

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 14, 2017

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Coury Carland at 9:00 a.m.

Present were: Commissioners Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of January 24, 2017 as corrected. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Deb Lindgren, Joyfield Township, spoke regarding the Strategic Plan and some changes she feels should be made in the plan.

9:03 a.m. Public Input Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS:

Sheriff Schendel presented plaques to three individuals for going above and beyond for the benefit of others: Marine Deputy Dillon Rosa; Karen Mallon and Zachery Corey.

David Schaffer, Recycling Coordinator, reported that last month he spoke regarding some DEQ grant and they are official open; he will meet with the finance committee this afternoon because they do require a match of 25%.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, stated that they have -0- dogs right now so they are having the kennels power washed and repainted; he working on getting a software program for their computers

Frank Post, Emergency Management, provided the November 2016 and January 2017 reports; the LEPC will meet on February 21.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, stated the US Census Bureau is requesting information from the County to incorporate with the GIS – if there is no objection, he will proceed. No objection from the Board.

Craig Johnson, EMS, spoke regarding high performance CPR class and working together as a team; they are still having vehicle issues; they had 1925 transports in 2016 and 1710 in 2015; drug overdoses went down 160 down to 61; still having vehicle issues.

Comm Sauer stated even with increased volume, Thompsonville still is having issues; our license is for Benzie County itself; those other two townships are Manistee issues.

Mitch suggests to start the conversation with Manistee County and West Shore.

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Comm Jeannot inquires re Almira Twp will contract out for their billing services – fire and EMS – to get better response on payment. Do we do that now? Yes, ~~their~~ they use North Flight just like us. Comm Griner stated that the Thompsonville ambulance – he appreciates what we do over there. Community Paramedic Program – current BC and Priority Health are doing pilot programs around the state; they are working toward the fall of 2017 that Benzie EMS may have a program running.

Dick Bayer, Airport Manager, gave a report to the board and public present regarding the airport over the past few months.

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, updated those present regarding the new voting equipment that will be coming; we (County Clerk and Township Clerks) have seen two demonstrations and she has seen one software demonstration. There is a third company that will be scheduled before a decision will be made on which system to purchase.

10:00 a.m. – Opening of Audit Bids – three year bids were requested

Gabridge & Company	\$27,600.00 per year for 3 years
Abraham & Gaffney	\$27,900.00 for 2017; \$28,700.00 for 2018; \$29,500.00 for 2019
Anderson Tackman	\$27,500.00 per year for 3 years

Bids will be turned over to the County Treasurer for review and final recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

10:06 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Reconvene

10:15 a.m. Laura Galbraith, Venture North

Laura gave an annual report to the Board for 2016. In 2016 they loaned out a total of \$788,000 and created 37 new jobs; there is \$738,000 liquid to loan to Benzie County residents.

1st Public Hearing to Close Out the Loan with Sleeping Bear Apiaries

Motion by Griner, seconded by Walterhouse, to open the public hearing to close out the 2015 loan to Sleeping Bear Apiaries. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Laura stated regarding the project – this was a 2016 loan for \$205,000 to purchase equipment and inventory and needed to hire six new employees – they actually hired eight -- for 5 years.

Comm Jeannot asked how difficult it was to hire qualified work force.

Doug Coster, employee of Sleeping Bear Apiaries, stated that it is difficult to get a work force because of the housing in Benzie County.

Comm Carland is that a degree you can get from MSU or something. Doug not required for day to day operation. Have you been grappling with bee die offs? Yes we have; we have been able, through management, to cut the losses.

Comm Sauer asks about problems – bears are the biggest.

Comm Griner stated there seems to be more bears; Doug says he saw two this year.

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

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2nd Public Hearing for new loan in the amount of \$70,000 to purchase equipment and inventory, hire two full-time positions; no displaced persons with this expansion; there is 15-day comment period; the public can go through the County Administrator's office to submit comments in writing by March 1, 2017 and technical assistance is available.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Roelofs, to open the public hearing for a new 2017 loan to Sleeping Bear Apiaries. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Comm Carland asks that original loan was for production capacity – this is new equipment and inventory.

Comm Jeannot says this is a \$70,000 request? Yes

Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, how much honey does \$70,000 buy – it varies depending on the source.

Comm Carland asks if it is 3 pounds of honey to make mead – not really sure.

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

10:39 a.m. Eric VanDussen, spoke regarding his pending lawsuit and stated they are having trouble getting all documents that were part of the settlement. He stated you need to continue with OMA and FOIA training; he stated that his FOIA appeal was filed due to no permissible reason to go into closed session; you voted to settle the lawsuit and provide certain records; he stated that he has received a 1099 for the settlement amount, but have never received the money; this needs to be handled now.

11:02 a.m. Sarah Lucas, Networks Northwest – Master Plan

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Carland, to approve resolution 2017-003 Asserting the Right to Approve or Reject the Benzie County Master Plan, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call.

Ayes: Carland, Griner, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot, Roelofs and Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Carland, to approve resolution 2017-004 Adopting the Master Plan, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Roelofs, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot and Sauer Motion carried.

11:18 a.m. Break

11:23 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Sauer stated that they had a good Maples workshop meeting; he attended the Village of Thompsonville, Blaine Township and Joyfield Township meetings; he also attended the Health Dept meeting and stated that the new construction is complete for the new dental offices and it is up and running.

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Comm Roelofs also commented on the Maples Ad Hoc committee success; he attended his first Domestic Violence Task Force meeting; met the new MSP trooper working out of the Honor Detachment; spoke regarding a new bill that would change the Grand Traverse Veterans Affairs from 3-5 members up to 5 – 7 members and allows a Commissioner to sit on that board as a voting member; Benzie County Veterans Affairs running as usual, Veterans Memorial is going well.

Comm Walterhouse stated that he attended a Land Bank meeting in Leelanau County; the Homestead Township board meeting on February 6. He provided the 911 Advisory Board members listing to the board as information only; will work with Senior Resources this afternoon at Finance regarding a millage for this year, Animal Control as well.

Comm Griner stated that he attended the Orchard and Vineyard show and submitted per diem and was told he needed board approval; the MAC EDC that he was authorized to attend has been dissolved and replaced by the MAC Ag & Tourism; he will be going to 5 or 6 meetings in Lansing for MAC Ag & Tourism and MAC Transportation – they will meet the same day; he asks to be authorized to attend these meetings.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Jeannot, to authorize mileage to Roger Griner to attend meetings in Lansing for MAC Ag & Transportation and MAC Transportation.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Walterhouse, to amend to include per diem.

Vote on Amendment: Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Vote on original motion as amended: Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Comm Warsecke attended the Colfax and Inland Township meetings; Inland Township new fire department truck chassis is in and expect full truck to be delivered in May.

Comm Jeannot stated he attended the Domestic Violence Task Force on January 26; Lake Township on February 2; Northern Michigan Counties on February 6; Almira Township on February 13. He has a conflict with the AES Board meetings and is seeking to move their meeting date.

Comm Carland says there are no new developments with the Building Authority; attended a Centra Wellness retreat in Manistee; Village of Benzonia hired Chad Marshall as a part time employee; Benzonia Township is considering a rental ordinance; Ed Hoogterp gave a presentation at the Benzonia Township meeting regarding the old Trapp Farm; Village of Beulah just held their Winterfest and it was well attended; he attended the 2% grant presentation last Friday and was well attended; Networks Northwest had their annual meeting with Council of Governments (COG) – he was elected Vice Chair of the COG.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

- Manistee County is taking the Medical Examiner contract to the Board.
- Along with the two public hearings held today, we have to adopt a slew of new policies.
- The County Administrator's update will now be in the board packet.

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FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Griner, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from January 25, 2017 to February 14, 2017 in the amount of \$486,251.69, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, also gave an update of her department: held a show cause hearing for one year tax hardship deferrals; she attended the County Treasurer's conference in Lansing, as well as the Michigan Association of Land Banks meeting; Tax Foreclosure hearing for unpaid 2014 and prior taxes in today at 2:30 p.m.; they are gearing up for townships settlement of 2016 taxes which begins March 1; Land Bank meeting tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.

HR AND PERSONNEL

Consent Calendar: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt items 1 and 2 of the January 24, 2017 HR Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None

ACTION ITEMS

Strategic Plan: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Griner, to adopt the 2017 Benzie County Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan as amended, adding Farming Community under Stakeholders and strike "and agricultural lands" from the third goal on the last page.

Comm Jeannot calls for the question.

Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Walterhouse Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Planning Commission minutes of January 19, 2017 received.
- Veterans Affairs minutes of December 5, 2016 and January 9, 2017 received.
- Road Commission minutes of January 12, 2017 received.
- Health Dept minutes of January 26, 2017 received.
- Bay County resolution regarding Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 received – information only.
- Michigan EDC regarding closeout of CDBG Grant # MSC-2011-0771-HOA received.

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS—The Maples

Comm Warsecke stated that he feels this is finished business – we need to move on and not put this on the agenda each meeting.

Comm Walterhouse stated he agrees.

Comm Jeannot says he respects that point of view, but if we have it on our agenda that lets the people know that we are out there; we don't need to belabor it every time.

Comm Warsecke says let's move on and get the people into the building and move forward.

Comm Jeannot says to the BA – between the BA and the DHHS there still needs to be a resolution – we are paying vendors for this project that is drawing out; perhaps we should stop paying until there is a resolution.

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Tom Longanbach, Chair of the BA, stated that two of the three that were paid last month are legal counsel and Stu Pettitt; Comstock's billing is for utility payments and anything that deals with maintenance of the new building.

Three letters are provided: Steve Girard email dated February 3, 2017; Jim Scott letter dated February 3, 2017; LARA information.

Comm Jeannot stated that we need to look at this more closely and nothing will sway me one way or the other right now; before we put a wrecking ball to that building, we need to have a discussion.

Mitch stated that he could ask Mr. Luedtke to get a more formal bid from Spence Brothers.

This board has made motions twice to move people into the Maples and it has not been done.

NEW BUSINESS – None

12:56 p.m. Public Input

Tom Hart, DHHS Board Chair, says he is not greatly confident with how the State of Michigan works; his offer: will make a motion to have Kathy Dube move people into the facility if he receives confirmation of a waiver free status for the Maples from a CMS contact. If all falls and we need to replace the roof, he wants an independent review of costs of replacement including a work plan spelling out displacement of the residents, with dedicated funds to cover the potential cost of the roof replacement. The Maples didn't cause any of this. If he has confirmation of those items, he will make a motion to move in at the next DHHS meeting.

Steve Houghton, resident and taxpayer, says this building is safe and its waiver free; get them moved in if they refuse, take them to court or put the building up for sale; get this nightmare over.

Deb Lindgren, Joyfield Township, points to the At-a-Glance and asks about a breakdown for payment of commissioners; she asks that all Board of Commissioners talk about the committees they attend – not at length, but let us know something.

1:07 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Warsecke, to start the process for replacement of the DHHS Board. Roll call. Ayes: Walterhouse Nays: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion denied.

Motion by Griner, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn until the February 28, 2017 Regular meeting or the call of the chair. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, Walterhouse and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

Coury Carland – Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 24, 2017 as corrected.

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3. Public hearing held to close out the 2015 loan to Sleeping Bear Apiaries.
4. Public hearing held for a new 2017 loan to Sleeping Bear Apiaries.
5. Approved resolution 2017-003 Asserting the Right to Approve or Reject the Benzie County Master Plan, authorizing the chairman to sign.
6. Approved resolution 2017-004 Adopting the Master Plan, authorizing the chairman to sign.
7. Authorized mileage and per diem to Roger Griner to attend meetings in Lansing for MAC Ag & Transportation and MAC Transportation.
8. Approved payment of the bills from January 25, 2017 to February 14, 2017 in the amount of \$486,251.69, as presented.
9. Adopted items 1 and 2 of the January 24, 2017 HR Consent Calendar as presented.
10. Adopted the 2017 Benzie County Board of Commissioners' Strategic Plan as amended, adding Farming Community under Stakeholders and strike "and agricultural lands" from the third goal on the last page.

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

1. That Frank Post be allowed to carry over 40 hours of vacation for 90 days.
2. To approve the County Administrator's three year contract as presented.