

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 12, 2019**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 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 (via phone), 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.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of October 22, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, presented a written report and also spoke about the action item for a 2% grant application to the Grand Traverse Band to purchase a new vehicle.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the application of Benzie Senior Resources to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in the amount of \$18,000, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

911 Central Dispatch written monthly report received.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Jeannot presented a written report of which he reported on the Chamber of Commerce and they are in the process of hiring a new executive director; County Summit; Platte Township – recently hired a new assessor; Lake Township and an increase of absent voters during the most recent election; Housing Committee approved four applications; Almira Township.

Comm Farrell reported that she attended the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) of the Northern Michigan Regional Entity and they have approved grant requests Benzie County and Manistee County for treatment services. Attended the Health Dept Septic Summit in Traverse City.

Comm Roelofs says thank you to all who attended the Veterans Memorial ceremony yesterday; He attended a Human Services Collaborative breakfast meeting at Grow Benzie; Domestic Violence Task Force lunch meeting; ongoing negotiations with the unions; attended a short townhall meeting with Senator Gary Peters in Traverse City.

## COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 4

November 12, 2019

Comm Nye reported that we will be hearing about a grant application from Tad Peacock for Zada Price Park later in this meeting; Point Betsie – erosion of the apron around the lighthouse; she reported on the Village of Benzonia Animal and Agriculture Ordinance, Notice of Intent for another grant, DNR Passport Grant is at a standstill due to the weather; November 14 @ 6:00 p.m. there will be a Master Plan review for the public; attended the Benzie Community Partners meeting and also the Veterans Memorial ceremony.

Comm Warsecke reported that the Conservation District is working on their Strategic Plan; Inland Township special meeting set for November 18 regarding the gravel pit has been cancelled. Election Equipment contract.

Comm Taylor attended the Local Planning meeting in the EOC and reported that it was a great meeting and Rebecca did a great job – it went very smooth and they will be changing the meetings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 2:00 p.m.; Homestead Township has decided to send all of their information regarding St. Ambrose to another attorney for a separate review; Village of Honor is applying for a grant for waste-water treatment.

Comm Sauer attended the court security meeting and reported that there was good discussion, it is a good start; he also attended the Septic Tank meeting – this only affects homes when they are sold; Benzie Summit – topics discussed: Financial issues; Broadband; Dark Skies; Solar. We need to schedule interviews for the DHHS board. Attended the VA dinner at Blaine Church put on by the Boy Scouts. Some homes on Herring Lake have water on the first level due to the lake water levels. We need to work on the goals for Mitch. Asks to put a link on our web site for the 911 signs.

### 10:01 a.m. School Resource Officer Reports

Geoff Miller, Benzie County Central Schools – he provided written reports for September and October 2019 and reported that it was a great start to year two. He coached football at Benzie High School; Handle with Care program is fully implemented at BCCS and they are very happy with it. A couple of senior girls have helped with the vaping problem – they call it Escape the Vape – we are making strides there. BCCS is fully implemented in the Michigan Attorney General's "OK2SAY" program. This is a program that gives kids a voice to protect themselves and classmates. Students have an ability to text, email, or call a number and remain 100% anonymous. He is now teaching eight lessons to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students at Betsie Valley Elementary. Kids are in his office every day just to talk.

Tiffany Wright, Frankfort Elberta Area Schools – she stated that she spent the first month getting to know the kids. The kids give her tips on others. They also have the "OK2SAY" program implemented at Frankfort. October was fire safety month. September and October were busy with a lot of outdoor sports.

10:24 a.m. Break

10:33 a.m. Reconvene

10:33 a.m. Bill Kennis and Chad Hollenbeck, Benzie Transportation Authority Annual Report They presented a power point and spoke regarding their reaching the 1,000,000 rider status; on Election Day they provided 50 rides to the polls. Chad reported that they have 94% satisfied riders.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 3 of 4**

**November 12, 2019**

11:03 a.m. Tad Peacock, Parks & Recreation

Requested approval of a 2% grant application to the Grand Traverse Band to build steps at Zada Price Park. The County would be the fiduciary and receive \$500.00 administration fee; Tad would do all of the leg work for the grant.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the application of SEEDS and the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in the amount of \$5,000, with the understanding that they will amend the application to include the number of Grand Traverse Band tribal members in Benzie County, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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

Mitch provided a written update report and stated that the soil erosion meeting tonight has been cancelled due to the weather; he met with Judge Thompson and the Public Defender regarding neglect abuse cases.

### **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from October 22, 2019 thru November 11, 2019 in the amount of \$570,808.70, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to approve item 1 of the October 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None**

**ACTION ITEMS:** Handled earlier in the meeting.

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bay County and Kalkaska County resolutions opposing legislation to prevent County Commissioner Candidates from Disclosing their Party Affiliation on Ballots received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for October 2019 received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for October 2019 received.
- Parks & Rec minutes of September 23, 2019 received.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

11:32 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Beulah, said that she heard great things and ideas here today that she will use in her position of programming at Grow Benzie.

Ed Kowalski spoke regarding space needs and security.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 4 of 4**

**November 12, 2019**

Public Input Closed

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 11:34 a.m. Motion carried. 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 October 22, 2019 as presented.
3. Approved the application of Benzie Senior Resources to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in the amount of \$18,000, authorizing the chair to sign.
4. Approved the application of SEEDS and the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians in the amount of \$5,000, with the understanding that they will amend the application to include the number of Grand Traverse Band tribal members in Benzie County, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$570,808.70, as presented.
6. Approved item 1 of the October 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.

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

1. To direct administration to explore a Headlee Reset to include timing of the jail millage and as to when the jail millage is best on the ballot.