

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

June 12, 2018

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Sauer.

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner Griner and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Carland, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the regular session minutes of May 22, 2018 as corrected on page 4. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

PUBLIC HEARING – 2018 TAX RATE

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, explains the purpose of this Truth and Taxation hearing is to notify the public of the county's intent to levy the maximum amount allowable under Headlee; this levy is for the operating millage only. Last year we levied 3.4692 and if the board choses to levy the maximum allowable, the levy would be 3.4528, due to Headlee rollback.

Comm Jeannot inquired as to what determines the rollback. The formula is on the L-2034.

Chairman Sauer talked about the conventions and facilities tax.

9:13 a.m. Motion by Carland, seconded by Roelofs, to open the public hearing. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Comm Carland the way I have always conceptualize this is that if property values to go up, then the rates go down.

Comm Jeannot stated that our expenses are higher than our revenue.

Comm Sauer stated that when property owners get their property taxes, they will see an increase, it may not be much, but they will see an increase.

Motion by Money, seconded by Warsecke, to close the public hearing. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Carland, to adopt the L-4029 setting the tax rate at 3.4528, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Frank Post, Emergency Management, presented his May 2018 activity report. Comm Jeannot inquired regarding the mutual aid that was mentioned in the report and asked who it was with. Mr. Post indicated the fire departments. Active Shooter training is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13 at

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the Government Center; 800 Mhz project is on track; Hazardous Mitigation Grants have been announced and they are targeting projects by September.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, reported that the cabinets and countertops have been installed and they look good; there are issues with the drainage pipes in the kennel area, Moore Mechanical ran a snake thru the pipes, but they will need to have Roto Rooter in as well; email from 270 Inc. and they have offered another \$5,000 reimbursable grant for spay and neuter. Chairman Sauer inquired about the air exchange – Mr. Maurer stated that he has not followed up with Moore Mechanical.

Troy Lamerson, Benzie Sheriff Office, stated that the Sheriff, Undersheriff and Jail Administrator are all at continuing education at the Spring Michigan Sheriff Assoc Conference; Sherry Taylor has retired and Suzi Mills has been hired as the administrative secretary; Sherry Coykendall has put in her paperwork to retired. He also stated that they are half way thru the flooring project; they are still hurting on patrol cars – they try to keep 11 front-line patrol cars and are down to 10. It is a pleasure working with IT Right.

Comm Jeannot asked how many inmates can we house? State of Michigan says 48

Comm Griner asked if we have more prisoners in the summer? Yes

Chairman Sauer reported that the joint court meeting there was discussion regarding the attorney meeting room up at the jail – it is a security issue.

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, informed the board that the county and townships will be receiving their new voting equipment this week Thursday and Friday. Tammy and I have been working on programming for the August election. Training – I will be going to each township to do inspector training. Tabulator is about the same as we had before; ICX is the disability equipment – touch screen and prints choices on a blank piece of paper and then put into the tabulator just as before. Comm Roelofs asks if there is some way that Almira Township could vote with less confusion for their multiple ballots – August they will have 3 ballots and November will have 5. The E-Poll Book is able to indicate which ballot they should receive.

Comm Jeannot stated that the townships he represents seem to be encouraged by not only ~~only~~ by the new equipment, but also the fact that you are going out to each township for training.

Building Authority minutes of May 17, 2018 received.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the Benzie Transportation Authority; Conservation District; Inland Township – they had discussed medical marijuana, they have 4 new fire fighters, the fire chief has resigned from Inland Township; he also attended the Benzie Central school board meeting.

Comm Money stated that he attended the Village of Honor meeting last night and they said thank you to the Land Bank for the use of a portion of the Question Mark property; he also attended the Homestead Township meeting last week and they have run into some problems with the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings – but things are taken care of now.

10:02 a.m. Matt McCauley, CEO of Networks Northwest
Mr. McCauley presented the 2017 Annual Report

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They represent 190 units of government in the 10-county area they represent. They are divided into three different buckets – Talent Development, Business Development and Community Development. Comm Carland stated that our Prosperity Zone is growing faster than others, so our funding has been reduced and allocated elsewhere.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS (continued)

Comm Jeannot reported that in Platte Township they have a pretty large hops-growing operation in their township; they have been talking about zoning for marijuana; Bill Robinson, has attended his last meeting as Lake Township Supervisor; Almira Township is putting in a 9-hole disc golf course; they also continue to talk about the need to recruit volunteer fire fighters; Dunes Fest is scheduled for July 27 – 29; he stated he is pleased with the quality of people on the Building Authority board; Planning Commission seem to be functioning well; will attend the June 18 MAC Summit.

Comm Griner reported on the Bay Area Initiative – they received 18 essays, and they were all from Benzie Central, there were none received from Frankfort Elberta schools. He attended the Frankfort Elberta school board meeting – safety is an issue. ABC (Advocate for Benzie County) construction boot camp starts this month.

Comm Carland reported that Dick Bayer and he sprayed for weeds at the airport. He attended Networks Northwest last night. He stated that he is finding it difficult to sit through the Building Authority meetings – Comm Jeannot will now be the liaison to the Building Authority.

Comm Roelofs attended the Area Agency on Aging last week – they talked about how important it is to get the Advanced Medical Care Directive done – to help your family with your end of life wishes. Benzie County Veterans Affairs met yesterday – we are in the last year of the contract with Grand Traverse County and they are not providing the services we thought they were. We have reached out to Leelanau and they stated they will stay with Grand Traverse. We can afford and house a part time veterans service counselor. Saturday June 16 will be Thunder at the River (Little River Casino) and they will stop at the Veterans Memorial in Benzonia from 1 – 3 p.m. Thursday June 14 – Homeless Outreach at VA building in Traverse City. Thank you to all that attended the Memorial Day service. Comm Griner asked how many veterans we have in the county – approximately 1,700; about 10% of the population.

The Veterans Affairs committee will be changing their meetings to the 2nd Monday each month beginning at 9 a.m.

Comm Sauer stated that he attended the following meetings: Blaine Township, Betsie Valley Trail Management Council, Joint Court, Joyfield Township, Village of Thompsonville and Frank Walterhouse's party. The Health Dept is selling the Resource Center in Lake Leelanau and they will rent space for 5 years. BVTMC was dealing with a beaver dam blockage at M-115 and Mollineaux Road and a couple of days later the dam was built again. Village of Elberta is exploring the possibility of extending the trail from the Village to the Life Saving Station over the Gest property; Thank you to all that helped with Frank Walterhouse's retirement party. He let the board know that the MAC summer conference is in Frankenmuth in August – Comm Griner wants to attend. On April 24, 2018, this board agreed to a MOU for Karen Mallon with a 5-1 vote, I was gone, but I would have voted No; I signed the agreement because that is my duty as chair but want it on record that I disagree with the decision of this board.

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Comm Money added that the old drug store in Honor has been sold. The agreement with the sale of the building was to allow the Food Bank to remain as a tenant in the lower level.

11:15 a.m. Break

11:23 a.m. Reconvene

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- June 12, 2018 Update
- State of Michigan is appropriating \$84 million for MIDC.
- Office space for regional public defenders.
- Financial review RFP due Friday.
- Finance Manager – all checks are done – Susan Boyd has been selected; Mitch will meet with her at 3:00 p.m. today to work out arrangements.

Comm Jeannot inquired about email conversion process – no idea, defers to Maridee. She stated that there were no issues that she knows of. Planning Commission and a summit – is that a task that they would be interested in doing? That was before the new board was brought on. IT Right – can you give an update on how things are going six months into it? When meeting with departments about their budget he is asking – vast majority says good; no one has had issues that were not able to be resolved.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Carland, seconded by Griner, to approve payment of the bills from May 23, 2018 to June 12, 2018 in the amount of \$420,885.11. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Walterhouse Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, provided the Land Sale Proceeds Report; \$56,023.45 has already been budgeted.

Motion by Money, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the Land Sale Proceeds report as presented. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Walterhouse Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Comm Sauer removes #3.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1-2, and 4-5 of the May 22, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

#3: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Carland, to authorize Ron Berns to use \$500.00 from 911 surcharge money for the next 3 years to the Michigan Communications Director's Association to retain a lobbyist firm specific to the concerns of the 911 community. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EDC: Comm Jeannot, Griner and Sauer, Ed Kowalski (Chair of EDC) and Mitch Deisch to be the interview team. County Clerk to schedule.

ACTION ITEMS:

Invasive Plant Removal: Nature Conservancy and Friends of Point Betsie to come before the board for a presentation on what they are requesting.

2018-017 Citizen Participation Plan: Motion by Money, seconded by Carland, to adopt resolution 2018-017 Citizen Participation Plan as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Citizen Participation Plan Policy: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Money, to adopt the Benzie County Citizens Participation Plan Policy as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Solid Waste minutes of May 9, 2018 received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of April 23, 2018 received.
- Road Commission minutes of May 10, 2018 received.
- Crystal Lake and Little Platte Lake Elevation reports for May 2018 received.
- Health Department minutes of May 24, 2018 received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

12:08 p.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 12:09 p.m. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Gary G. Sauer – Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of May 22, 2018 as corrected on page 4.
3. PUBLIC HEARING – 2018 TAX RATE
4. Adopted the L-4029 setting the tax rate at 3.4528, authorizing the chairman to sign.
5. Heard the 2017 Annual Report for Networks Northwest.
6. Approved payment of the bills from May 23, 2018 to June 12, 2018 in the amount of \$420,885.11.
7. Accepted the Land Sale Proceeds report as presented.
8. Approved items 1-2, and 4-5 of the May 22, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.

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9. Authorized Ron Berns to use \$500.00 from 911 surcharge money for the next 3 years to the Michigan Communications Director's Association to retain a lobbyist firm specific to the concerns of the 911 community.
10. Adopted resolution 2018-017 Citizen Participation Plan as presented.
11. Adopted the Benzie County Citizens Participation Plan Policy as presented.

Committee of the Whole

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May 22, 2017

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. To authorize the Prosecuting Attorney to interview and hire a victim advocate at 40 hours per week.
2. To amend the Marine Patrol 2017-18 Budget 220 in the amount of \$11,500 as presented.
3. Removed from Consent Calendar.
4. To amend the 2017-18 Budget for Fund 535 Housing in the amount of \$25,000 as presented.
5. To adopt the treasurer's recommendation to transfer \$85,000 to MERS for unfunded liability.