

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 22, 2019

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 22, 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 Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke

Excused: Commissioner Farrell

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

Agenda:

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the agenda as amended, adding October 17, 2019 Special Meeting minutes. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of October 8, 2019 as corrected. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the closed session minutes of October 8, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to approve the special joint session minutes of October 17, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

9:07 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Ed Kowalski, EDC/BRA, spoke regarding EDC and broadband Memorandum of Understanding with Eclipse to expand service in the county; retention visits we are going to develop communication with the businesses.

Comm Jeannot thanks Mr. Kowalski for his leadership with EDC.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, Christmas Bags – 4 churches have signed up to assist; November 20 at Shop n Save to help stuff the bags; fiscal year end September 30 and several services have exceeded expectancy; two new billboards to promote Medicare open enrollment October 15 through December 7.

Tom King, EMS Director, received \$600.00 which was invoiced to the Iron Man event for the services that were provided to them; they are moving forward with the ambulance purchase, additional information will come back before this board; North Flight is looking to sign a mutual aid agreement, North Flight signed the agreement, however the EMS Advisory Board stated that it was good for North Flight but not Manistee County – recommends no contract at this time, just keep

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monitoring it; sink hole in the front of the garage at the Frankfort site has been fixed by Kerby's Backhoe.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, presents the 2019 Apportionment Report for the county which lists taxable values by townships, city, villages, libraries, transit, school districts and one special assessment for Crystal Lake Township fire district. This shows the maximum allowable to levy per Headlee. Platte and Homestead townships are having issues with their assessing – non-compliant per the State Tax Commission.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to accept and file the Apportionment Report as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Emergency Management report for October 2019 received.
Solid Waste Advisory minutes of October 2, 2019 received.
Recycling Coordinator's Activity report received.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Taylor reported that the Village of Honor will be working with a resident to upgrade their web site; attended the Land Bank, Michelle will report on; Benzie Senior Resources, Doug covered; attended the 150th Anniversary celebration on Monday – presentation was very interesting.

Comm Warsecke attended the BCCS school board, audit for 2018- received an unmodified opinion; Inland Township, another meeting on the gravel pit issue on November 18; Craft show on November 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Halloween Party 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.; BTA 1 millionth rider; millage renewal – will put on the March 2020 ballot.

Comm Jeannot reported regarding Almira township discussion regarding intersection at Cedar Run and Reynolds Road and how it can be improved – local road commission will be upgrading signage there; they have hired a new fire chief as of November 18, 2019. Building Authority – Eric VanDussen is experiencing some health concerns and are unsure when he will return, they have plenty of coverage on the board. Housing committee met on October 18 and with our \$800,000 in receivables, we are finding that there is more time required for more action regarding collections and are looking for a professional firm that can handle collections.

Mitch Deisch asked about the housing administration fees and could a portion be captured for the services to the committee – yes.

Northern Michigan Commissioners Association and the topic was -- problem solving courts.

10:00 a.m. Laura Galbraith, Venture North, Public Hearing

Ms. Galbraith gave a brief description of the two business benefiting from these funds. There were 10 individuals present at the hearing. Two successful projects. XPert Fulfillment received \$330,000 and Stormcloud Brewing received \$70,000. Each have completed all compliance requirements. Both companies will be making payments to Venture North.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to open the public hearing regarding the close out of XPert Fulfillment and Stormcloud Brewing CDBG loans. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

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Public Comment – None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to close the public hearing. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS Continued

Comm Roelofs reported that the Village of Lake Ann had a Halloween get together in the park with pumpkin painting – a nice event. EMS – the \$193,000 for an ambulance with a power cot is huge – great deal and the cot is transferable tuck to truck. Hope to be before this board before the end of the year with ambulance purchase. Veterans – will celebrate Veteran's Day on November 11 with an event at the Veterans Memorial at 1 p.m. The new VA clinic in Traverse City will be ready to turn over to the VA for occupancy in mid-February 2020. Been talking briefly with the Benzie Bus regarding transportation for veterans to the VA clinic a couple of times per week – discussions are continuing. Also attended the 150th anniversary celebration here yesterday – it was a great event.

Comm Nye reported that she also attended the sesquicentennial celebration yesterday – thank you to all that organized it. Centra Wellness still waiting for the state budget to be finalized. Will attend the Summit this Friday. Joint Special Meeting with the BOC-BA-DHHS we are waiting on an attorney opinion and whether the debt millage should be right sized after the building is complete or do we appropriate the additional funds to a capital improvement fund. Benzonia Township has a live burn scheduled. The township has the same concerns with Headlee Rollback as the county does.

Comm Sauer reported that the Village of Thompsonville was approached by Aspen Wireless to have access to their tower; they are also having financial issues with the ambulance. Village of Elberta approved a new distillery/restaurant going into Elberta; they also opted out of recreational marijuana for the Village. Village of Thompsonville will sell the Oddfellows Hall back to them. School safety committee met yesterday, and one private school wants someone to come and assess their security, the MSP can do it, but our SRO doing it could be a conflict with the millage. The two SROs will be in attendance at the November 12 BOC meeting for an update. Bill Kennis with the Benzie Bus will be here that day as well.

10:30 a.m. Jennifer Berkey, MSU Extension

Ms. Berkey presented the annual Agreement for Extension services; there are no changes in the agreement from last year; she is working with Maridee regarding scheduling training for the employees; there is a posting for a position in Benzie County and it will be for farm stress management.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to enter into Agreement for Extension Services between Michigan State University and Benzie County, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

10:39 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Reconvene

David Wynne, Crystal Lake & Watershed, is present to request a resolution in support of application to the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy for a permit to obtain the

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permission of affected riparian's and notify residents of he planned activities to treat the aquatic invasive species known as Eurasian Watermilfoil on Crystal Lake.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to adopt resolution 2019-020 Eurasian Watermilfoil as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written update and stated we will talk about the long-term financial stability issues later today at the Committee of the Whole.

Chairman Sauer stated he is glad to see a date has been set for the Ad Hoc Health Committee; we need to update the County Administrator's list of prioritized things that need to be done; will be added to the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda.

Comm Jeannot stated that we need to think goals vs tasks – we want goals to be measurable, perhaps 3 – 5 goals.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve payment of the bills from October 8, 2019 thru October 22, 2019 in the amount of \$305,387.34, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported on the Land Bank Summit which was held at Crystal Mountain which was well attended and well received. She also mentioned that the Oddfellows lawsuit with the county treasurer has been settled and will be made whole for its legal expenses. Auditors were here last week to audit the Airport Authority.

11:20 a.m. Tony Radjenovich, MERS Executive Summary Report

Reviews a supplemental valuation for the proposed changes to merge some employees into a new EMS Union division. He reviews the Executive Summary and explains the procedures to have this carve out for the new division.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adopt the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement for the EMS Union, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Comm Jeannot removes item #5

Comm Warsecke removes item #4

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve items 1-3 of the October 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

#4: Comm Warsecke indicated we should hold off hiring a new person until after the union contract is done.

#5: Comm Jeannot has concern with no employee contribution unless there is a match.

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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to move to a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan with an equal match up to 5% and with 5-year vesting: 1 year = 20%; 2 years = 40%; 3 years = 60%; 4 years = 80% and 5 years = 100%, effective January 1, 2020 for all new employees. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to put a hiring freeze in place until January 1, 2020. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: Warsecke Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

DHHS: Letter from Ann Loveless of her intent to not seek reappointment – information only.

ACTION ITEMS:

Sheriff Agreement with Centra Wellness: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to enter into a Letter of Agreement between Benzie County Sheriff's Office and Manistee Benzie Community Mental Health Organization, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Road Commission Contract for Jail Access Road: Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Government Center and Jail Access Road Maintenance, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Road Commission Contract for Betsie Valley Trail: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Solid Waste Advisory minutes of June 26, 2019 received.
- Alger County resolution opposing legislation to prevent County Commissioner Candidates from Disclosing their Party Affiliation on Ballots received.
- Lapeer County resolution in support of Line 5 received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority financial statements for August and September 2019 received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

12:33 p.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 12:33 p.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

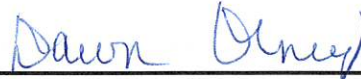
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Gary Sauer, Chair



Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding October 17, 2019 Special Meeting minutes.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of October 8, 2019 as corrected.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of October 8, 2019 as presented.
4. Approved the special joint session minutes of October 17, 2019 as presented.
5. Accepted and filed the 2019 Apportionment Report as presented.
6. Public hearing held regarding the close out of XPert Fulfillment and Stormcloud Brewing CDBG loans.
7. Entered into Agreement for Extension Services between Michigan State University and Benzie County, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Adopted resolution 2019-020 Eurasian Watermilfoil as presented.
9. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$305,387.34, as presented.
10. Adopted the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement for the EMS Union, authorizing the chair to sign.
11. Approved items 1-3 of the October 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
12. Approved to move to a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan with an equal match up to 5% and with 5-year vesting: 1 year = 20%; 2 years = 40%; 3 years = 60%; 4 years = 80% and 5 years = 100%, effective January 1, 2020 for all new employees.
13. Put a hiring freeze in place until January 1, 2020.
14. Entered into a Letter of Agreement between Benzie County Sheriff's Office and Manistee Benzie Community Mental Health Organization, authorizing the chairman to sign.
15. Entered into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Government Center and Jail Access Road Maintenance, authorizing the chairman to sign.
16. Entered into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance, authorizing the chairman to sign.

Committee of the Whole

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

1. To authorize the Top Line bid of \$6,400 for the intercom project as presented from line 261-325-970.00.
2. To authorize contract with IT Right in the amount of \$10,121.34 for CAD system as presented, from line 261-325-970.00.
3. To enter into contract with Top Line in the amount of \$2,250.00 for cabling of the CAD server in dispatch as presented, from line 261-325-970.00.
4. Removed from Consent Calendar.
5. Removed from Consent Calendar.