

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
July 23, 2019**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Evan Warsecke at 1:30 p.m.

Present were: Commissioners Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer, to approve the agenda as amended, adding 911 discussion following public input and removing 7C. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of July 9, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to approve the Budget Meeting minutes of July 15, 17 and 18, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

1:32 p.m. Public Input – None

Ron Berns, 911 Discussions:

Comm Jeannot stated that he appreciates the additional information provided today; this was not about doing away with central dispatch but consolidating it here. We should continue to discuss mergers, with us to manage the process. We asked to explore this based on the outcome from Municipal Analytics.

Ron believes that you should stop everything now; get someone hired to replace him; get the millage passed; then start exploring the option.

Comm Sauer says this has gotten so emotional and out of hand; this is our due diligence and what we do.

Comm Nye feels it was a misinterpretation and apologizes for any misinformation or misunderstanding.

**Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Farrell, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that we discontinue talks with surrounding counties regarding consolidation of 911 services as well as move forward with replacing the 911 Director. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.**

Comm Roelofs apologizes to the dispatchers and law enforcement; look forward to working with you for a long time.

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Maridee Cutler:

- a. Budget Amendment – Animal Control – Wiring for new telephone system: **Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to amend the 2018-19 Animal Control Budget for phone system, as follows:**

**Increase:**

<b>247-265-935.00</b>	<b>Building Repairs</b>	<b>\$2,590.00</b>
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**Increase:**

<b>247-000-691.00</b>	<b>Budgeted Use of Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$2,590.00</b>
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**Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

- b. Cost Allocation Plan Certification – Request for signature: **Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to approve the County-Wide Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2018-19, authorizing the chairman to sign. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.**

~~e. Social Media Policy Discussion:~~

Rebecca Hubers/Frank Post:

- a. Region 7 Grant for High Visibility Safety Equipment: **Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to amend the 2018-19 budget for Dept 426 Emergency Management for CERT equipment as follows:**

**Increase:**

<b>101-426-539.06</b>	<b>Homeland Security Grant</b>	<b>\$1,021.00</b>
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**Increase:**

<b>101-426-967.00</b>	<b>Region 7 Homeland Security Grant</b>	<b>\$1,021.00</b>
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**Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

- b. Tribal Grant for a Radio Gateway for the CERT Trailer: **Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to amend the 2018-19 budget for Dept 426 Emergency Management for radio gateway as follows:**

**Increase:**

<b>425-426-674.01</b>	<b>Contributions to CERT</b>	<b>\$4,835.00</b>
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**Increase:**

<b>425-426-967.02</b>	<b>Project Expenses – CERT</b>	<b>\$4,835.00</b>
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**Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None**

**Motion carried.**

Dawn Olney – P/T Employee Wage Increase:

**Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to authorize the part-time Deputy Clerk wages be increased from \$12.24 to \$13.07 starting July 16, 2019. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.**

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Mitch Deisch – Budget Discussion: Mitch provided two sheets of proposed budget changes – one as recommended by the BOC and one of the administrator’s recommendations. Administrator recommended changes would reduce by \$472,831 leaving a negative budget at \$105,542 at this time. Jennifer Tang-Anderson, Assistant Prosecutor, stated that we are behind all counties of similar size; we need another assistant Prosecutor – this is affecting the quality of service for Benzie County. We are at the point of cutting something out. We are not a money-making office; even a part time person would help.

Comm Warsecke stated that he is in favor of hiring one more Prosecutor and try to keep one more Deputy. The Clerk’s office should have the part time increased to full time as well. If we have more officers and another prosecutor, the courts will be busier too.

Comm Sauer said there is only so much money and so much that we can do; we need to shore things up before we hire more people.

Discussions about what non-mandated offices and the possible elimination. Mitch to provide a list of non-mandates offices to the BOC at their next meeting.

Mitch reminded the board that these are just recommendations and the decision is yours to make.

Discussions will be continued at the next Committee of the Whole meeting on August 13.

Lise Hoppe with 44North will be at the August 13 meeting to talk about health insurance options.

2:59 p.m. Public Input

Comm Farrell inquired regarding the date for final adoption of the budget.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Evan Warsecke, Chair (COTW)

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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**July 23, 2019**

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

1. That we discontinue talks with surrounding counties regarding consolidation of 911 services as well as move forward with replacing the 911 Director.
2. To amend the 2018-19 Animal Control Budget for phone system in the amount of \$2,590.00 as presented.
3. To approve the County-Wide Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2018-19, authorizing the chairman to sign.
4. To amend the 2018-19 budget for Dept 426 Emergency Management for CERT equipment in the amount of \$1,021.00 as presented.
5. To amend the 2018-19 budget for Dept 426 Emergency Management for radio gateway in the amount of \$4,835.00 as presented.
6. Removed from Consent Calendar.