their insurance agent from HUB to Advantage Benefits.
- Health Department will be closed December 1st for their annual staff day.

October 30 – Headlee Reset Townhall

- Attended by all commissioners. Many townships represented. Informational slide show presented with discussion afterward. Townships were given a draft resolution to consider. If a majority of townships support a vote on the Headlee Reset the BOC has committed to move forward with the effort.

October 31 – Centra Wellness Executive Committee

- A recipient rights issue was considered at length which culminated with a letter drafted to request more information.

November 6 – Village of Benzonia

- Revised Village of Benzonia Zoning Ordinance was adopted. The new zoning ordinances will be in an electronically tabbed format as required by Redevelopment Ready Community best practices.
- Spark grant was not awarded this round for the Academy Park Ice Rink.
- Garage project is almost complete which included larger door opening, roof, heater and insulation.

November 6 – Building & Grounds Committee

- Parking lot lighting, sidewalks and concrete upgrades discussed; likely delayed until Spring.
- Quotes for building signs along US 31 and campus wayfinding signs reviewed and recommendation made.
- Administrator provided copies of the Procedures to Implement the County Purchasing Policy. Agreed the policy needs to be reviewed and updated to insure process is defined and effective.

November 8 – Benzonia Township

- Supervisor acknowledged the passing of Trustee Jim Sheets with gratitude for his years of service.
- Vacant Trustee position must be filled within 45 days and any candidate must be 18 years of age, a US citizen and a township resident for 30 days.
- Assistant Zoning Administrator, Mary Pitcher, appointed as Township Blight Officer.
- Headlee Reset Resolution approved.

November 8 – Joint Court Public Defender Interviews

- Two qualified candidates interviewed in a round robin format.
- Jane Johnson selected with the overall sentiment that both candidates interviewed very well.

November 9 – Centra Wellness Board

- Reported that funding for CCBHC's (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic) has gone from 100 million to 380 million for 30+ sites in MI serving 6500 people; 70% of those being served were found to be at a level where they should have been served by CMH anyway.
- Our CMH serves 1400 people and 200 of those people are served by our OHH and BHH and benefit from other services i.e. Catholic Human Services.
- Report presented that shows recidivism in hospital is 20% better with BHH v. CCBHC.
- Presentation and discussion regarding Alternative Outpatient Treatment and criteria of court ordered treatment; supported by Michigan Compiled Laws PA 176 of 2023.

November 9 – Natural Rivers Zoning Appeals

- Noted that only 4/7 voting member present and applicants were not in attendance; all 4 members needed to agree for a motion to pass. If request considered and denied the applicants could come back at a later date but not with the same request. Decided to move forward with consideration.
- Request was for an 8' high, 100' long chain length fence to the river edge to prevent trespassing.
- Lengthy discussion of options and possible precedents. Seven standard review questions deliberated to guide decision and ultimately request was denied unanimously.

November 13 – Benzie Central School Board

- Bus garage bids will be opened November 30th.
- Fall 2023 General Collection Update – results of 'count day' show student count down considerably from last year.
- Crystal Lake Community Mentors are accepting volunteers to mentor students at Homestead Hills Elementary School.
- 2022/23 Audit Review presented by Julie Burks – Dennis, Gartland, Niergarth
 - Net position up 4.1 million
 - Significant finding that transactions had not been recorded because bank reconciliations were not done in a timely manner
 - Non-compliance for excess fund balance in food service; no penalty just action plan required to spend down fund
- Approval to List Crystal Lake Property was pulled from the agenda and Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center given two weeks to finalize agreement, once in place a 90 day inspection period will be agreed to. If this agreement does not culminate in a closed sale, property will be listed for sale.

Tammy Bowers

From: Gary Sauer
Sent: Wednesday, November 8, 2023 4:36 PM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: Commissioner Report District 7

O10-25 Health Department

Some members would like to peruse our own Health Officer, cost would be prohibitive. Looking at a re-write of current contract with HDNW to have more input on hiring of health officer. Stakeholders were asked to help with statewide septic ordinance, probably won't resurface till spring on state legislative docket. Board will peruse writing procedures for grants, ect. so board has more oversight on operations of Health Department.

10-26 Road Commission

Benzonia Township approached commission on paving of Cedar Street (855 ft.) Discussed issues and costs all would be township's expense and responsibility. Plan to proceed with engineering study to get a handle on these. Paved section of Reynolds's road by dollar general, reinstated safety committee at road commission, and fully staffed for winter.

10-26 Maples

Goal by board and management is to be profitable in 2024. Strides being made with that goal in mind. Asked about administrator, board will be workin on this at next meeting. Occupancy numbers are up at 75. 9 admits and 8 were from Benzie County. 6 new hires, working to reduce contract staffing all positive actions.

10-30 Mac Agricultural and Tourism

Larisa Draves spoke about the CVB. Public act 268 and Act 59, counties will collect tax (bed tax) on lodging owners, by a vote to help promote their product to tourists. We partnered with Traverse Tourism. MEDC has oversight and conducts audits. Discussed a tax levy to help offset Public Safety cost associated with the influx of tourists. Larisa was concerned it only affected a small group not all that target tourism. Short term rentals, restaurants, food trucks just to name a few.

10-30 Headlee Reset

Well attended good discussions from both sides. Currently in the township hands with the resolutions. Decision will be made from there.

11-1 Workers Comp

Benzie County received 64,107 and Benzie Bus got 28,710 in a dividend. I brought back the county's check. Discussed 1'st amendment auditors, would like to receive training for our employees to know how to react in these situations.

11-2 Blaine Township

Normal business.

11-6 Buildings and Grounds

Discussed probation and parole issue and recommended to proceed with remodeling of their area. Have a recommendation for signage for campus, both will be on the agenda for the 14. Discussed lighting of parking lot and possible fixes. Wishing to peruse policy changes on hiring of contractors for projects would like Input from all commissioner's.

11-7 BVTMC special meeting

Recommend proceeding with Spark grant. Also recommend applying for Raise grant. Will discuss with board. Looking into a MOU with friends group.

11-8 Chief Public Defender interviews

2 excellent candidates. Consensus was to offer to Jane Johnson.

Will discuss any other meeting's before our BOC meeting on the 14 th.
Gary Sauer District 7 commissioner.Sent from my iPad