

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 9, 2016**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Griner at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: Commissioners Bates, Carland (arrived at 9:01), Griner, Sauer, Tucker (arrived at 9:02), Walterhouse and Warsecke

The invocation was given by Commissioner Griner followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Carland, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Kurt Schindler at 10:00 for Benchmarking Part D. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of July 26, 2016 as amended, correcting Carol McKee statement during public input. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chairman Griner stated that we are all waiting for a report on the Maples from Ed Hale.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:**

Kyle Rosa, Undersheriff, provided an update to the board regarding the K-9 dog Dasty and his medical condition – they have sent registered letters in hopes of reaching an agreement with the company that they acquired Dasty from – no response has been received yet; last Wednesday Sgt. Ketz attempted to do more training with Dasty and he was unable to perform.

Frank Post, Emergency Management, provided the July 2016 monthly activity report; he met on July 11 with the National Lakeshore and Benzie County CERT to discuss consolidating services; he talked about the grant projects and some upcoming trainings; we have received a Hazardous Mitigation grant for the M-115 property on Crystal Lake at the outlet – \$128,000 project and there is a 25% match required -- no general fund dollars will be used. Comm Carland inquired regarding a possible generator for the airport and Frank indicated that if it is a public entity, it is possible.

Jaime Croel, Animal Control Officer, stated that everything at the shelter is going well; she reported on the Animal Welfare League fundraiser with Dr. Dee who took six kittens back to Fairbanks Alaska with her.

Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, gave an update on SB 599 – the flat fee bill – which has been signed by the Governor and she will write an article for the newspaper; the bill was started by Michigan Land and Title and will take effective October 1, 2016. She is President of the Register's Association this year and their summer conference will be at Crystal Mountain in September.

Benzie Transportation Authority finance report for June 2016 received.

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### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Carland reported on the Airport Authority and the need to get the utility rating back; the Airport Layout Plan; attended the Networks Northwest meeting last night in Traverse City and stated they talked about a web site that shows a culmination of all motorized and non-motorized trails in one place – the web site is: UpNorthTrails.org. The Airport Authority has received a letter from MDOT regarding unused funds – they voted to send the money to the FAA; then Thursday at their meeting they voted to reverse that vote and will now request to send the funds to Antrim County Airport -- \$132,000. He attended the Village and Township of Benzonia meetings and they are discussing how to piggy back with MDOT US-31 upgrades in 2020 – Road House down to the river.

Comm Bates stated that he didn't have a lot to report but stated that Consumers Energy or DTE is a supporter of Centennial Farms program and this year Charlie Brozofsky's farm in Benzonia Township now holds the designation – agriculture is very important in Benzie County.

Comm Walterhouse reported that he attended the Homestead Township meeting; he also spoke regarding the meeting in Frankfort with the Airport Authority – he feels that we have made progress.

Comm Tucker has nothing to report.

Comm Warsecke has nothing to report.

Comm Sauer reported on Veterans Affairs taking bids on the concrete; the VA is planning to close the VA hospitals over the next 25-30 years; one of the issues covered at the Health Dept meeting was swimmers itch; over 13 lake associations received \$200,000 grant to research it.

Comm Griner stated that swimmers itch is in the inland lakes not the Great Lakes; Sunday morning he drove by the Thompsonville airport and there were six planes there; they are working on a grant to pave the road into Point Betsie; will meet Saturday with a lady from Muskegon regarding cruise ships; he attended the AuSable Canoe Marathon sponsored by Consumers Power.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Mitch Deisch

- Animal Control interviews have been conducted and will schedule four more this week and next week.
- Budget review process here after the MSU presentation.
- Finance at 1 p.m. and Technology at 3 p.m. today.
- Medical Examiner – he is pushing to move forward with Dr. Goslinoski.

### **FINANCE**

**Bills:** Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Carland, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$385,944.43, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Library Penal Fines report to be carried over to August 26 for discussion by the County Treasurer.

**HR AND PERSONNEL** – None

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### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**DHHS:** Motion by Tucker, seconded by Sauer, to appoint Gaylord Jowett to the DHHS Board to fill a vacancy through October 31, 2017. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**MERS Purchase Request:** Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Tucker, to authorize Kirk Parker to purchase five years of generic time from MERS as requested. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Tucker, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

10:05 a.m. Break – Comm Tucker Excused

10:11 a.m. Reconvene

Kurt Schindler, MSU Extension presents the Benchmark Benzie! Part D: Economic Development Services. We have to change the way we think, act and do business at every level. You need growth for your tax base to grow as well; we need to identify what the new economy is – it is extremely important to have an economy that is rich in talent and ideas. Local government needs to enhance talent assets; enhance community assets and enhance business climate. He discussed the need for a Planning Commission and a Strategic Plan. Over the short term, you need to look at fiscal stability -- you have a millage rate problem – that is not something to ignore. Long term – you need affordable housing, a shift in the new housing tastes, you need to attract new construction, you need intergovernmental cooperation.

Comm Carland stated that he has submitted a grant request to Networks Northwest for administrative services and master plan services – will hear from Sarah Lucas next week.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Antrim County Resolution regarding Dark Stores/Michigan Tax Tribunal received.
- Allegan County resolution SB 39, to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act received.
- Veterans Affairs minutes of July 11, 2016 received.
- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Dept minutes of July 28, 2016 received.
- E-911 Technical Surcharge Pool Financial Statements for years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 received.

### **NEW BUSINESS** – None

### **OLD BUSINESS** – Continue 2016-17 Budget Discussions

Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, provided an update on the 2016-17 budget – departments have cut expenditures for next year, revenues have dropped, there will be an increase in the MERS (retirement) and health insurance.

Comm Walterhouse stated that he is happy with where we stand.

Mitch asked how we could produce an executive budget summary that is easy to understand to the public; he will present a concept to the finance committee today; then to the full board prior to going out to the public.

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10:57 a.m. Public Input

Mary Hoyt, Benzonia Township, talked about the Chamber of Commerce, Benzie Central Education Foundation, Traverse City Chamber, DDA for Downtown Beulah and has spent a lot of time with economic development; if you live long enough, you learn that life has cycles and it was disturbing when zoning did change from the county to the townships. She asks the board why they aren't stepping in with the Maples issues – those fixes are like throwing darts at the wall.

Jerry Brace, Beulah, stated that his wife is in the Maples, congratulations to all of you for appointing Gaylord to the DHHS board, he is a good man. Why isn't there a plan for getting a roof on the Maples; you need to discuss and write a plan for where the money will come from to put a new roof on the building as soon as possible and make sure the builder and the architect be bonded; let's work together and get a plan then let the people know.

Kathy Howland, Thompsonville, stated that as a county we have failed our elderly; it is heart breaking to see the cracks in the walls, equipment that does not work; as a community we have failed them. How many of those people have devoted their lives to this county and we are not doing anything to help them.

11:13 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Carland, seconded by Bates, to adjourn until the August 23, 2016 Regular meeting or the call of the chair. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None  
Exc: Tucker Nays: None Motion carried

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Roger L. Griner – Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. To approve the agenda as amended.
2. To approve the regular session minutes of July 26, 2016 as amended.
3. To approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$385,944.43, as presented.
4. Appointed Gaylord Jowett to the DHHS Board to fill a vacancy through October 31, 2017.
5. Authorized Kirk Parker to purchase five years of generic time from MERS as requested.