

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 18, 2018**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, in the Frank F. Walterhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Sauer.

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

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

**Agenda:**

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amended, adding approval of the minutes of October 25, November 13 and December 11, 2018 Special Meetings. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the regular session minutes of November 27, 2018 as presented. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the special session minutes of October 25, November 13 and December 11, 2018 for Strategic Planning as presented. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input – None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Bob Roelofs, Chair of Benzie County Veterans Affairs, introduced Karen Korolenko as the new Veterans' Affairs Officer; her office hours in this building will be Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Korolenko stated they hope to expand the VA services in Benzie County, and one way will be to do some advertisements letting the people know we are here. We have over 1,700 veterans in Benzie County.

Sheriff Schendel stated he wants to congratulate all of you that were sworn in this morning; you are representing the people of your area and you are to be commended for that. You have a full plate ahead of you today – you always do. The county is growing. At our most recent department head meeting, we talked about the census and we have a lot more people than are on the rolls, an increase in population to Benzie County. At least from the Sheriff office point of view, it is becoming more difficult to serve the people of the county with what staffing we have; we will all be asking for more personnel. We have an additional burden of having more court, more transports, it all takes overtime funds. This is happening a lot more. I could hire two more corrections and just do full-time transports.

Comm Roelofs inquired of the use of technology and video conferencing – Sheriff indicated for some reason there is resistance in that regard. He gave the example of having to go to the UP (Marquette) and bring someone down for sentencing rather than using the polycom system. Sheriff stated it is

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their choice to use it or not. We would like to see it used more often to free our staff up. Safety is another issue.

Mr. Deisch indicated that it would be a joint court issue to be discussed there.

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, indicated that perhaps the issue was the type of hearing that was being held. Not all hearings can use video.

Ed Kowalski, EDC/BRA Chair, stated that EDC would like to request an RFP for broadband service for Benzie County; they would like to look at a private/public partnership; a broadband system would help the economy and the growth of the county. Just looking for your authorization to go ahead and pursue the RFP.

Comm Jeannot stated they would work within their budget. We have a number of organizations that are interested, and the RFP would help determine who is willing to come to the table and work with us.

Mr. Kowalski stated that this is an identified need.

Mr. Deisch stated that he will reach out to other County Administrators and work with EDC to get an RFP done.

Comm Carland stated that he provided a list of contacts to the EDC a couple of months ago and asked if anyone has been contacted. Comm Carland also mentioned a study that was commissioned by the County. Mr. Kowalski stated that the EDC has concerns because that information is 10 years old.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to acknowledge that the EDC/BRA board is developing an RFP for the purpose of soliciting a partnership with a private partner for broadband. Ayes: Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Carland Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, yesterday 160 Christmas bags went out to the clients and they are working on more; 8 churches assisted, together with numerous others that donated to the bags. Member services continue to see increases on all services. Hours are now 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for lunch. Received \$1,800 grant for Senior Essential Needs from the Community Foundation.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control, lobby renovations are all done, please come up and see – it looks nice.

Reports received from Ron Berns, 911 Central Dispatch; Jesse Zylstra, Recycling Coordinator and copy of Settlement Agreement received from Eric VanDussen, Building Authority Chair.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Warsecke reported at the Inland Township meeting there was discussion regarding medical marijuana facility within the township; they will hold a special meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. regarding that issue.

Comm Jeannot reported that on November 29 he met with the Platte Township individuals and they discussed the Iron Man Competition in Traverse City that goes through Almira and Platte Townships; they would like a visit from the Solid Waste Coordinator – they have not met. Spoke regarding the Building Authority and the reaching of a settlement with the architect. On October 3 he attended the session regarding Seasonal Economy meeting – there was a lot of discussion regarding eco-travel and how that is adding to the economy of our communities (lakes and trail system). On October 6 he

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attended Lake Township and there was discussion regarding the repaving of the Point Betsie Road. Almira Township has disc golf available year around. He attended and participated in some of the committee interviews – we have many talented people in our county. Appreciate the Strategic Planning discussions we have had. Have spent some time with the Land Bank. NMCAA has a new Executive Director, Kerry Baughman, she will probably be coming around to introduce herself. EDC is pretty active -- broadband, natural gas, housing. Attended the meeting with our State Representative, and there seems to be overwhelming concerns about the pipeline, no-fault insurance and minimum wage. Dept of Defense contracts – Benzie County business are leveraging those contracts in the last 12 months.

Comm Roelofs reported that he attended some of the committee interviews as well, the folks that live in Benzie County continue to amaze me, there is a wealth of knowledge. Attended the Almira Township Historical Society gathering. Spent time yesterday with Karen at Veterans Affairs getting her all set up. VA Clinic will be just North of Tractor Supply in Traverse City – AJs Excavating has been awarded the excavating contract. Attended Human Services Collaborative meeting.

Comm Carland reported that he attended the October 28 Community Partners meeting at the Sheriff Dept – there is concern about legal marijuana. Airport meeting on November 29 – things are pretty quiet. Seasonal Economy session on December 3. Villages of Beulah and Benzonia are working through challenges with the water issues. Networks Northwest hired a consulting firm to help them explain to people of what they do. Centra Wellness – there is some concern that the folks in Lansing don't understand mental health. Thompsonville Community Center group are looking at internet access as well.

Comm Sauer reported on Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting passed a resolution opposing a couple of bills regarding the state-wide septic code. Another issue is e-cigarettes, they are now making clothing to hide them in – issue in the schools; PFAS issue, we are required to test 39 sites in Benzie and Leelanau Counties. Weldon Township is moving to get ADA compliant with a hearing system; also discussed regarding opt in or out of recreational marijuana. Seasonal Economy meeting and was surprised about the alcohol issue. Betsie Valley Community Center is still working hard to get the center up and running, focusing on two items: licensed child care and a medical and dental clinic. Betsie Valley Trail will keep Frankfort to Elberta open during the winter. Road Commission on January 14, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. will set the local roads scheduled for work next year. Road Commission hired Pat Cote part time answering phones and she will produce a Face Book page for them to inform the public of road issues. They have installed the LED lighting as well.

10:06 a.m. Tad Peacock, Benzie Conservation District 2018 Annual Report  
Will start by saying thank you for your support on the recent millage vote. Gave a report on the Invasive Species; Aquatic Invasive Species; Forestry; Water Ways; Education Outreach; Beach Clean Up.; Social Media.

Bill Kennis, Benzie Transportation Authority 2018 Annual Report  
Eleventh year in operation; nearing our 1 millionth rider. We converted our retirement to defined contribution and we are 32% overfunded with MERS. He reported that they have received a grant and will be adding two new shelters: one in Elberta and one at Benzie Central High School. Only 5% of transits survey their customers – we are surveying the businesses with the assistance of MSU. Benzie Transportation Authority provide bonuses to the employees as a performance enhancement.

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Comm Roelofs inquired regarding discussing some Veterans' transportation.

10:31 a.m. Break

10:38 a.m. Reconvene

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources/Commission on Aging 2018 Annual Report  
He reported that they have 30 employees, 151 volunteers. They delivered 58,195 meals to 287 homebound clients and traveled over 64,740 mileage to provide these meals. In-home services were merged with Home Health Care and double our clients; Dental Visits; Guardian Medical Monitoring; Provide Senior Bus Passes; tax services; Christmas Bags; provided one or more services to 1,763 Benzie County Seniors.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch**

- MIDC – Attorney Nordfjord feels that we need an Inter-Local Agreement with Manistee. The grant will be entered into by Manistee County with the State.
- Financial Review Project Update provided.
- Space Needs – will Interview January 9, 2019 two firms.
- Operating Agreement with the Maples – Attorneys Figura and Girard are work with this; however, the Maples feels the county should pay for all attorney expenses.

### **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Carland, to approve payment of the bills from November 28, 2018 through December 18, 2018 in the amount of \$403,258.44 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Comm Jeannot inquired regarding the number of autopsies being performed.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Consent: Motion by Carland, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1 – 9 of the November 27, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

EMS: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to reappoint Elizabeth Merrill and Chris Parrish to the EMS committee for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Construction Board of Appeals: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Carland, to reappoint Roger Papineau to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2020. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Building Authority: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Carland, to appoint Steve Houghton and reappoint Thor Goff to the Building Authority for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

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Parks and Recreation: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Carland, to appoint Charles Kraus and reappoint Cathy Demitroff and Susan Zenker to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke  
Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Solid Waste: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Carland, to appoint David Schaffer to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Veterans Affairs: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to appoint Dr. Donald Schaffer to the Benzie County Veterans Affairs Committee for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2022. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to suspend the rules to the committee appointment policy dated April 1, 2014 for the purpose of appointing applicants to open or vacated board positions. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Construction Board of Appeals: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to reappoint Rodney Moore and Randy Olson to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

EDC/BRA: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to appoint Roger Griner to the EDC/BRA board to fill a vacancy for a term, ending January 31, 2024. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Planning Commission: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to reappoint Charles Beal, Irene Dunham-Thayer and Betsy Evans to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring December 1, 2021. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Solid Waste Advisory: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Todd Warren to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2020. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to reinstate the rules regarding appointments to committees. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

## ACTION ITEMS:

2018-026: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to adopt resolution 2018-026 Receiving Advice from the County Treasurer as to a Surplus Which can be Transferred from the Benzie County Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to the Benzie County General Fund as presented. Roll call. Ayes:



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Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

LOU: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, approve the Letter of Understanding between Benzie County and Benzie County Sheriff and Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) regarding Payout of Unused Holiday Time as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.

This is in conformance with our policy. The employees were not able to use their time due to staff shortages.

Comm Warsecke stated for the record that he is a member of the POAM union, however not through Benzie County, in another jurisdiction and city.

Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Child Care Fund: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the Child Care Budget adjustment as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

Recycling Site Lease: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the Benzie County Recycling Site Lease Agreement with the City of Frankfort through December 31, 2019, as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

SRO Roster: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to amend the 2018-19 budget position roster to include the School Resource Officer in the Sheriff Office, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

SRO Budget: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the budget for fund 209, School Resource Officer as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

MIDC Grant: Motion by Carland, seconded by Roelofs, to acknowledge the MIDC Grant Agreement and accept the terms of the State MIDC grant agreement with Manistee County for the creation of the Benzie/Manistee Regional Public Defenders Office. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

ACO Painting: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to accept the quote from Aztec Painting in the amount of \$4,937 for painting of the kennel area, with funds to come from within the Animal Control Budget. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

## PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Resolution supporting HB 4986 received from Livingston County regarding Veterans property taxes.
- Letter received from Quinn Evans Architects.
- Conservation Resource Alliance newsletter received.

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- Resolution from Cheboygan County opposing SB 1031 General Property Tax Act.
- Crystal Lake Elevation report received for November 2018.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report received for November 2018.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department minutes of November 29, 2018 received.
- Transportation Authority financial reports received for September, October and November 2018.
- Animal Welfare League Winter 2018 newsletter received.
- Veterans Affairs minutes of October 8 and November 4, 2018 received.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

### NEW BUSINESS -- None

11:39 a.m. Public Input

Sherry Taylor stated that the Road Commission was going to have a FaceBook page because every other road commission has one, except Benzie County.

Public Input Closed

Motion by Carland, seconded by Jeannot, to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. Ayes: Carland, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Griner and Money Motion carried.

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Gary G. Sauer, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

### INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding approval of the minutes of October 25, November 13 and December 11, 2018 Special Meetings.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of November 27, 2018 as presented.
3. Approved the special session minutes of October 25, November 13 and December 11, 2018 for Strategic Planning as presented.
4. Ms. Karen Korolenko introduced as the new Benzie County Veterans Services Officer.
5. Acknowledged that the EDC/BRA board is developing an RFP for the purpose of soliciting a partnership with a private partner for broadband.
6. Tad Peacock gave the Benzie Conservation District 2018 Annual Report.
7. Bill Kennis gave the Benzie Transportation Authority 2018 Annual Report.
8. Doug Durand gave the Benzie Senior Resources/Commission on Aging 2018 Annual Report.
9. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$403,258.44 as presented.
10. Approved items 1 – 9 of the November 27, 2018 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Reappointed Elizabeth Merrill and Chris Parrish to the EMS committee for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021.
12. Reappointed Roger Papineau to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2020.

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13. Appointed Steve Houghton and reappointed Thor Goff to the Building Authority for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021.
14. Appointed Charles Kraus and reappointed Cathy Demitroff and Susan Zenker to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term, expiring December 31, 2021.
15. Appointed David Schaffer to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020.
16. Appointed Dr. Donald Schaffer to the Benzie County Veterans Affairs Committee for a four-year term expiring December 31, 2022.
17. Suspended the rules to the committee appointment policy dated April 1, 2014 for the purpose of appointing applicants to open or vacated board positions.
18. Reappointed Rodney Moore and Randy Olson to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2020.
19. Appointed Roger Griner to the EDC/BRA board to fill a vacancy for a term, ending January 31, 2024.
20. Reappointed Charles Beal, Irene Dunham-Thayer and Betsy Evans to the Planning Commission for a three-year term expiring December 1, 2021.
21. Reappointed Todd Warren to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a two-year term, expiring December 31, 2020.
22. Reinstated the rules regarding appointments to committees.
23. Adopted resolution 2018-026 Receiving Advice from the County Treasurer as to a Surplus Which can be Transferred from the Benzie County Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to the Benzie County General Fund as presented.
24. Approved the Letter of Understanding between Benzie County and Benzie County Sheriff and Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) regarding Payout of Unused Holiday Time as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
25. Approved the Child Care Budget adjustment as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
26. Approved the Benzie County Recycling Site Lease Agreement with the City of Frankfort through December 31, 2019, as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
27. Amended the 2018-19 budget position roster to include the School Resource Officer in the Sheriff Office, as presented.
28. Approved the budget for fund 209, School Resource Officer as presented.
29. Acknowledged the MIDC Grant Agreement and accept the terms of the State MIDC grant agreement with Manistee County for the creation of the Benzie/Manistee Regional Public Defenders Office.
30. Accepted the quote from Aztec Painting in the amount of \$4,937 for painting of the kennel area, with funds to come from within the Animal Control Budget.



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

1. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for the 425 account in the amount of 58,255.00.
2. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for fund 371 Jail Debt Fund in the amount of \$2,200.00.
3. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for fund 371 Jail Debt Fund in the amount of \$10,856.22.
4. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for fund 371 Jail Debt Fund in the amount of \$3,188.00.
5. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for County match for CodeRED in the amount of \$1,500.00.
6. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for fund 425 to purchase of a CERT Trailer in the amount of \$16,207.63. follows:
7. Amended the 2018-19 Budget fund 247 Animal Control in the amount of \$3,072.06.
8. Amended the 2018-19 Budget for Municipal Analytics in the amount of \$28,850.00.
9. Approved the Copier Maintenance Agreements for District Court, Register of Deeds, Probation/Parole; Animal Control; Administration; Equalization; Probate Court; County Clerk, Juvenile Court; Treasurer; Copier Room as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.