

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 28, 2015

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2015, Lake Township Hall, 5153 Scenic Hwy, Honor, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vance Bates at 6:00 p.m.

Present were: Commissioners Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke

The invocation and pledge of allegiance was led by Comm Griner.

Comm Tucker stated that any discussions held in today's meeting pertaining to Sgt David Tucker she will recuse herself from.

Agenda:

Motion by Griner, seconded by Bates, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of April 14, 2015 as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chairman Bates says thank you to Lake Township for hosting our meeting here tonight.

6:02 p.m. Public Input

Dave Burley, Beulah, Environmental Services Director at the Maples, talks about the roof at the Maples – there are problems; if we are not in there by September 1, we stand to lose over half million dollars in revenue.

6:05 p.m. Public Input Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Doug Durand, Council on Aging, stated that they have done a survey which was quite positive; April 22 North Sky was out and did a 5-year planning; the mortgage on the Gathering Place had a 2016 balloon, so they compared rates and refinanced with Honor Bank for 5 more years.

Sears Estate Funds are requested for improvements to the senior center – they would ask for \$5,660 for a public address sound system.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to approve the request of the Council on Aging for \$5,660.00 from the Sears Estate funds for a digital Public Address Sound System from Ascom. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke. Nays: None Motion carried.

Sheriff Schendel, reported on the armed robbery at the bank in Lake Ann; the FBI has been brought in and there is now a \$5,000 reward offered by the Bank; and they have received 20 additional tips. School Officer: Kyle Rosa has agreed to be the school officer. They would like to appoint a committee of Kyle Rosa, Andy McHugh, Chip Johnston of CMH, Karl Sparks – they would like to tap into the funds for Benzie County for drug prevention services; Jail millage renewal; repairs at the Sheriff building. The schools are not funding any portion of the school officer, just their cooperation.

Dan Smith, Jail Administrator, spoke regarding the jail repairs; they have spent \$35,000 this year.

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Craig Johnson, EMS, stated that the drain at Station 3 has been fixed; Frankfort let them tie into their sewer system; the new billing system has been put in place; call volume is up by two over March 2014; they do not participate with BC/BS – most changes are Medicare and Medicaid.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, presented the L-4024 valuation report for 2015.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Bates, to adopt the L-4024 as presented, and authorize the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Brianne Lindsey has received a scholarship from the Michigan Certified Assessor Training Class.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Tucker has nothing to report.

Comm Carland has nothing to report.

Comm Griner presented the Northwest Michigan Jobs Report from Networks Northwest; June they will go to Moran Iron Works in Onaway where they are building a new boat for Schepplers; TBA has programs where you would have a job and no debt incurred by attending there. He had his first Benzie Bus ride and was quite impressed. The transportation proposal for roads is being sold as 1% sales tax and not one cent of that sales tax goes to roads; no new money will go to local roads.

Comm Walterhouse stated that the County Parks & Recreation held a public hearing for the Master Plan and will recommend to the Board of Commissioners.

Comm Sauer says that Elmer's was to start paving when it warmed up – it is finished; he went to the Hort Station yesterday – you should go if you have the chance.

Comm Warsecke stated that he also attended the Parks & Rec meeting; he attended the Planning Commission meeting for Homestead and Inland Townships regarding marijuana dispensaries; the Conservation District sold 5,000 seedlings at their annual sale.

Comm Bates stated that he also went to the Hort Station and took a lot away from there; they talked about hops and the fact that Michigan is now the 4th largest producer in the US; on Saturday, May 2, is Almira Twp Clean-Up for Almira Twp residents only in conjunction with HHW and tires which is for all county residents from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Karl Sparks

Electronic Attendance Policy – we will monitor HB 4182 and adjust our policy if needed.

FOIA appeal has been addressed and Karl suggests that committee members be provided with a county email address to help prevent these issues – we need to be able to track these for FOIA.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Tucker, to deny the FOIA appeal of Mr. Jim Evans of April 10, 2015, based on the fact that the documents requested were not archived or maintained by the County or Planning Commission, and are deemed otherwise unavailable. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Jail Millage: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Tucker, to adopt Resolution 2015-010 Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage Renewal for County Jail Operation for 0.9000 for 6-years on the August 4, 2015 ballot, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FOIA Workshop: to be presented by Richard Figura on June 4 in the BOC room from 4 – 6 p.m.

Committee Appointments:

BTA – Motion by Griner seconded by Bates, to appoint Susan Kirkpatrick to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2018. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

Jury Board: Motion by Bates, seconded by Sauer, to re-appoint Gail Nugent to the Jury Board for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2021. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FINANCE

Motion by Carland, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from April 15, 2015 to April 28, 2015 in the amount of \$641,218.06, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: Tucker Motion carried.

Chairman Bates inquired regarding the A/P process – a question regarding a bill has been asked and the commissioner was told the bill has already been mailed out. He is not comfortable with that; and why are we approving these when the checks have been sent.

Michelle stated that you have a policy and a finance committee rep signs off on these before they are done. Perhaps you need to revisit the policy.

Comm Griner says let's not regress on this policy.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, also reported on the Land Bank Authority and the Question Mark building and the demolition project which is scheduled to begin May 4; development project down the road is also moving forward with Schmuckal Oil; tax foreclosure land sale; Community Chorus taping in 9 & 10 news release.

Finance Consent Calendar:

Comm Bates removes item #4.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Griner, to approve the April 14, 2015 Finance Consent Calendar items 1, 2 and 3 as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Bates, to approve item #4 as follows: To approve payment to NMRE (Northern Michigan Regional Entity) in the amount of \$135,915.00 as requested. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

HR AND PERSONNEL – None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Taken care of under the County Administrator's Report.

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ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 2015-008: Motion by Bates, seconded by Warsecke, to approve Resolution 2015-008 Resolution of Support for Benzie County Road Commission Application for Critical Bridge Funds for Nostwick Road Bridge in Colfax Township, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Resolution 2015-009: Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to approve Resolution 2015-009 Resolution of Support for Benzie County Road Commission Application for Critical Bridge Funds for Reynolds Road Bridge in Colfax Township, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Road Commission minutes of March 26, 2015 received.
- Letter received from the Dept of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs regarding the New Covenant Christian Academy and procedure for building inspections.

NEW BUSINESS – None

7:15 p.m. Public Input

Lisa Vogler, Lake Ann, restated her willingness to help with regard to the Maples issue; there needs to be some definitive action taken – sooner rather than later.

Jim Evans, Benzonia, spoke regarding the FOIA request and stated that his request came six days after this incident – OMA violation -- happened and he was denied again. Third FOIA was very specific and FOIA #2 was never addressed with no explanation.

7:16 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Griner, seconded by Tucker, to adjourn until May 12, 2015 regular meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Government Center or the call of the chair. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

Vance Bates – Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of April 14, 2015 as presented.
3. Approved the request for \$5,660.00 from the Sears Estate Funds for a digital Council on Aging Public Address Sound System from Ascom.
4. Adopted the L-4024 as presented, and authorized the chairman to sign.
5. Denied the FOIA appeal of Mr. Jim Evans of April 10, 2015, based on the fact that the documents requested were not archived or maintained by the County or Planning Commission, and are deemed otherwise unavailable.

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6. Adopted Resolution 2015-010 Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Special Millage Renewal for County Jail Operations for 0.9000 for 6-years on the August 4, 2015 ballot, as presented.
7. Appointed Susan Kirkpatrick to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term to expire April 30, 2018.
8. Re-appointed Gail Nugent to the Jury Board for a six-year term to expire April 30, 2021.
9. Approved payment of the bills from April 15, 2015 to April 28, 2015 in the amount of \$641,218.06, as presented.
10. Approved the April 14, 2015 Finance Consent Calendar items 1, 2 and 3 as presented.
11. Approved item #4 as follows: To approve payment to NMRE (Northern Michigan Regional Entity) in the amount of \$135,915.00 as requested.
12. Approved Resolution 2015-008 Resolution for Critical Bridge Funds for Nostwick Road Bridge in Colfax Township, as presented.
13. Approved Resolution 2015-009 Resolution for Critical Bridge Funds for Reynolds Road Bridge in Colfax Township, as presented.

Motion by Walterhouse seconded by Griner, to approve the Finance Consent Calendar items as follows:

1. Approved amendment of 2014-15 budget as follows:

Increase:

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------|
| 263-362-961.00 | Local Corrections Officer Training Fund | \$3,000.00 |
| | Training & Schools | |

Decrease:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 263-000-390.00 | Local Corrections Officer Training -- | \$3,000.00 |
| | Fund Balance | |

Increase:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 212-000-967.00 | Benzie Kids Project Expenses | \$ 850.00 |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|

Decrease:

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| 212-000-691.00 | Benzie Kids Budgeted Use of Fund Balance | \$ 850.00 |
|----------------|--|-----------|

2. Authorized to update the Canteen Policy as presented.
3. Adopted the Purchasing Guidelines as presented.
4. Removed from Consent Calendar.