

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 8, 2019**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 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 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 Nye, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to approve the regular session minutes of September 24, 2019 as amended on page 2. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, stated that Mitch had asked her to look at whether or not the Governor's veto's on the budget would effect Benzie County; she stated that she does not feel it will affect us as much as other counties – about \$11,000 in the jail; \$26,475 in Secondary Road Patrol; no Child Care Fund issues; PILT.

Comm Roelofs reported that the veto will have an effect on the Veterans Administration.

Comm Jeannot acknowledges and appreciates that you are being pro-active with this.

Eric VanDussen, Chair of the Building Authority, gave the board an update on the Maples project: Phase 3 is nearly complete; they have used some of the \$500,000 cash flow that the county has provided, but not all of it. A joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners, Building Authority and DHHS Board will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. The DHHS and Maples are trying to persuade the BA and BOC that the excess bond money collected should go to them – the ballot wording and the bond documents are being reviewed and will be discussed at the joint meeting; also, the Operating Agreement will be discussed. He also spoke regarding possible litigation with the BA and former attorney Ed Roy.

Comm Jeannot acknowledges the good work of you and your board.

Ron Berns, 911 Director presented a written report for September 2019.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Nye reported that she sat in on the EMS union negotiations which is moving on to mediation. CMH – the Governor pulled the 298 language which would have privatized mental health, but behavioral health was fund ~~5-58%~~ 5-18% more than expected—that was good news. Village of Benzonia park renovations are in full swing with ADA equipment, Pavilion, sidewalks, tennis courts. The Village of Benzonia opted out of the recreational marijuana within the village. Met with the

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Sheriff and Undersheriff to discuss the potential for a law enforcement millage and other options to be considered.

Comm Roelofs reported that he also attended the EMS union negotiations and we are waiting for mediation. Bob Schlueter, Director of Area Agency on Aging has retired and Heidi Justine has been appointed as the new director. Human Services Collaborative met and had a presentation from Third Level Crisis Center regarding addiction services. EMS Advisory Board discussed an ambulance purchase – they have narrowed it down to two and will be presented to this board to propose the purchase. Attended on behalf of the Veterans Affairs and Disabled Veterans event “Inspiring Veterans Art Show”. \$100 - \$20,000 were the prices on the art; gorgeous event and glad to be a part of it.

Comm Warsecke attended the Solid Waste and Conservation District meetings – the Conservation District approved their budget for the year; they have applied for an Invasive Species Grant. Solid Waste had discussion regarding a private transfer station in Inland Township.

Comm Farrell reported on Health Department food drive; their immunization fees were set. Had a conversation with the Sheriff and Undersheriff about change in millage, together with Comm Nye; we need to educate the public on the options.

Comm Jeannot reported Platte Township ~~are~~ is having challenges with their current assessor and Tom Longanbach has had to step in and assist. Housing Committee met on October 2 and approved 1 grant and 2 loans. Attended a meeting on September 25 with the National Park Service regarding economic and ecological impact to Benzie County; the NPS doesn't see themselves as a marketing tool but rely on the local government. Sat in on a discussion on September 25 facilitated by POMH regarding children exposed to trauma. October 2 joined the Chamber of Commerce to talk about the executive job search; they hope to fill it locally, only for the Chamber, not the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Comm Taylor attended the Local Planning Team meeting on September 26; new park ranger for the Platte park area. October 7 attended the Homestead Township meeting and they discussed purchasing a new fire truck; they would like to take all of the information regarding St. Ambrose to a new attorney to go through all of the paperwork along with the issuing of the liquor license to be sure everything was done the way it should have been. To assure everyone that things were done the way they should have been.

Chairman Sauer indicated that we need to address a social media policy.

Comm Sauer attended the Health Dept meeting and had a MERS review. E-coli issue – 4 advisories were level 2 and only 1 with a no body contact. Road Commission did their budget and this year they have a \$3.7 million balance and want to maintain their fund balance of \$2.3 - \$2.5 million. Want to do work on the building; want to shore up MERS. Blaine Township is looking for an assessor. Betsie Valley Trail had their last meeting until May – they are having trouble with the beavers again. DNR bought a mower to help with the trail mowing. October 21 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Benzie County celebration with Senator VanderWall, Representative O'Malley and possibly someone from Congressman Bergman's office.

9:57 a.m. Break

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10:03 a.m. Reconvene

Eric Kurtz, Northern Michigan Regional Entity

Mr. Kurtz gave the board an overview of the process of the liquor tax monies from the state; how it is used and the funds that are being used in Benzie County for treatment and prevention of substance abuse.

Kris Steinberg, US Census, informed the board and those present of the process for the 2020 census; the census is required in the US Constitution; there are jobs available to the public and you can apply online at [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs)

### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Deisch provided a written update and spoke regarding his attendance at the MERS conference where it was stated that they will be changing the 20 year amortization, it will be difficult to meet further rate of return expectations over the next several years; there will be more incremental changes which will happen more often in the coming years. He stated that there have been discussions regarding millage issues. With regard to the Regional Public Defender's Office, he and Chairman Sauer met with Judge Thompson regarding the placement of court-appointed attorneys dealing with neglect abuse cases in Benzie County. They have met with and are working with Representative O'Malley about drafting some language for the MIDC to consider allowing the Regional Public Defender's Office to add NA cases to the Public Defender's duties.

### FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Farrell, to approve payment of the bills from September 25, 2019 thru October 7, 2019 in the amount of \$672,663.07, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, spoke regarding the Michigan Association of Land Banks Summit being held at Crystal Mountain on October 14 and 15. She has planned a tour of the 669 site and the colors should be great as well. They will be closing the books the first week of December.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** – No Consent Calendar from September 24, 2019

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Planning & Parks & Rec: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to accept the resignation of Walter "Rocky" Roch von Roschburg from the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission with regrets. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Benzie Transportation Authority: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to appoint John Morse to the Benzie Transportation Authority to fill the vacancy with a term expiring April 30, 2022. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### ACTION ITEMS:

EMPG Work Agreement and Grant Agreement: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the 2020 Work Agreement and the 2019 Federal Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Policy – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division as presented, authorizing the chairman and

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Emergency Management Coordinator to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Road Commission minutes of August 15 and August 29, 2019 received.
- Economic Impact information from McDonald's Corporation received.
- Menominee County resolution in support of Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel received.
- Leelanau County Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice regarding Repeal of County Zoning Ordinance received.
- Mackinac County resolution in support of Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for September received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for September received.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department minutes of September 26, 2019 received.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

11:31 a.m. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to enter closed session in accordance with MCL 15.268(a) for the County Administrator's annual evaluation, at his request. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

12:51 p.m. Re-enter Open Session

#### County Administrator's Employment Contract

Comm Nye stated that she has reviewed the contract and is opposed to granting 5 weeks' vacation, I cannot support that.

Chairman Sauer stated that the vacation schedule for current employees is: 1 year = 10 days; 4 years = 15 days; 10 years = 20 days.

Comm Farrell stated that she agrees with Comm Nye.

Comm Taylor stated that with 2 days working at home; is there a reason it is not a 2-year contract?

Mr. Deisch stated that he would agree to go back to the 20 days' vacation with no increase.

Comm Farrell inquired regarding the \$300 vehicle allowance.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the County Administrator's Employment Contract for three years with changes in vacation to 20 days and 2% wage increase as of October 8, 2019, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chairman Sauer and Mitch Deisch to prepare a press release.

1:05 p.m. Public Input

Eric VanDusssen spoke regarding the court-appointed attorneys and neglect abuse issue.

1:08 p.m. Public Input Closed

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Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 1:08 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

### INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of September 24, 2019 as amended on page 2.
3. Presentation from Eric Kurtz, Northern Michigan Regional Entity.
4. Presentation from Kris Steinberg, US Census.
5. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$672,663.07, as presented.
6. Accepted the resignation of Walter “Rocky” Roch von Roschburg from the Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission with regrets.
7. Appointed John Morse to the Benzie Transportation Authority to fill the vacancy with a term expiring April 30, 2022.
8. Approved the 2020 Work Agreement and the 2019 Federal Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Policy – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division as presented, authorizing the chairman and Emergency Management Coordinator to sign.
9. Entered closed session in accordance with MCL 15.268(a) for the County Administrator’s annual evaluation, at his request.
10. Approved the County Administrator’s Employment Contract for three years with changes in vacation to 20 days and 2% wage increase as of October 8, 2019, authorizing the chairman to sign.