

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 27, 2024

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 27, 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, and Sauer
Excused was: Commissioner Warsecke

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of February 13, 2024, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

9:01 a.m. Public Comment - None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, gave an update on the lower-level project at the Sheriff's Department, lower-level project at the Government Center, and the Emergency Tower. Everything is going well and has provided a handout regarding the Emergency Tower project.

Megan Garza, Maples Director, gave an update on what is happening at the Maples. They have 78 beds filled with long-term individuals. The generator has been repaired, just waiting for the final bills. There were 7 people that started employment today, and they are down to 3 contract staff employees.

Kelly Ottinger, Benzie Senior Resource, stated that 221 tax packets have been handed out. Meals on Wheels is increasing in participants. Looking for volunteers for the Meals on Wheels program. They are fully staffed expect for one position in home healthcare aid. Thanked Commissioner Jeannot for attending the Discover Process meeting. The last Discover Process meeting will be March 5, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the Government Center. A written report has been provided for the packet.

Kyle Mauer, Animal Control, gave an update on the kennel yard. AJ's Excavating will be starting the work this week or next week. They are working toward transporting all the dogs out of the shelter during this project. Looking into painting the kennels and replacing the kennel gates.

FINANCE:

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer provided a handout and requested approval of the bills.

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Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to approve payment of the bills from February 13, 2024, through February 27, 2024, in the amount of \$445,937.04, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

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 Sauer removed Item A.

Commissioner Jeannot removed Item E.

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

- A. Removed from Consent Calendar.
- B. Consider approving the Summer Road Patrol Renewal Agreements with Village of Honor, Village of Beulah, Lake Township, and Crystal Beach Cottager's Association: The Board of Commissioners approves the Sheriff Patrol Agreements with the Village of Honor, Village of Beulah, Crystal Beach Cottages, and Lake Township for the 2024 summer months, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, and authorizes the Chair to sign.
- C. Consider amending the EEO Policy to include the Grievance Procedure Policy: The Board of Commissioners amend the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy to include the Grievance Procedure under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- D. Consider adopting the Non-Discrimination on Basis of Handicap Policy: The Board of Commissioners adopts the Non-Discrimination on Basis of Handicap Policy.
- E. Removed from Consent Calendar.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, that items B, C, and D on the Consent Calendar be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Consider approving budget amendments for Brownfield Grant: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, that the Board of Commissioners approves the budget amendment which recognizes both grant revenue and expenditures related to the Brownfield Redevelopment project in Honor with Ture North, in the amount of \$300,000. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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- E. Authorizing signers of financial documents for Benzie County: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes Kelly Long, Suzanne Mills, Tammy Bowers, and Kimberly Childs to sign financial related documents for Benzie County. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consider adopting Jail Operations Millage Resolution and discussion regarding additional staffing: Sheriff Rosa, Undersheriff Hubers and Jail Administrator Dan Smith were present for the discussion regarding additional corrections staffing and answered any questions. A resolution for the jail millage will be on the March 12, 2024, Board of Commissioners agenda, and the discussion regarding funding and resource of the additional corrections staffing will be on the March 12, 2024, Study Session agenda.

10:13 a.m. Break

10:21 a.m. Reconvene

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Consider approving change order for lower-level construction project: Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to authorize a change order to the Grand Traverse Construction contract for the Lower-Level Expansion Project in the total amount of \$13,705.20, with funds available from the Capital Fund and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.
- B. Consider approving reclassification results for the Prosecutor's Office: Jackie Palfey, and Sara Swanson were present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the wage increases for the above listed positions with corresponding name change from the Prosecutor Office Secretary to Administrative Assistant. The County Administrator is to complete the Budget Adjustment of \$6,066.65 from contingency to the corresponding wage line with the wage increases to take effect on March 3, 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, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.
- C. Consider approving combined Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Economic Development Corporation master by laws: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority bylaws as recommended and approved by the Board on January 19, 2024. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.
- D. Consider extending the field work services agreement for Equalization: Brianne Lindsay was present to answer any questions. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Markey, to approve a two-year agreement with Dr. Mark Holley, Complete Appraisal Service, in the total annual amount of \$24,500, such agreement subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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- E. Establish Ad Hoc Interview Committee for Centra Wellness: Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to reappoint Donald Tanner and Paula McLain to a three-year term, expiring March 31, 2027, on the Manistee-Benzie Centra Wellness Board. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.
- F. Establish Ad Hoc Interview Committee for Land Bank Authority: Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to reappoint Mark Roper, Vincent Edwards, and Susan Wenzlick to a three-year term, expiring April 05, 2027, on the Benzie County Land Bank Authority. Susan Wenzlick's appointment is contingent on her submitting a letter requesting re-appointment. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

11:03 a.m. **CLOSED SESSION:** Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Markey, that the Board of Commissioners enter into closed session to discuss the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as permitted by MCL 15.268(c). Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

11:59 a.m. re-enter open session.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Domestic Violence Task Force meeting, AP Review, MAC Conference, Area Agency on Aging of Northern Michigan meeting, Agenda Review meetings, Benzie County Veterans Affairs meeting, and the Village of Lake Ann meeting.

Comm Jeannot attended the Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, MAC Legislative and Governance Committee meeting, EDC/BRA meeting, Housing North meeting, and various other meetings. A written report was provided.

Comm Cunningham attended the Frankfort Business Accelerator Task Force meeting, EDC meeting, MAC Environmental and Regulatory Committee meeting, Frankfort Council meeting, Airport Authority meeting, and various other meetings. A written report was provided.

Comm Nye attended the Land Bank meeting, Centra Wellness Board and Executive meeting, Benzie Watershed Coalition meeting, Building and Grounds meeting, Village of Beulah meeting, Benzonia Township meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, MAC Health and Human Services meeting, and the Benzie Summit. A written report was provided.

Comm Markey attended Networks Northwest meeting, Centra Wellness Community Relations Committee meeting, Platte River Watershed meeting, Centra Wellness Network Board meeting, Building and Grounds meeting, Village of Honor meeting, Homestead Township meeting, LEPC/LPT meeting, and MAC Judiciary and Public Safety Committee meeting.

Comm Sauer attended the Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, The Maples meeting, MAC Ag and Tourism meeting, Benzie County Road Commission meeting, Benzie County Summit, Village of Thompsonville meeting, Gilmore Township meeting, Weldon Township meeting, Village of Elberta meeting, and Parks and Recreation meeting. A written report was provided.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

DHHS will be exercising their final option to renew the 5-year lease on the building space they are currently utilizing. They are requesting invoices to determine what they will pay regarding rent for this space. They have been put on notice that Benzie County will be less inclined to renew the lease after this 5-year option is done. Their office has been working on all the grants that are handled through the County Administrator office. Kelly Long will be sworn in as County Treasurer this Friday, March 1, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. There is a celebration for Michelle Thompson, who is retiring from the County Treasurer position, this Friday, March 1, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Have posted RFPs on the county website as well as in the newspaper. If an individual want to be put on the RFP notification list, they are to contact the County Administrator office. The Accounts Payable schedule and Agenda Review Schedule was passed out today. If the dates you are assigned do not work for you, or you do not wish to participate, please let Rose know so adjustments can be made. Point Betsie Lighthouse issues were explained. Shout out to Jackie Palfey, Human Resources, for coming up with creative ways to recruit employees. We are now recruiting on WTCM.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Sanilac County Resolution

12:52 p.m. Public Comment

Tammy Bowers, County Clerk, gave an update on Early Voting. The local Clerks did a great job handling Early Voting in their municipalities. Please thank them the next time you see them.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, provided a history on the State of Michigan changes in the process of becoming an Assessor and the issues it has created.

12:58 p.m. Public Comment closed.

Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 12:58 p.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of February 13, 2024, as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from February 13, 2024, through February 27, 2024, in the amount of \$445,937.04, as presented.
4. Items B, C, and D on the Consent Calendar be approved.
5. Approve the budget amendment which recognizes both grant revenue and expenditures related to the Brownfield Redevelopment project in Honor with Ture North, in the amount of \$300,000.
6. Authorize Kelly Long, Suzanne Mills, Tammy Bowers, and Kimberly Childs to sign financial related documents for Benzie County.

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7. Authorize a change order to the Grand Traverse Construction contract for the Lower-Level Expansion Project in the total amount of \$13,705.20, with funds available from the Capital Fund and authorize the Chair to sign.
8. Approve the wage increases for the above listed positions with corresponding name change from the Prosecutor Office Secretary to Administrative Assistant. The County Administrator is to complete the Budget Adjustment of \$6,066.65 from contingency to the corresponding wage line with the wage increases to take effect on March 3, 2024, with no step increases to occur until the 24/25 fiscal year on each of the employee's anniversary.
9. Approve the Economic Development Corporation and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority bylaws as recommended and approved by the Board on January 19, 2024.
10. Approve a two-year agreement with Dr. Mark Holley, Complete Appraisal Service, in the total annual amount of \$24,500, such agreement subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel and authorizes the Chair to sign.
11. Reappoint Donald Tanner and Paula McLain to a three-year term, expiring March 31, 2027, on the Manistee-Benzie Central Wellness Board.
12. Reappoint Mark Roper, Vincent Edwards, and Susan Wenzlick to a three-year term, expiring April 05, 2027, on the Benzie County Land Bank Authority. Susan Wenzlick's appointment is contingent on her submitting a letter requesting re-appointment.
13. The Board of Commissioners enter into closed session to discuss the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as permitted by MCL 15.268(c).

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
February 27, 2024

- **1/24- Health Department**
 - The agency is considering hiring their own health officer.
 - Received an update on pending legislation that may help reduce the use of tobacco and vaping.
- **2/1- Platte Township**
 - Clerk is concerned that they not have yet received final instructions about “early voting” to include a needed software update. (2/17 update—this has now been completed)
 - They are fully staffed for the February election.
- **2/1- Lake Township**
 - Fully staffed for February election.
- **2/2- MAC Legislative and Governance Committee**
 - A presentation with discussion took place regarding “Citizens for Local Choice”.
 - An update on legislative activity showed that there is limited action on bills pending in the State House.
 - There was some discussion on the movement for “Axe MI Tax”. Overall opinion is that this effort will probably not reach the ballot.
- **2/5- Northern MI Counties Association**
 - We discussed the potential of greater zoning oversight from the State of MI, Axe MI Tax petition and board governance.
 - Health care cost sharing for county jail inmates, increased road funding, revenue sharing, revenue sharing, funding for local courts and compensation for funds diverted by veterans property tax exemption were also discussed.
 - All counties were presented with a MAC wall hanging commemorating 125 year anniversary for MI Association of Counties.
 - I invited Commissioner Cunningham to attend with me.
 - John Amrhein will be retiring by midyear.
- **2/13- Almira Township**
 - Public hearing was held “*Truth in Taxation*” and “*Salary Resolutions*”.
 - A grant application for improvements at Ransom Lake was approved.
- **2/16- EDC/BRA**
 - Northern MI Community College representatives gave us an update in what they are taking away from their listening sessions. We were told that an effort to annex Benzie County and obtain a mileage for tuition subsidizes was attempted several years ago. It was acknowledged that the SOM may pass a budget that allows for free tuition (up to \$4800) at all state community colleges. Rules are not clearly defined.
 - I suggested that we update the community regarding our broadband efforts by way of a newspaper article.
 - A potential incubator project in Frankfort was discussed.
- **Other –**
 - Participated in the monthly meeting with Housing North. They have hired a consultant for Benzie County and will be announcing it publicly soon. Received updates on pending projects to include additional housing in Frankfort and Thompsonville.
 - Attended Representative John Roth’s “coffee hour” on January 29th. Modest turnout. We discussed progress for the Pointe Betsie Light House for a grant extension and potential of

additional funding, gravel pit oversight by the SOM and the closing of the State Park in Interlochen for construction during the summer months.

- At the request of Dick Taylor from Friends of Pointe Betsie, I arranged a meeting with Senator Bumstead to discuss an extension on the grant received for water front repairs (\$5.2M) and a possible request for additional money. As a follow up, the request has been approved and extended until 12-31-26.
- Benzie County Senior Resources discussion regarding possible space expansion. Modest turnout.
- Agenda Review.
- Betsie Coffia coffee hour
- Accounts payable review



13 Feb 2024 Commissioner Cunningham

County

24 Feb BHSC/health services collaborative

24 Feb CLkTwp Planning Board, public interest in a possible new RV park. Citizens being proactive.

25 Feb Airport, grant discussion; Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) approved a grant in the amount of \$497,788. The grant consists of 2022, 2023, and 2024 allocations of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) of Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) in the amounts of \$159,000, \$145,000 and \$144,000 respectively. Federal grants are matched by state grants by 5% or \$24,894 and by FCCAA of 5% or \$24,894. The BIL provides for airport related projects as defined under the existing Airport Improvement Grant and Passenger Facility Charge criteria. The money can be invested in runways, taxiways, safety and sustainability projects as well as the terminal and more. The FCCAA will use the grant money for reimbursement of legal and professional fees accrued and the air easement relating to The Pines settlement. Receipt of the money is due by mid February.

1 Feb LkTwp, guest Benzie Bus update.

5 Feb Attended Northern Michigan Counties Association

9 Feb Benzie Summit at The Garden Theatre, report submitted before event, I will update as appropriate.

Community

NMC listening session, discussion on the cost of, "in-district", tuition for NMC. Annexation=millage of 2.05. Benefits: Michigan Reconnect Program moneys would be applicable and would pay for in district tuition. Benzie County would have two trustees on the NMC board/per board approval, via NMC Foundation 31% of students receive aid (other community colleges average 5%), NMC programs are job focused- nursing, trades, childcare, aviation, police to name a few.

Attended several veteran gatherings. Various informational meetings, Sheriff Rosa, and citizens.



20 Feb 2024 Commissioner Cunningham BoC

County

- 13 Feb CLkTwp, Jess Carland/Benzie Bus presentation
- 15 Feb Frankfort Business Accelerator Task Force, general discussion included addressing the city Master Plan to help clarify vision of the city to potential investors, economics focused on sustainability with perspectives of benefits to city and investors. Also potential location(s) and current market value was discussed.
- 16 Feb EDC, my first meeting. NMC summary from listening sessions, Nick Nissley. Residents identified what they wanted as reinvestment in Benzie; facility, staffing, IT infrastructure, transportation, childcare, and reinvestment fund, the total annual investment would be, \$2.0M (approx.) The millage of 2.05+, is mandated for community colleges. Benefits: Michigan Reconnect Program moneys would be applicable and would pay for in district tuition for qualified applicants. Two Benzie County residents would be trustees (6 yrs, after that trustees elected without county preference). Via the NMC Foundation, 31% of students receive aid (other community colleges average 5%), NMC programs are job focused- nursing, trades, childcare, aviation, police to name a few.
- Continued discussion on the economic Development Coordinator, Dan Barcheski provided a job description. Post meeting I reviewed the description, opined and emailed Dan.
- 16 Feb MAC 83 podcast, facilitated by Stephen Currie, Budget FY25; Deena Bosworth reported that the governor recommended, county revenue sharing 5% increase annually, 3% increase, one time if all ARPA Funds are allocated, and 2% increase, one time for public safety. Madelin Fata, related that the governor recommended that, "Tipping Fees", be increased from 36 cents per ton to 5 dollars per ton. Tipping fees are what is hauled into Michigan as waste and dumped. Michigan is the lowest priced state in the midwest. The higher price is to deter out of state dumping in Michigan. This would raise \$8M (approx) annually. The fees would be used to help environmental remediation through Brownfield , EGLE and others.
- 20 Feb City Council, Councilman Ed Carrella reported that the DDA is updating the Master Plan, Housing Commission reported that the Lake and Main apartments scheduled to have residents by years end.
- Council approved Emergency tower height increase from 80 to 120 feet.
- 22 Feb Airport, tower height relayed. Dick Bayer learned at a conference that GA Airports are being targeted to transport fentanyl into the States. Recently a Cessna 172 from AZ landed in WI and Border Patrol stopped 30kilos of fentanyl from being sold.

Community

- 18 Feb Grow Benzie, attended Introduction to Beekeeping
- 19 Feb Suicide Prevention Workshop and Certification
- 25 Feb Welcome Potluck for Ihor, Yulia and their three children, they are a locally sponsored Ukrainian family.
- 26 Feb CROWD, Leelanau Government Center
- Various conversations with BHSCollaborative members concerning childcare, kinship. Frankfort Accelerator Task Force discussions.
- Started conversation with Jesse Zystra and Mayor Holwerda concerning relocating the city recycling station.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
February 27, 2024

Land Bank

- Vacant properties in Thompsonville ready to convey as demo is complete.
- Two additional lots in Thompsonville will be remediated to remove building materials buried on land.
- Agreements with Homestretch and RFP for remediation and renovation needed for home in Benzonia.
- Executive Director contract presented for consideration, tabled for review.

Centra Wellness Board and Executive Committee meetings

- Alan Bolter, Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, gave a presentation with an emphasis on the State budget and pending legislation. Spoke about getting the right people in the right funding buckets because wrong buckets create deficits the system can't handle.
- NMRE approved a forensic investigation of Northern Lakes; findings could impact respective counties and NMRE funds.
- Two recent incidents in Benzie County shared where our social work officer intervention led to a mental health admission instead of incarceration.

Benzie Watershed Coaliton

- First meeting, introductions and roundtable discussion of groups focus and impact areas.
- Next meeting will be held to get new members up to speed with the result of stakeholder surveys and planning processes in place that impact zoning resources. The goal will be to identify leverage areas for improvement.
- Committee name change being considered.

Building & Grounds Committee

- Topics of discussion were elevator remodel, painting the board room, rooftop unit replacement, lighting for parking lot, update on probation & parole remodel and update on lower-level expansion.

Village of Beulah

- 2024 Boat Dock Rules & Application approved.
- Researching a reservation program to allow campground bookings online.
- Out of Village Sewer Connection Letter shared.
- Cold Creek spoils removal discussed; suggested other entiites should consider contributing to the cost as every township bordering Crystal Lake and the County as a whole benefit from having a clean lake.

Benzonia Township

- Open Trustee seat appointment will be made in the near future.
- Clean Up Day May 11, 2024, 7am-11am.
- Poverty income guideline used at Board of Review set at \$15,795/year.
- Next Planning Commission (WBJPC) is March 7th at 6:00 pm, commission will meet bi-monthly thereafter.

Village of Benzonia

- Street Inventory Report presented by Fleis & VandenBrink. Study based on Paser Ratings which determine street conditions on a 0-10 rating scale; tool for improvements and timeline creation.
- Additional fees requested by Spicer Engineering not approved; upcharges appear to be included in proposal, therefore, clarification needed.
- Benzie Bus Annual Report given by Jessica Carland.
- Consumer Power Electric Franchise Ordinance Resolution tabled to review contract preceding the one presented.

MAC Health & Human Services

- Presentation by Steve Norris, Harm Reduction & Recovery Support Director, Alliance of Coalition for Healthy Communities
- 2 grams of fentanyl can take a life without tolerance and being found in all drugs across the board.
- Low barrier access to reversal medication is key and especially important in rural communities where response time can be longer.

Attended informational meeting with Sheriff.

Attended Benzie Summit.

Sent letters requesting fiscal support for the Village of Beulah Sewer Project.

Tammy Bowers

From: Gary Sauer
Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 1:21 PM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: Commissioner report district 7

1-24-24 Health Department

Looking for bids for furniture for remold in Leelanau government building. The project should be done by March 30. Discussed changes to contract with the HDNW, also possibility of having our own Health Officer. Will continue to discuss.

1-25-24 and 2-22-24 Maples (DHHS)

Major concerns with generator, AIS a John Deere dealer has taken motor to be rebuilt estimate 41,960.46. Was not correctly grounded. Last meeting the motor has been returned and is being hooked up. Current census 97.52% 77 residents with 1 admi on the 23rd. Last 12 admits we're all Benzie county residents, contract employees continue to decline. Great job by management of the Maples thank you all for your hard work. Megan plans to give an update at today's meeting.

1-23-24 NMC update at Weldon Township Hall

2-1-24 Blaine Twp

They plan on using ARPA money and Road Commission match to work on township roads. Working on budget for 24, 25 years. Had public hearing should finalize at next regular township meeting.

2-5-24 Mac Ag and Tourism

Discussed Keweenaw Heartland Project. Conservancy project 30,783 acres in a county of just over 2,000 residents. Asked for public input, residents want a source of revenue for county and public access. Creating a group from residents and government to help manage this with possible land going to DNR in the future. Good and informative with a cooperative agreement.

2-8-24 and 2-22-24 Road Commission

Public hearing on revised permit schedule. Perusing design for new building estimate cost 12 to 15 million. This is to help Commission make a decision for the future. Audit report completed. Bid awards for paving projects to Elmers 72-73 dollars per ton higher for subdivision projects. Parks and Rec chairman (Ed Hoogterp) presented the possibility of turning rail road point property and Crystal lake outlet property over to county for the park and rec to manage. Board is good with this concept it will be brought before the BOC in the future.

2-9-24 Benzie Chamber Summit

Spectrum finished in Benzie County. Good summit lots of information.

2-12-24 Village of Thompsonville

TARP project in Thompsonville Diamond crossing project. Working on DNR trust fund grant. TARP will be responsible for match funds.

2-13-24 Gilmore and Weldon townships

Business as usual.

2-15-24 Village oh Elberta

Master plan review for public now. 2 new members for planning commission first time the planning commission is fully staffed.

Submitted by Gary Sauer
Commissioner District 7

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