

## **THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**August 14, 2018**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 2018, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Sauer.

Present were: Commissioners Carland (arrived at 9:16), 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 Money, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Carland Motion carried.

### **Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the regular session minutes of July 24, 2018 as amended, on page 5 following re-entering open session; Comm Warsecke stated that the stated motion was a mischaracterization of what took place in closed session; no vote was taken in closed session and the motion should have read: Add an addendum to the motion stating: to authorize the county administrator to proceed in accordance with his proposal made in the closed session. Ayes: Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Carland Motion carried.

Motion by Money, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the July 24, 2018 closed session minutes as presented. Ayes: Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Carland Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. Public Input

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Sheriff Schendel reported that they have hired a new maintenance director and introduces Ken Bos who started yesterday; update on staff – they hired 2-1/2 people and are at full staff in that regard, but they are still short due to three employees going on extended medical this year. We will use our temporary full time until we are at full staff again.

Comm Jeannot asked if you will be overstaffed while you have new people there to compensate for their lack of knowledge? Yes, they will be mirroring the current staff until trained.

How does that fit within your budget? That is the way we do business, will put us short until we get the three back.

Dan Smith, Jail Administrator, stated they are on probation for the first year and training takes 4 – 6 weeks. Comm Jeannot suggests forecasting that out with our financial manager.

Comm Roelofs asked if we hired some that have experience – if we are hiring experienced, we need to know that too.

Mitch asked about housing out of county inmates for revenue now that we have staff? Great question. We will have to see where we are going. Yes, our goal is to bring them back, but it is never a guarantee.

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Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, provided a monthly report for July 2018 in a new format; he reviewed it with the board. 15-16 of the 68 calls for service were after hours. He reported that they use FaceBook as a tool to let the people know of animals at the shelter. In the last 28 days they have reached 22,065 people. They have been installing a security system at the shelter because people have been leaving animals at the door. A couple of months ago they hired Dillon Rosa and he is now certified and doing great. They applied for and have been awarded a grant from Two Seven Oh (270) for spay and neutering.

Comm Money inquired regarding the dog fighting in Thompsonville. Kyle stated he has no updates. Chairman Sauer asked if Kyle knew the dollar amount saved with Dillon's trainings due to his prior military background and other trainings. No, but will gather that information.

Guessing with the 15 after-hours calls, I guess you are saving time with taking vehicles home. Yes, we are by not having to come all the way to shelter to get a vehicle. Chairman Sauer would like to see overtime documented as well.

Comm Roelofs asks for him to add that information to the monthly report.

Mitch Deisch stated that he has asked for monthly reports from all department heads.

Ron Berns, 911 Central Dispatch, provides a written report as well as call summary for July 2018.

Comm Jeannot would like to acknowledge the savings of \$35,000 with the tower-top amplifiers.

Comm Griner stated that the call summary is very helpful and would like to see it continue.

Comm Roelofs agrees with Comm Griner – this document is way more important, I know it is a lot of work to prepare, but it is huge and will be helpful at millage time.

Frank Post, Emergency Management, provided his July 2018 activity report. He stated that the ICS 300 training class to be held here in September is full, with a wait list. He reported that the Fire Training Allocation has increased from \$10,000 to \$17,500 to be used for fire officer training. These funds are generated from the sale of fireworks. He also talked about the changes made in June to 1976 PA 390 (Emergency Management Act) for funding disasters where we make our request to the state – the funding is based on 10% of total annual operating budget for the preceding fiscal year or \$250,000 based on our population.

Tom King, Interim EMS Director, stated that he is from the Grayling/Houghton Lake area but has been with Benzie EMS a little over 1 year and been in Benzie County for the past 3 years. His goal is the to continue the great service we provide.

Comm Money endorses his hiring and stated that he has a strong background.

9:55 a.m. Break

10:01 a.m. Reconvene

Steve Curry, Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), gave a power point presentation of MAC and their services, then gave a legislative update as well.

10:27 a.m. Sgt. Dan Bigger, Conservation Officer, gave an update regarding the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a neurological disease in deer and is always fatal. There are new deer regulations with some effective this year. Over 31,000 deer have been tested with 60 confirmed being infected. There are 16 counties effective with this. January 2019 baiting and feeding in the lower peninsula is banned. A 9-member CWD work group was created to provide information to the NRC. [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) is a link to use for further information.

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Comm Roelofs asked if there was restriction on food plots? No

Rebecca Hubers and Justin Vanderlind are both present and serve Benzie County as Conservation Officers.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Griner reported that open space is important for the agricultural community; the County Administrator is helping to set up a meeting about shipping by train. Health Dept – Tom Fountain is retiring as Environmental Health Officer after 28 years; when he was hired there were 50 applications at that time, now – there have been zero applications for his position at this time. He attended the 2% grant awards on Gary's behalf. He spoke regarding the car accident at Reynolds Road and Cedar Run Road that took the lives of two young people – something needs to be done. He spoke with someone that stated what a good job we are doing in Benzie County – townships, schools, EMS, everyone.

Comm Jeannot stated regarding the Reynolds Road/Cedar Run Road accident, that Almira Township has been in discussions with the road commission; it is more complicated than you would think to get a 4-way stop and there is too much liability, however there have been talks about a round-about. Those conversations are out there, and they are looking for solutions.

Comm Jeannot stated that on August 2 he attended the Lake Township meeting and they completed the use of a grant to upgrade docking systems at Bass Lake. Sat in a discussion with BACN and they are reconsidering how they approach their business model – will concentrate on food insecurity. They are also looking at expansion of the building. Housing committee met yesterday and at the August 28 BOC meeting will bring a contract with NMCAA for consideration. Almira Township approved language for a renewal millage for EMS for 5 years; Music in the Park August 25<sup>th</sup>. EDC there is concern about whether AES will be a viable resource for us going forward.

Mitch stated that AES has lost a significant portion of their funding 40-50%; he asked the AES board – how will you make up the difference for your budget? How much time will you spend chasing more revenue, if doing that, how much time will be spent on Benzie County.

Comm Roelofs reported that the Reynolds Road and Cedar Run is a bad intersection. It is up to the state to do a study. They need to open that intersection with brush cutting. Hope the best comes out of their discussions and study. VA met yesterday, and they are continuing talks with Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties about having a VA officer here in Benzie County. August 2 the new VA Clinic in Traverse City had their ground breaking. He appreciated the DNR presentation.

Comm Carland stated that he has attended both village meetings and the township meeting; the Village of Beulah is having a dispute with the Village of Benzonia regarding the water service improvements, Beulah will now be able to service all residents with the new water tank and booster; now there is a dispute regarding the trailer park residents. The Village of Beulah also had discussions regarding fireworks. The Airport has a tentative purchase agreement on a 5-acre piece of property with the fitness center, the purchase agreement is pending the outcome of an appraisal. He attended the Council of Governments and they had discussions regarding the Equalization/Assessor issues; Sarah Lucas spoke about the housing task force.

Comm Money reported that he was at Thompsonville last night and Shelley put on a 20-minute presentation regarding the Land Bank Authority; very well received. Congratulations. Also, regarding the Land Bank, 2 or 3 properties in Thompsonville are being sold to the Advocates that will

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be putting up affordable housing. Village of Honor continues to say thank you for the use of the former Question Mark property for benches.

Comm Warsecke reported that he participated in the evaluation of Mr. Kennis at the BTA and would like to incorporate that evaluation form into Mr. Deisch's evaluation. Colfax Township Fall clean up October 6. Inland township last night and Dayton Pfof is the new fire chief; Benzie Central Schools are preparing for the new school year; will go to BTA tonight; Conservation District tomorrow. Comm Roelofs asked to get the cost of the closing of the Platte River School and the use of it now, and whether any rent is being gained.

Chairman Sauer at the last Road Commission meeting Mr. Carpenter (father of the girl that died) was in attendance; they will cut the brush, have a traffic counter out, then will go to the MSP with information. They talked of a round-about – it slows traffic down; they will ask this board for a resolution of support. Road Commission will be receiving about \$275,000 in October 2018 and January 2019 – these are additional MTF funds. Regarding the Health Dept and the replacement of Tom Fountain, Ferris State University dropped the course for environmental person. August 1 Elberta held a dedication for their park. Betsie Valley Trail – ~~they~~ the Conservancy is working on the Charlie Kehr Stairway; Manistee came to them and asked to extend the trail 2/10 of a mile in Benzie County to be improved with crushed limestone; the BVTMC is going to get bids from Gillison's. Last night was Thompsonville – thank you Shelley for your presentation; they ordered a new tanker; Advocates houses will be built by their building trades program.

Comm Jeannot asked if the Road Commission has had any discussion regarding matching funds for the townships? Supposed to come before their board at the next meeting.

Is there was any update on the space planning? Chairman Sauer reported that they will meet August 22 at 1:00 p.m.

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

- Provided a written Administrator Update.
- Tire drop in Colfax Township – Jesse Zylstra is working to resolve the issue.
- Susan will get with Sheriff and Jail Administrator regarding a financial plan.
- Thank you to Comm Money for the comments regarding Tom King's EMS background.
- Contract negotiations August 16 and August 29.
- Have requested department heads to provide monthly reports and one request to them will be that if they provide a written report, they do not need to go over the report in detail unless you have questions for them.

Comm Jeannot asked about the contract with the Maples? Mitch has a draft contract in his office and will be meeting with Mr. Figura; once there is a cleaner version, will be distributed. Do we sense any pushback from the DHHS about this? They have not seen the draft agreement. Mr. Girard has spoken with Mr. Figura about it.

## FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Griner, to approve payment of the bills from July 24, 2018 to August 14, 2018 in the amount of \$592,933.75 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reminded the board that the foreclosed land sale is scheduled for this Friday, August 17, 2018 at 12:00 noon at the Little River Casino in Manistee. Benzie County has three parcels in the sale this year.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the July 24, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar items 1 – 7 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Veterans Affairs: Committee appointed for interview: Comm Roelofs, Money, Sauer and Mitch Deisch. Clerk will schedule for August 22, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:** None

## **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Road Commission minutes of July 12, 2018 received.
- Otsego County Resolution Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana for General Use received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report for July 2018 received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation report for July 2018 received.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept minutes of July 26, 2018 received.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Village of Thompsonville is looking for a release of liability form. Clerk to email to the Village.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, that pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act [MCL15.268(d)] the Benzie County Board of Commissioners is requested to go into a closed session to consider the purchase of real property. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

12:32 p.m. Re-enter Open Session

Public Input – None

Motion by Carland, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 12:33 p.m. Ayes: Carland, Griner, Jeannot, Money, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of July 24, 2018 as amended.
3. Approved the July 24, 2018 closed session minutes as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$592,933.75 as presented.
5. Approved the July 24, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar items 1 – 7 as presented.
6. Entered closed session pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act [MCL15.268(d)] to consider the purchase of real property.

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**July 24, 2017**

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

1. To go with the 6.65% plan, self-funding the prescriptions and begin having meetings with the employees.
2. To amend the 2017-18 Jail 213 Budget in the amount of \$5,000.00 as presented.
3. To amend the 2017-18 Jail 213 Budget in the amount of \$15,000.00 as presented.
4. To amend the 2017-18 Jail 213 Budget in the amount of \$3,356.00 as presented.
5. To amend the 2017-18 Budget for Fund 512 in the amount of \$7,985,676.00 as presented.
6. To amend the 2017-18 Budget for Fund 218 in the amount of \$1,250.00 as presented.
7. To amend the 2017-18 Budget for Fund 219 in the amount of \$46,600.00 as presented.