

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 9, 2015

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, at the Benzie County Government Center, 448 Court Place, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vance Bates at 9:00 a.m.

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

Absent: None

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Griner, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of May 26, 2015 as corrected on page 1 that Comm Sauer led the pledge of allegiance. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chairman Bates says thank you to Commissioner Griner for running the May 26 meeting for him.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

9:04 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 TAX RATE

Commissioner Comments:

Comm Walterhouse stated that this is for the summer rate only.

Comm Carland inquires if it is legal to have an indefinite millage rate.

Tom Longanbach explains – this is operating; maximum would be 3.2918 without this hearing; by holding this hearing the maximum is 3.5144.

Comm Warsecke asks if it will raise taxes for the citizens. No, it is the same tax rate as last year.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Tucker, to open the public hearing. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

John Zirkel, Lake Township, we are talking the taxable value last year and this year and the tax rate is the same for 2015 as it was for 2014. I hear from you about the 5.29, but never hear about the taxable values increases, the citizens will give you a little at a time but not all at once, so forget that thinking about it.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to close the Public Hearing. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Walterhouse, adopt the L-4029 as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2

June 9, 2015

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Marlene Wood, Recycling Coordinator, reported that township clean-up days will continue through the summer; she has been working with the DNR to clean up illegal dump sites in Benzie County – we are now down to 12; she did an article with before and after pictures for the newspaper of these sites and she believes these are old sites; the next Household Hazardous Waste Clean Up is July 11 from 9 a.m. – 12:00 noon in Frankfort and will continue taking tires; another tire event is by appointment only; the next quarterly SWAC meeting is June 24 at 5 p.m.; the recycling truck is back on the road after repairs.

Bert Gale, presented the May 2015 Building Code & Safety Enforcement report.

Craig Johnson, EMS Director, stated that they held their annual tug of war with the Lake Ann and Platte River schools; May 27 they held a strategic planning session for EMS and came up with a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement, together with some other suggestions including that they feel they are still understaffed, the 9 – 9 shift is what works best for them; will look at restructuring the department and appointing some supervisors.

Frank Post, Emergency Management, provided his May 2015 monthly report; requests approval of two FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant pre-applications – M-115 Property Acquisition Project and Lake Township Bluff Road Erosion Control Project.

Motion by Griner, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve the submission of two (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant pre-applications for M-115 Property Acquisition Project and Lake Township Bluff Road Erosion Control Project as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker and Walterhouse Nays: Warsecke Motion carried.

Tom Longanbach, Chair, Building Authority, let the board know that there is a special meeting tomorrow at 9 a.m.; they had an offer by architect for \$175,000 to option 1 spray/sprinkle and they want a total release of liability for the whole building; we countered that if we get the waiver we will talk; moving ahead with the re-roof plan and they have chosen 1200 sq ft to see how complicated it will be and they will be able to give a better cost figure; the fire inspector went through the building last week and several people were present with questions for him – we are awaiting the report to see where we are.

9:58 a.m. Break

10:06 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Carland reported that he attended both village meetings; he attended the Sheriff Association banquet with Comm Warsecke; attended the NW Michigan Regionalization & Grants committee; attended Networks NW and talked about affordable housing – rentals and home buying opportunities.

Comm Tucker reported that she attended the Airport meeting last week and they may bring gliders back this summer; attended the Almira Township meeting last night.

Comm Walterhouse has nothing to report.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3

June 9, 2015

Comm Griner reported that this county is doing a good job picking up dead animals on the roadside and he spoke about it at the MAC transportation meeting and stated that the animals need to be picked up state-wide. Senator Booher stated yesterday that they are trying their best to come up with a plan to fix the roads. June 16 he will meet with MDOT about reducing the speed going up the hill into Frankfort down to 45 mph; will be going to Onaway Iron Works next week. Would like to attend the Networks NW Housing seminar in Traverse City.

Comm Warsecke reported that Inland Township has moved their meeting to next Monday.

Comm Sauer reported that he was at the Village of Thompsonville meeting last night and they now have a new ambulance.

Chairman Bates reported that Almira Township is having trouble with their IT; he attended the Lake Township meeting as well.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Karl Sparks

- June 16 @ 2 p.m. there will be a budget workshop for the board; they will discuss what to do if the jail millage should fail; also 3:30 finance regarding budget hearings.
- July 22 at 6:30 p.m. a closed session with Peter Cohl regarding union negotiations.
- Professional Development – June 17 – 1:00 – 3:30 Employment Practices, presented by MMRMA; July 31 – 9:00 – 4:00 Communication presented by MSUE; and August 28 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Communication presented by MSUE

2% grant request from the Jail for new cameras totaling \$26,627.34 – referred to Finance.

2% grant request of BACN – referred to Finance.

FOIA Procedures & Guidelines: Motion by Griner, seconded by Sauer, to approve resolution 2015-016 for FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, Public Summary of Procedures and Guidelines and FOIA Operational Procedures as presented, effective June 15, 2015. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FOIA Appeal: Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to deny the appeal of Jim Evans dated May 21, 2015 and direct Karl Sparks to send a letter to Mr. Evans informing him of his right to an appeal at the circuit court level. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FINANCE

Motion by Carland, seconded by Tucker, to approve payment of the bills from May 27, 2015 to June 9, 2015 in the amount of \$433,685.47, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Comm Griner inquires of the NaCO membership fee – referred to finance.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, provided the cash summary report by fund together with revenue and expenditures.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4

June 9, 2015

HR AND PERSONNEL – Consent Calendar

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Griner, to approve the May 26, 2015 HR Consent Calendar items 1 – 4 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EMS: Motion by Griner, seconded by Tucker, to accept the resignation from Rory Heckman from the EMS Advisory Board, with regrets and authorize the county clerk to advertise for the position. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Railroad Point Natural Area: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Griner, to approve the Railroad Point Natural Area Expansion Amendment #6, Project Number TF 10-164 as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Brownfield Authority minutes of April 24, 2015 received.
- Benzie-Leelanau Health Dept minutes of May 28, 2015 received.

NEW BUSINESS – None

11:00 a.m. Jennifer Berkey, MSUE Annual Report

Ms. Berkey gave the annual report and also had Deb Laws, 4-H Program Coordinator; Connie Hemingway, Nutrition Program Instructor and Kurt Schindler, Land Use Educator all present and gave a brief statement on their own behalf.

11:30 a.m. Public Input

Jim Evans, Benzonia, questions the financial issues with grants; enjoyed the MSU quiz; he is sorely disappointed that he wasn't able to speak on his own appeal, don't know if it is the FOIA coordinator's appeal or my appeal.

11:32 p.m. Public Input Closed

Comm Griner stated that the Buildings/Grounds meeting tomorrow will be delayed until after the Building Authority meeting has concluded.

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Griner, to adjourn until the June 23, 2015 regular meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Government Center or the call of the chair. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

COMMISSIONERS

Page 5

June 9, 2015

INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of June 26, 2015 as corrected.
3. PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 TAX RATE
4. Adopted the L-4029 as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
5. Approved the submission of two (2) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant pre-applications for M-115 Property Acquisition Project and Lake Township Bluff Road Erosion Control Project as presented.
6. Approved resolution 2015-016 for FOIA Procedures and Guidelines, Public Summary of Procedures and Guidelines and FOIA Operational Procedures as presented, effective June 15, 2015.
7. Denied the appeal of Jim Evans dated May 21, 2015 and direct Karl Sparks to send a letter to Mr. Evans informing him of his right to an appeal at the circuit court level.
8. Approved payment of the bills from May 27, 2015 to June 9, 2015 in the amount of \$433,685.47, as presented.
9. Approved the HR Consent Calendar items 1 – 4 as presented.
10. Accept the resignation from Rory Heckman from the EMS Advisory Board, with regrets and authorize the county clerk to advertise for the position.
11. Approved the Railroad Point Natural Area Expansion Amendment #6, Project Number TF 10-164 as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.

HR COMMITTEE

Page 3

May 26, 2015

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Griner, to approve HR Consent Calendar items as follows:

1. To approve the job descriptions for the 911 Central Dispatch Director, Resource Recovery Coordinator and Animal Control Officer, with the addition of Bachelor's Degree or directly related and equivalent experience may be substituted for the degree equivalent on a year for year basis, to all three.
2. That we add preferred to chief negotiator for the union to the County Administrator's job description.
3. To have a fiscal year hire date and start recruitment in June with an October start date.
4. To allow the Prosecutor Attorney to contract with DHS.

