

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 8, 2015

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

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

Present were: Commissioners Bates, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Commissioner Carland arrived at 9:01; Commissioner Griner arrived at 9:04

The invocation was given by Commissioner Bates followed by the pledge of allegiance. Chairman Bates announced at he would be leaving at 10:45 and Vice Chair Griner will assume the chair at that time.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Tucker, seconded by Carland, to approve the regular session minutes of August 25, 2015 and special session minutes of September 1, 2015, as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Abs: Griner Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

Josh Mills, resident of Joyfield Twp and Superintendent of City of Frankfort, supports the efforts of the Emergency Manager and asks that you maintain those services.

9:04 a.m. Public Input Closed

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015-16 Budget

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to open the public hearing on the 2015-2016 budget. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Dodie Putney, Tom Fountain and Deb Aldridge, Benzie Leelanau Health Dept

Dodie states that she appreciates the increase of \$2,800 from the Board of Commissioners; and stated that this is a district health department and what this board acts on affects Leelanau County also; she asks this board to reconsider an increase of 3% or about \$6,700.

Tom Fountain stated that for the past 5 or 6 years the permits have gone up for Benzie County due to the lack of funding; the cost will continue to go up to cover the costs.

Deb Aldridge reported on the home visits for personal health as well, as there is still on-going home visits that continue.

Dodie asks for you to reconsider your appropriation.

Karl Sparks, County Administrator, presented a power point as to how the budget was put together; the general fund monies are less this year and we do not have the \$354,000 one-time money this year that we had last year; we looked at adjusting revenues and expenditures as needed. The general fund does not include restricted funds – that means that if there is a millage out there, it can only be used for that purpose.

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Motion by Bates, seconded by Tucker, to set the 2015-16 budget as presented.

Comm Warsecke stated that we have a number of people here in support of the Emergency Management position; we shouldn't reduce the hours to half time and we need to look at keeping it a full time slot; we have \$1.6 in fund balance – perhaps we can reduce it to 23% and keep the emergency management as full time and use the balance to help with the health department or use it to help with some salaries; we currently as commissioners haven't done anything to help reduce our department when we have asked others to do so – we pay \$20,000 per year for us to have pension – why, we are part time.

Comm Griner feels strong to keep Frank Post's position as full time.

Comm Sauer stated that he sees a considerable amount of overtime -- perhaps a 10% reduction in overtime would cover that position; retirement should eventually go to a 401 and give up on MERS; we are sinking and to get out of it will be a major problem.

Comm Walterhouse says the budget committee has cut overtime down -- you never know when they (the departments) will need it.

Michelle Thompson says the overtime you are looking at is not general fund for the most part -- there are special funds that are separate.

Chairman Bates says we need to keep the fund balance at 25%; I am not unsympathetic to your cause – I understand; he feels Frank Post does a lot of things that aren't in the purview of the Emergency Manager – like CERT.

Karl says the budget committee will go back and look at the issues brought up today and come back on the 22nd with some answers.

Comm Warsecke says we should think about making it happen and next year ask for help from the municipalities.

Comm Walterhouse says this board needs to vote today about Frank Post's hours of work.

Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Steven Houghton, Building Department, provides the August 2015 report; he also stated that they have hired Terry Hammond to help as a building inspector.

Craig Johnson, EMS, stated that his thoughts and prayers go out to Lisa Gleason and her family on the death of her husband; they had an average holiday weekend; there was a water issue discovered last week that will affect the drywall and flooring at one of the stations.

Marlene Wood, Recycling Coordinator, stated that she does not have stats today for you, but all HHW, electronics and tire collections are completed for the year; it was a busy and productive summer.

Sheriff Schendel, said they had a very busy Labor Day weekend; there was another OD death in Elberta which is under investigation; a tuber got stuck in the mud in the Betsie River that they were

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able to rescue; there was a serious motorcycle accident; school is back in session so be extra diligent and watch out for kids as they wait for the school bus.

Jaime Croel, ACO, provided the August 2105 report; after hours calls were up last month; annual MPAWS conference in Battle Creek -- she applied and received a scholarship to attend.

Ron Berns, 911, stated the laptop project is done -- they also started a new numbering system at the same time.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Tucker has nothing additional.

Comm Carland reported that he did the bridge walk at Cold Creek yesterday – there were 134 people there; he and Karl are scheduling a meeting for fiber optic service in the county.

Comm Griner reported the Buildings/Grounds committee toured a building for recycling and off-site storage; the old Mr. Ed's building has 500 feet of frontage on Cold Creek and he is interested in pursuing it; he is interested in keeping the Emergency Management position full time.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to make Frank Post's (Emergency Manager) position 40 hours per week effective October 1, 2015, with funds to come from fund balance, to go back to the finance committee for further review and come back with an answer. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: Bates Motion carried.

Comm Sauer reported on the Road Commission issue with Rail Road Point Trail – the DEQ is in favor of access and a parking lot; the Parks and Rec committee needs to take a further look at it.

Comm Warsecke has nothing at this time.

Comm Bates reported that they did interviews for EDC – with two applicants; he attended a HR grievance hearing; County Administrator interviews; Lake Township clean-up day.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Tucker, to authorize retaining Karl Sparks as County Administrator and to have him meet with the finance committee to work out a contract for one year, commencing October 1, 2015.

Comm Warsecke asks if this came up just this morning. Chairman Bates says there have been on-going discussions and it was finalized today. Did any of the other candidates have any idea this would happen? Chairman Bates says we have given a lot of consideration to all candidates.

Comm Griner says we looked at replacing Karl; we had some good candidates; this is hard for me to buy; a lot of people came here knowing that we were going to hire a new administrator; I am not pleased with this process.

Comm Walterhouse agrees.

Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Sauer and Tucker Nays: Griner, Walterhouse and Warsecke Motion carried.

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10:02 a.m. Break

10:07 a.m. Reconvene

Ed Roy III, Attorney and Tom Longanbach, Building Authority Chair

Mr. Roy updated the board and public of the issues at hand and the position that the Building Authority is in. There is no clear path to conclusion here; the only change from the September 2, 2015 letter is that Stu Pettitt has submitted a formal request to the Bureau of Fire Safety for option 3 to see if it is acceptable to the state. Option 3 is encapsulation of the roof that is in place by spraying with flame retardant material on the underside and applying a non-combustible OSB applied to the outer side prior to the reinstallation of the singles. Mr. Roy stated that we may end up in arbitration with the architect so we are very guarded in questions. The incorrect sheathing was specified for the project.

Comm Sauer asks if the 50% would be rough in – Yes, the roof was on. Why will the inspectors not respond if there is a fix; what do we have to do to get them to respond?

Mr. Roy talks about stop-loss insurance.

Tom Longanbach says that CMS uses the 2000 code and the State uses the 2006 code.

Chairman Bates asks do we bring pressure – something has to be done.

Comm Griner stated that he has had a problem with the Building Authority from day 1; he feels Mr. Roy should step aside and let the Board of Commissioners go ahead and help. Time to take this to the political arena. He asks if there have been minutes of the progress meetings. He has a problem with no bonds on this project; please ask for some help here.

Comm Carland agrees that it is frustrating situation; he remembers the May meeting where we took a vote and said the architect was going to have to pay for it and then they stopped coming after that.

Chairman Bates says we will review these options and come back.

Mr. Roy says if the Board of Commissioners want to take this issue, then he has provided three options and you can accept one of those with the risk to the board.

10:43 a.m. Chairman Bates excused and Vice Chair Griner assumes the chair.

Comm Sauer asks if we have looked into the stop-loss insurance; Mr. Roy says this week.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - Karl Sparks

- FOIA appeal addressed to the BOC needs to be filed with the County Clerk not the Sheriff and County Administrator – will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Provides the monthly statistical report for this area.
- Experience Works hand out – local agency that works with seniors 55+ to learn new skills.
- Quarterly MERS update.
- They have met with all five unions in September to bargain; 4 of 5 are going to mediation on September 18.
- Government Center painting is being done.
- They are pulling the fiber optic line between the buildings.
- Web site design will be up and ready by the end of the month.
- BS&A fixed assets module is also targeted for late September early October.
- Request from Joyfield Township to take sanctions against a homeowner; this is being looked into to come up with a resolution.
- At the October 13 meeting he will present a six-month update on the strategic plan and where we plan to go.

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- Two-year report of accomplishments since he has been on board.

FINANCE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve payment of the bills from August 25 through September 3, 2015 in the amount of \$525,968.06 as presented. Roll Call Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Bates Motion carried

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, stated that they did get the 700 tires removed from the tax foreclosed property; the August 27 sale grossed \$104,000; still have one piece which is 5 foot piece in the Village of Honor; she reviews the six funds that are in a deficit at this time.

Budget Committee:

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Carland to approve the Budget Consent Calendar items 1 through 7 as corrected. Roll Call Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Bates Motion carried.

HR AND PERSONNEL -None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EDC: Motion by Griner, seconded by Carland, to appoint Bill Merry and Ron Harrison to the EDC board for a term to expire January 31, 2016. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Bates Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Jury Board: The County Clerk is asked to obtain additional information from each of the six candidates of their interest and qualifications and bring back to this board.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Parks & Recreation minutes of July 27, 2015 received.
- Letter from DNR received.
- MMRMA letter regarding RAP funds received.
- MSHDA Letter regarding recapture of funds.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for August received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for August received.
- Letter received from Dept of Health and Human Services regarding state ward chargeback rates for 2016.

NEW BUSINESS – None

11:11 a.m. Public Input

Dave Burley, discussed the Maples roof and asks that you not place the residents at risk if they would have to move; please consider a fix no matter the cost.

Lucy Demonchaux, Beulah, asks regarding the roof issue – where is choice #4 that no one would question. We have heard three choices, but they are all flawed. Where is that perfect answer?

11:15 a.m. Public Input Closed

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Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn until September 22, 2015 regular meeting or the call of the chair. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke

Nays: None Exc: Bates Motion carried

K. 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 August 25, 2015 and special session minutes of September 1, 2015, as presented.
3. Public Hearing held on the 2015-2016 Budget.
4. Authorized setting the 2015-16 budget as presented.
5. Authorized making the Emergency Manager position 40 hours per week effective October 1, 2015, with funds to come from fund balance, to go back to the finance committee for further review and come back with an answer.
6. Authorized retaining Karl Sparks as County Administrator and to have him meet with the finance committee to work out a contract for one year, commencing October 1, 2015.
7. Approved payment of the bills from August 25 through September 3, 2015 in the amount of \$525,968.06 as presented.
8. Approved the Budget Consent Calendar items 1 through 7 as corrected.
9. Appointed Bill Merry and Ron Harrison to the EDC board for a term to expire January 31, 2016.

Budget Hearing – 8:00 a.m.
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September 1, 2015

Motion by Walterhouse seconded by Carland to adopt the Budget Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Authorized the County Administrator to make budget transfers totaling up to \$1 million beginning September 2015, for the purpose of balancing the current fiscal year (2014/2015) budget.
2. Authorized to allow the County Treasurer to inter-fund transfer up to \$1 million to balance the budget for the current fiscal year (2014/2015) during the month of September.
3. To adopt the General Appropriations Act as corrected.
4. To set the Elected Officials Salaries as presented, effective January 1, 2016.
5. To adopt Appendix A – Appointed Salaries as presented.
6. To adopt the Employee Roster for 2016 as presented.
7. To correct 101-253-402.00 budgeted revenue for 2015-16 to \$4,068,931.