

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 10, 2016

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 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

Excused: Commissioner Tucker

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

Agenda:

Motion by Carland, 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 Sauer, seconded by Carland, to approve the regular session minutes of April 26, 2016 as presented. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

Sheriff Schendel says a prayer for Roger Griner for the procedure he is having done tomorrow.

9:03 a.m. Public Input Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Animal Control report for April 2016 received.

Benzie Transportation Authority financial reports for February and March 2016 received.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Carland reported that he attended both the Village of Beulah and Village of Benzonia meetings last week; Benzonia is discussing increasing the water rates which have not been adjusted in several years; the Traverse Avenue repaving project is complete; Beulah continues to pursue the water issues; attended the Airport Authority meeting last week.

Comm Bates reported that he attended the Lake and Almira Township meetings – Lake Township Planning Commission is talking about the possibility of a road millage to address repairs to their local roads; Almira Township clean-up day was last Saturday; the pancake breakfast went well, they had a good turn out; the township is looking to make improvements to sidewalks in front of the old fire barn in the Village of Lake Ann; foreclosed property on Clay Road – the township will be opting out of that property.

Comm Walterhouse reported that he attended the Homestead Township meeting on May 2; their clean-up day is scheduled for May 21.

Comm Sauer reported that the Veterans Memorial will hold a ceremony on Memorial Day at 12:00 noon with a flag raising ceremony; the Elberta Farm Market is trying to get an agriculture grant to build a restroom facility where the farm market is.

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Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the Inland Township meeting last night; May 20 & 21 they will hold a garage sale and blood drive at the township hall; May 20 will be propane refill at Beechcraft Sawmill; inquired of the Medical Examiner contract.

Comm Griner reported that we have great department heads ---- Matt Skeels with the Road Commission; Kathy Dube with the Maples; Doug Durand with Council on Aging; Bill Kennis with Benzie Bus; Craig Johnson with EMS and Marlene Wood (now David Schaffer) with Recycling;

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

- Mitch asks the board to select one person to attend the mediation regarding the Evans complaint – Evan Warsecke will be the Commissioner Representative.
- The Budget review has started with all departments.
- He has a meeting scheduled with Frankfort and Ludington regarding the Coast Guard stations which are being downgraded from full time to part time status – both cities will be effected.
- Medical Examiner – he is seeking direction from the board as to how to move forward; we have gone to the Mecosta/Newaygo site; we are looking for opportunities for some financial savings -- not to draw criticism on Grand Traverse County, it is what is in the best interest in Benzie County; last week the Manistee County Administrator, Tom Kaminski, asked to consider a three-way program with Manistee County; do we stay with Grand Traverse or start the negotiations with Mecosta/Newaygo to allow Craig and he to move forward.
- Craig – the County has to have a Medical Examiner for questionable deaths where they have to sign a medical certificate; medics are doing some of this now but there needs to be more training to some staff for this; there should be a quicker decision as to where the body is going – funeral home or the morgue.
- Wendy Trute, Grand Traverse Health Dept, stated that the \$3,250 is all inclusive; anything over that is contractual; last year Benzie County had 35 Medical Examiner cases; it was the intent with Dr. Fliss that her being the ME was temporary and they are actively pursuing a forensic pathologist to be housed in Traverse City; there are a lot of questions you need to ask before you make this decision.
- Mitch asked Wendy if Grand Traverse has thought about joining Mecosta/Newaygo – we are not ruling anything out.
- Evan feels we should maybe not move too fast to see if they will hire a forensic pathologist.
- Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to direct the County Administrator and Craig Johnson to start more in depth talking with Mecosta County and direct the County Administrator to pursue an agreement, regarding cost effective, with Manistee County bringing on board a forensic pathologist. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

Jail Budget Update: Dan Smith, Jail Administrator, stated that he had no additional information at this time; one person has resigned and they are in the process of hiring two positions, one full time corrections officer and one part time assistant for the Jail Administrator.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from April 22, 2016 to May 9, 2016 in the amount of \$426,243.58, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

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Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that they have been working on a new credit card company and it is not possible to get what we are looking for; this issue was discussed at the Leadership Forum and department heads will use different procedures to seek timely payment. She is therefore asking to rescind the resolution 2016-014 which was adopted last meeting.

Motion by Bates, seconded by Sauer, to rescind Resolution 2016-014, Credit Cards, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

10:05 a.m. Kyle Rosa, Under Sheriff, requests authorization to donate items from the Sheriff's storage room to the TNT for auction.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to authorize Sheriff Dept items presented to the board to be donated to TNT for auction. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke
Nays: Bates Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

10:17 a.m. David Schaffer, Recycling Coordinator, requested approval of a DEQ grant for tire cleanup in the amount of \$15,000.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Bates, to enter into a Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant with the Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$15,000, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

Finance Consent Calendar:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Bates, to approve the April 26, 2016 Finance Committee Consent Calendar items 1 and 2 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

HR AND PERSONNEL

HR Consent: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the April 26, 2016 HR Committee Consent Calendar items 1 and 2 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BTA: Motion by Bates, seconded by Walterhouse, to appoint Nicholas Olson to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term expiring April 30, 2019 and re-appoint Eugene Allen to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term expiring April 30, 2019. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

Land Bank: Motion by Bates, seconded by Griner, to reappoint Tom Longanbach to the Land Bank Authority for a three-year term expiring April 5, 2019. Ayes: Bates, Carland, Griner, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Tucker Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution 2016-015: Motion by Bates, seconded by Carland, to adopt resolution 2016-015 in support of the designation of M-22 highway as a Pure Michigan Byway, authorizing the chairman to

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

CORRESPONDENCE

- Iron County resolution regarding State Transparency received.
- Wexford County resolution regarding the Clean Water Act received.
- Wexford County resolution regarding opposing HB 5016 Regulation of Public Right of Ways received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of March 28, 2016 received.
- Road Commission minutes of April 14, 2016 received.
- EDC Revolving Loan funds report ending March 31, 2016 received.

NEW BUSINESS – None

10:47 a.m. Public Input

Craig Johnson mentioned that he gave out a couple of life saving awards and will be giving another too.

Shelley Thompson commented regarding the tire grant and Thompsonville – there is a lack of vehicles equipped to haul tires.

John Zirkel, Lake Township, stated regarding the additional road millage that Lake Township may consider – it was only a comment made, it will not happen.

Amy Bissell provided pipeline information – it is vital to our economy.

10:56 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Bates, seconded by Carland, to adjourn until the May 24, 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

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 April 26, 2016 as presented.
3. Directed the County Administrator and Craig Johnson to start more in depth talking with Mecosta County and direct the County Administrator to pursue an agreement, regarding cost effective, with Manistee County bringing on board a forensic pathologist.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$426,243.58, as presented.
5. Rescinded Resolution 2016-014, Credit Cards, authorizing the chairman to sign.
6. Authorized Sheriff Dept items presented to the board to be donated to TNT for auction.
7. Approved to enter into a Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant with the DEQ in the amount of \$15,000.
8. Approved the April 26, 2016 Finance Committee Consent Calendar items 1 and 2 as presented.

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9. Approved the April 26, 2016 HR Committee Consent Calendar items 1 and 2 as presented.
10. Appointed Nicholas Olson to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term expiring April 30, 2019 and re-appoint Eugene Allen to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a three-year term expiring April 30, 2019.
11. Reappointed Tom Longanbach to the Land Bank Authority for a three-year term expiring April 5, 2019.
12. Adopted resolution 2016-015 in support of the designation of M-22 highway as a Pure Michigan Byway, authorizing the chairman to sign.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Bates, to approve the Finance Consent Calendar items as follows:

1. To enter into contract with Abilita for up to \$7,500 for a telephone consulting contract and to assist with and review a request for proposal.
2. To support the volunteer program on a trial basis for up to 18 months and leave the door open if the judge changes his mind or the volunteer program fails.

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

1. That the Jade Adams grievance number 16-90 be designated and turned over to the County Administrator to complete step 3.
2. That the County Administrator's evaluation be presented to the full board.