

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 8, 2016

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 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, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Absent: Excused: Commissioner Tucker

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Sauer following by the invocation given by Commissioner Griner.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Bates, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve the regular session minutes of February 23, 2016 as corrected on page 2. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Marlene Wood, Recycling Coordinator, reported that she has been going to all townships with the annual report which was presented to you last meeting; the Record Patriot did a nice job reporting, however the fee is per household not per person as reported; a tour of American Waste will be set up after March 14 – let her know if you are interested and when; businesses can pay an amount to recycle, but this is a residential program; all of business cardboard has to go to a cardboard trailer.

Craig Johnson, EMS Director, stated that they have received the new AEDs – 17 of them; the grant was for 12 but they were able to get some additional ones; the millage wording is being prepared; March 21 will be the date to visit the Mecosta County Morgue; Craig would like to schedule AED trainings for the employees.

Jaime Croel, Animal Control Officer, provided the February 2016 report; and stated that interviews are being scheduled for the part time clerk position; they have the truck back with a new topper.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Carland reported that he attended the MAC conference last week which was good, a lot of discussions were dominated by the Flint issue; there are no state ballot proposals approved yet; he attended a session on lobbying – and he inquired about term limits.

Comm Bates also attended the MAC conference and he and Comm Sauer attended an active shooter presentation; they had time to network with Darwin Booher and Ray Franz; he agreed that the Flint issues dominated discussions; Lake Township met and their building permits are going up; the clerk is not seeking re-election out there; Almira Township meets next week; Platte Township meets next month.

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Comm Walterhouse stated with regard to the MAC conference that it was the smallest one ever; Homestead Township is still finalizing their budget; Coho Festival will be in August.

Comm Sauer stated that he attended the Road Commission meeting two weeks ago and their audit is now final, the MERS issue continues to pop up – just so everyone knows, he will not take something from anyone, but we need to fix this; Road Commission has awarded bids on the local road projects; he attended the Building Authority meeting and it looks like Comstock Construction may be 2 -3 weeks longer; the MAC conference was very enlightening.

Comm Warsecke has nothing to add.

Comm Griner read a thank you note from Linda Farnsworth for working with kids at risk; the funds for this program come from the liquor tax money and it is based on the Catholic Human Services.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Echos the comments made regarding the MAC conference; the real thing regarding MERS and the OPEB is that Benzie County doesn't offer post-employment health insurance; we need to have a plan to bring the program up to 100% funding which means we will need to increase the contributions.

EDC: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to appoint Courtney Gillison and Ed Kowalski to the EDC for a six-year term to expire on January 31, 2022. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

OMA Violation: the opinion of Mr. Figura is presented and he feels there is no violation.

Technology minutes are presented.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Carland, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from February 19, 2016 – March 3, 2016 in the amount of \$241,558.38, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, presented a cash summary by fund report and stated that she transferred funds yesterday to make the jail and EMS whole to the DTRF. She is working on settlements with the townships; Forfeiture of the 2014 taxes began March 1 and foreclosure of the 2013 taxes is March 31.

HR AND PERSONNEL

Consent Calendar: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Sauer, to approve the February 23, 2016 HR Consent Calendar items 1 – 7 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS -- Done

ACTION ITEMS -- None

CORRESPONDENCE

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- Antrim County resolution regarding Center of Public Integrity and Global Integrity received.
- Antrim County resolution regarding SB 703 Michigan Campaign Finance Act received.
- Parks & recreation minutes of January 25, 2016 received.
- Bay County resolution regarding opposition to Section 298 of the FY 2017 Budget received.
- Road Commission minutes of February 11, 2016 received.

NEW BUSINESS – None

9:37 a.m. Comm Bates excused.

Benchmarking Phase 1 presented by County Administrator Mitch Deisch, Kurt Schindler, MSUE and Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director.

10:15 a.m. Presentation completed.

Comm Sauer stated that the EDC plan may be a way to get out of this.

Comm Carland stated the operating and voted millage by county shows we have more voted millage, and that is due to the jail.

Comm Griner stated that during the EDC interviews, one candidate challenged us the Board of Commissioners and the County Administrator to tap into residents at Crystal Downs; we need to address the MERS situation.

10:18 a.m. Public Input

Deb Lindgren, Joyfield Township, stated that at the Special Meeting on March 16 for AES to make a presentation, she would like someone to explain what the EDC is or does; why do we need AES.

Jim Evans, Joyfield Township, says thank you to Mitch, Kurt and Tom for the presentation.

10:21 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Carland, to adjourn until the March 16, 2016 Special meeting or the call of the chair. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None
Exc: Tucker Nays: None Motion carried

Roger L. Griner – Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of February 23, 2016 as corrected on page 2.
3. Appointed Courtney Gillison and Ed Kowalski to the EDC for a six-year term to expire on January 31, 2022.
4. Approved payment of the bills from February 19, 2016 – March 3, 2016 in the amount of \$241,558.38, as presented.
5. Approved the February 23, 2016 HR Consent Calendar items 1 – 7 as presented.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Sauer, to adopt the HR Consent Calendar are follows:

1. To authorize Al Blattner to carry over 40 hours of vacation time for 90 days.
2. To change to: Benzie County will reimburse employees for actual mileage at a rate that complies with the State of Michigan mandated rates. See: <http://www.michigan.gov/wca/>
3. To change 11.2 (1) as follows: Eligible regular full time employees currently are eligible to accrue sick leave at the rate of two-thirds (2/3) of one (1) day for each full month of employment for a maximum of 64 hours earned a year. Employees with more than one hundred twenty-eight (128) hours of sick time to their credit may not accumulate more sick time. Eligible regular full time employees may elect annually to cash in at their then effective rate of up to eighty (80) hours of sick leave providing that a minimum balance of sixty-four (64) accumulated sick hours are maintained. The election shall be made each December 1st and shall be paid that month.
4. To change 11.4 as follows: Non-exempt regular full time employees currently are eligible for two (2) days personal leave each year. Personal days shall be scheduled as far in advance as possible and approved by the department head. Employees are eligible on January 1 of each. Non-exempt regular full time employees will be paid for personal time not used in the calendar year in January of the following year.
5. To change 11.6(4) as follows: If the funeral is held five hundred miles or more away from Beulah, Michigan one (1) additional day will be granted.
6. To change to: Continuation of Benefits: The employee will continue to receive all benefits while on short-term disability (90) days the same as if the employee were still working, including, but not limited to, sick time, vacation time and retirement contributions.
7. To change: By action of the Board of Commissioners, wages shall be paid for assigned hours missed due to building closure.