

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 28, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 28, 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, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke
Excused: Commissioner Sauer

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the regular session minutes of November 14, 2023, as amended. Commissioner Nye requested that the motion regarding the remodeling of the Mens' and Womans' restrooms reflects that Westshore Plumbing and Heating was the winner of the bid and awarded the contract. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

9:07 a.m. Public Comment - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to approve payment of the bills from November 10, 2023, through November 17, 2023, in the amount of \$498,135.96, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Kyle Rosa stated that tomorrow night, at Papanos Pizza in Beulah, there will be a Toys for Tots drive. This will be held between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm. We are stuffing patrol cars, and all the donations will remain in Benzie County. He introduced Michael Hearn and Gary Miles, who will handle the duties of Bailiff, court security and building security. Along with Correction Officer Greg Johnson who started 3 weeks ago.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Director provided a written report. He stated that they have secured 6 snow removal contractors, and 100 people have signed up so far. Robert Manilla is the new board member. December 5, 2023, will be Community Outreach from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Auditors were there two weeks ago and should have a report from them in December.

Commissioner Nye stated that the Board of County Commissioners, want to recognize Katie Zeits for being named in the Record Eagle as one of the most influential women of 2023. We want to acknowledge, congratulate, and present her with a framed copy of the announcement for her office. Commissioner Roelofs stated that we want to thank you on behalf on all of us for your commitment to Benzie County and a job well done.

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ACTION ITEMS

Consider authorizing County Administration to sign State of Michigan grant applications related to cyber security, incident responses, and other related information technology: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Markey, to approve the Local Consent Agreement for Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Project and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Consider adopting an amended Credit Card Use Operational Policy: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the amended Credit Card Use Policy as presented which supersedes the previously adopted policy. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

9:30 a.m. Charles Francis and Maureen Toal were present and gave a presentation on the PARS program. They explained Section 115 Retiree Benefit Trust and investment options regarding pensions.

10:13 a.m. Break

10:22 a.m. Reconvene

Consider awarding opioid funding: Motion by Markey, seconded by Jeannot, to award and fully fund the Centra Wellness request proposal and the Benzie County Staff request proposal with Opioid funds. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Consider adopting a resolution related to the placement and function of the Emergency Communication Tower: Rebecca Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt resolution 2023-015 giving authority to the Emergency Management Coordinator and the County Administrator to sign agreements related to the integration of the Emergency Tower onto the Michigan Public Safety Communication System. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Consider approving an amended L4029 to include Road Commission Millage: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to accept the amended L-4029 which adds the recently approved Benzie County Road Millage and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs had nothing to report.

Comm Jeannot attended the Northern Michigan Community Action Agency meeting, Economic Development and Brownfield Authority meeting, and provided a written report.

Comm Cunningham attended the Frankfort City Council meeting, MAC Environment Regulatory Committee meeting, Crystal Lake Township meeting, and provided a written report.

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Comm Nye attended the Village of Beulah meeting, Area 31 Sewer Authority meeting, MAC Health and Human Services meeting, and provided a written report.

Comm Markey attended the MAC Judiciary and Public Safety meeting.

Comm Warsecke had nothing to report.

Comm Sauer – provided a written report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Presented layout options for Probation/Parole area remodel. This is for information only.

There will be a community event at the Government Center on December 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m.

We will have Santa in the building for the public to stop in and visit. The Government Center Christmas tree will be going up soon. It will be decorated with hats and mittens that will later be donated to individuals in Benzie County. Betsy Coffia will be attending the December 12th Board of Commissioners meeting. Tim Maylone will be at the December 12, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting to give an update on broadband.

STUDY SESSION - None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority September 2023 Income Statement
- Benzie Transportation Authority October 2023 Income Statement

11:16 a.m. Public Comment

Lisa Trombley was present to introduce herself. She will be running for the 103rd District Representative Republican candidate.

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk, stated that notice was received from the Bureau of Election that the requested submitted in the September 8, 2023, Early Voting Grant application has been approved. The Early Voting Electronic Poll Books (EPB) have all been received. The new tabulators will be delivered on Monday December 4, 2023.

11:22 a.m. Public Comment closed.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:22 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of November 14, 2023, as amended.
3. Approve payment of the bills from November 10, 2023, through November 17, 2023, in the amount of \$498,135.96, as presented.
4. Approve the Local Consent Agreement for Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Project and authorize the Chair to sign.
5. Adopt the amended Credit Card Use Policy as presented which supersedes the previously adopted policy.
6. Award and fully fund the Centra Wellness request proposal and the Benzie County Staff request proposal with Opioid funds.
7. Adopt resolution 2023-015 giving authority to the Emergency Management Coordinator and the County Administrator to sign agreements related to the integration of the Emergency Tower onto the Michigan Public Safety Communication System.
8. Accept the amended L-4029 which adds the recently approved Benzie County Road Millage and authorizes the Chair to sign.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
November 28, 2023

- **11/16 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
 - A new program was approved for the *Homeless Prevention Program*. The agency will enter a lease agreement with a landlord. These units will then become available to people in the program, with the agency being responsible for rents and any behavioral issues that arise.
 - Jon Stimson, Executive Director for Homestretch gave an update on current developments. He discussed the project in Frankfort at Lake St & Main St and a proposed project in Thompsonville.
 - The *Home Rehab Program* was discussed. Benzie Housing Committee contracts our program to them for administration. A recent success story from Benzie County was highlighted.
- **11/17 – Economic Development & Brownfield Authority**
 - Continued discussion on the goals and direction of the committee. I believe we have reached a final version.
 - We discussed the job description for a Community Coordinator. We will continue to learn more about the funding opportunities for this position.
 - A small group was established to have continued discussions with the Parks & Recreation Committee on how we will collaborate.
 - Administration was directed to bring a final version of our proposed by-laws to the committee for our January meeting.
 - All the above will eventually be proposed to the Board of Commissioners for approval.
 - A small group was established to connect with the Frankfort Downtown Development Authority. This was at their invitation.
 - Each committee member discussed prospective candidates to fill an open seat. My hope is that the BOC will have up to 3 applicants to consider in January.
 - Other discussions included an update on broadband, digital equity efforts, area housing projects, progress with the True North Convenience Store in Honor and the proposed Wellness and Aquatics Center.
- **Other –**
 - Benzie County Chamber building is available for sale.



28 Nov 23 Commissioner Cunningham

15 Nov Point Betsie Light House, closed for the season. PBLH was part of the recent Smithsonian Series display at the Mill House. The display was interactive with a working light and was a visitor favorite. PBLH will be on the cover of, Shoreline magazine and will be featured in Give Northern Michigan Guide, pg 8, <https://issue.com/mynorth/docs/give.1123>.

Benzie Chamber, general discussion about the Energy Bills and some of the Zoning proposals for the City of Frankfort. Advocacy & Awareness Council will meet in January, Michelle will be seeking input for event planning around the election year.

21 Nov Frankfort City Council, newly elected council members, Ed Carrella and Dale Charters first meeting. JoAnn Holwerda nominated mayor and Brady Olsen mayor pro-tem. Housing Committee, investigating potential housing properties and amending STRentals letter. Parks and Rec, Animal Welfare paid in full for the dog park in Frankfort. Airport Authority, litigation with The Pines settled. The Airport Authority is seeking a new administrator. Under Old Business, the tower space was approved, area 40' X 60', height 80-140'.

Frankfort is actively investigating the best method to "stream", meetings. Having meetings available online is becoming an expected standard.

CLTwp, approved the resolution to include Headlee/Proposal A on the ballot. CLT calendar discussion, three of the board meeting dates will have to be changed to accommodate the extended election periods, also the offices will need to be closed because of physical space limitations.

22 Nov Benzie HSC, no meeting.

NOTE: MAC Environment Regulatory Committee will have a guest presenting on sustainable farming practices to include biochar. I asked if others could join the Zoom and told yes, when the link is published I will forward to BoC. I suggested MAC Ag and Tourism be invited. Communication is key to educating and help us leverage funds and ideas for the county and state.

Community

16 Nov Frankfort Business Incubator: information shared as needed.

18 Nov Rep Coffia, legislative update, zoom. Passed bills: State funding support for the Tribes who offer shelter for survivors of domestic violence/bipartisan support. She championed pre-registration for 18 year old youths to vote (19 states have enacted this resulting in increased youth voting). She also championed the rural busing formula for equity/bipartisan support.

Nov Assorted meetings, calls with constituents, common concerns, trusting elected officials and measurable accountability.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
November 28, 2023

November 14 – Village of Beulah

- Statement made about Headlee reset not passing. Board committed to looking at all other funding options.
- Approved fencing around sewer ponds, Crystalview and Kerby's awarded contracts.
- Additional bids received to remove spoils from Cold Creek, clarification needed regarding amount to be removed before decision can be made.
- Approved cameras that will provide surveillance on beachhouse, bathroom building, RV Park, pavilion, tennis courts and day dock. The whole park will be covered, recorded and time stamped, as well as the Village Office Building.

November 16 – Area 31 Sewer Authority

- The Area 31 Sewer Authority and consultant (Wade Trim) have agreed to put the sewer feasibility study on hold for approximately one year. The study is still feasible and the final report will be completed. Due to evolving circumstances, this pause will allow all data to be gathered and options weighed in order to get the best possible outcome. Once all data is available, the feasibility study can then move forward with the most viable solution for funding and sewer treatment in the study area. Questions can be directed to to Jason Barnard, Benzonia Township Supervisor.

November 27 – MAC Health and Human Services

- State Solar legislation passed, is there really local control if local ordinance must be compatible with State ordinance? Legislation will be in effect one year after governor signs.
- MAC urged to conduct a statewide compensation study to relieve individual counties of the financial burden to have these studies done.

Tammy Bowers

From: Gary Sauer
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: County commissioner report district 7

11-14-2023

Weldon township-Business as normal. No action on headlee reset next meeting.

11-16-2023

Maples (DHHS)- Board has officially appointed Megan Garza as administrator. They expect to have all contract employees done by early December. 78 beds occupied full occupancy at this time. 132.53 days cash on hand all good numbers, Megan has shown great leadership.

11-16-2023

Village of Elberta- sewer project completed. The train in Penfold Park needs repairs or replacement. They have some ideas about getting community involvement in this process. BS&A is in process of fixing accounting issues with village.

11-21-2023

Gilmore township- working on payment for last election, have discovered use of Temporary employee from this election. They are looking at getting Memory Lane paved. Also raised election inspectors wages to \$15 per hour and 17 per hour for chair.

Gilmore took no action on Headlee claimed they did not receive resolution working on fixing that.
Will not be present at Tuesday BOC meeting.

Commissioner report district 7
Gary Sauer

Sent from my

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