

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
August 30, 2019

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Friday, August 30, 2019, in the Frank F. Waltherhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Sauer.

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

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 presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:01 a.m. Public Input – None

2019-20 Budget Discussions with Power Point

Possible Future Path to Financial Stability Timeline – from adoption of the 2019-20 budget to possible Headlee Override vote in two years.

- Discussion continued on pending changes discussed at the August 22, 2019 meeting.
- Additional options to consider – increasing the administration fee. All commissioners agree with increasing fees to total revenue of \$50,000.
- Consider combining Emergency Manager with Central Dispatch Director for a savings to both the General Fund and Central Dispatch Fund.
- Cut EDC down to \$10,000.
- MSU has agreed to another \$500 reduction.
- Cut BOC training budget by \$1,350

10:22 a.m. Chip Johnston, Centra Wellness

Mr. Johnston stated that both counties were well under the state required amount; the \$4,140 request was to work toward meeting the required amount. He agrees with a reduction of \$1,854 for a total increase of \$2,286.00 each year for the next 7 years.

10:30 a.m. Dodie Putney, Benzie Leelanau Health Department

Ms. Putney stated that they requested 5% over last years budget amount; Leelanau has agreed to a 3% increase. The appropriation to BLHD will be \$239,702.

10:34 a.m. Jennifer Berkey, MSUE

Comm Nye inquired if there was a chance at savings due to a recent MSU employee being hired by Frankfort Schools. Ms. Berkey stated that they will be replacing her. All MSU services offered around the state are available to you as well. She offered a \$500 reduction. BOC are all OK.

10:46 a.m. Break

10:52 a.m. Reconvene

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With the anticipated new doctor contract for jail inmates, the Sheriff OT should be cut. Sheriff Schendel stated that they are calculating what OT was spent taking inmate to ER. At this point the OT budget line is being cut \$17,500.

11:32 a.m. Health Insurance:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, authorize health insurance plan of Blue Care Network, with HRA back down to \$1,000 and switching drug program from EHIM to Blue Care Network as presented, seeing a \$42,597 overall savings. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

DHHS rent has been factored in at \$39,000 – negotiations are ongoing.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to use up to \$120,000 of general fund balance based on reductions discussed to balance the FY 2019-20 budget, and present to the September 10, 2019 Board of Commissioner meeting to approve setting of the budget. Ayes: Farrell, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot Motion carried.

11:49 a.m. Public Input

Sherry Taylor stated that it is difficult for her to do an evaluation of the County Administrator when she ~~does~~ doesn't know what his job description says. She provided job descriptions for all three employees in the Administrator's office, together with a spreadsheet of the cost of that office from 2001 to now. We hired an administrator that we found out he couldn't do everything he was supposed to, so we hired a Finance Manager to do those duties and we are paying double the money. She also recommends that the evaluations be given to department heads and select employees to get what the peers think.

Comm Jeannot (who is heading the evaluation) said the evaluation process you are talking about is called a 360-degree evaluation with the employee, we are doing an annual performance evaluation. All Commissioners are welcome to get input from any resource they deem appropriate to help them complete their individual evaluations.

Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, reported that she is very passionate about keeping passports in Benzie County Government Center. She was going to ~~asked~~ ask for a raise for all three of her employees for \$1.00 per hour each; she will back off that request for now due to our budget constraints.

Ted Schendel, Sheriff, asks for clarification -- someone explained that what we do here in Benzie County, we overestimate our expenditures and underestimate our revenues. When the auditors come in, because we do that, they end up putting money back in the fund balance.

Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, responded that most adjustments are made based on collectibles, or account receivables.

Public Input Closed.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 12:01 p.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Gary Sauer, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Authorize health insurance plan of Blue Care Network, with HRA back down to \$1,000 and switching drug program from EHIM to Blue Care Network as presented, seeing a \$42,597 overall savings.
2. Approved to use up to \$120,000 of general fund balance based on reductions discussed to balance the FY 2019-20 budget, and present to the September 10, 2019 Board of Commissioner meeting to approve setting of the budget.