

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

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 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 Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor  
Excused: Commissioner Warsecke

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

**Agenda:**

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Farrell, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Closing of Government Center Policy under New Business. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

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

Mitch Deisch read a letter from Commissioner Warsecke, apologizing for his absence today as he has been invited to attend the State of State Address, as a guest of Representative Jack O'Malley.

9:04 a.m. Public Input - None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Ted Schendel, Sheriff, presented a commendation to Matt Skeels, Road Commission, regarding the excellent job of keeping the roads clear during the recent weather conditions.

Kyle Mauer, Animal Control Officer, gave update on Animal Control remodeling. New flooring is being installed today and on Friday the kick board will be put down. Thank you to the Animal Welfare League for paying for this and all they have done. Plan is to put the Animal Shelter back together on Monday so it will be open for the public on Tuesday.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator, reported that we have received a scrap tire grant in the amount of \$8,048.00. That will provide for 4 tire trailers.

Frank Post, Emergency Management, provided a written Emergency Management Activities January 2019 report. Presented a preliminary After-Action Review report for the winter storm January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Chairman Sauer read a letter of thanks from Bill Ward into the record for all the people that worked to prevent flooding of homes in the Village of Honor.

Ron Berns, 911 Director, provided a written report. Peninsula Fiber Network (PFN), is here today converting Charter to PFN regarding 911 calls. Will have 3 companies here today and tomorrow at 9:00 a.m., noon and 3:00 p.m., Thursday at 3:00 p.m. and next Tuesday on at noon. We are still

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waiting ~~from~~ to hear from 2 companies to schedule. Thanks to Tom Longanbach for taking all the data for our roads and converting it over to postal field. On Friday we received permission from the State of Michigan to proceed with Fire and EMS Department getting on to the system. Nicole Lamerson's last day will be February 28, 2019, she is a 25-year veteran with the department.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, provided the 2019 Tentative Ratios and Factors written report.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Taylor attended the Homestead Township meeting. Bev Holbrook resigned as Trustee, Deputy Clerk and a position on Joint Planning Commission (JPC). They will be putting an ad in the paper for those positions. Attended the Village of Honor meeting last night. 2014 was the last time we had trouble with ice damming the culverts of the bridge in Honor.

Comm Carland, stated the Village of Beulah and Village of Benzonia are setting up an informal mediation with Scott Conrad from the DEQ, over the water issue. The Airport purchased the 5-acre parcel behind the Fitness Center on Thursday. He has been offered a job in Traverse City and this will be his last meeting as a Commissioner. He starts his new position on February 25, 2019 and will resign as Commissioner effective midnight February 24, 2019.

Comm Farrell, provided a written report. She attended the Benzie County Human Services Collaborative on January 23, 2019, the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department meeting with Chairman Sauer on January 24, 2019, the Community Mental Health winter conference February 4 through 6, 2019 and the Frankfort-Elberta School Board meeting.

Comm Jeannot, commented that the County is losing a bright Commissioner with Commissioner Carland leaving, he brings a lot to the board. Attended EDC meeting on January 24, 2019, they will meet the third Friday of the month at ~~9:00 am~~ 11:00 a.m. Their priorities are on broadband and seasonal workforce housing. Attended the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse meeting on January 26, 2019, they are having a photo competition of the light house as a fund raiser. They will be asking the Board of Commissioners to approve a new grant for the Point Betsie Group in the next few months. I will only be attending the Point Betsie meetings a couple of times a year. Attended Networks Northwest, they were awarded a \$75,000.00 grant to do a regional Economic Development study, to be completed by October 2019. Chamber is ~~looking for~~ working with Networks Northwest to identify someone to fill the Technology position on their board. Attended the Platte Township and Almira Township meetings. Almira Township is opting out of the recreational marijuana ordinance. Department Heads talk about the difficulty of getting employees. We are going to have to be alert that the new residents of our community ~~has~~ have higher expectations of services, and we are going to have to figure out how we are going to ~~have to~~ fund it.

Comm Taylor, as a former employee we fall short in keeping those employees that have serviced us throughout the years and we do not give them the credit or support they deserve. We are always so willing to bring in new people and forget about all the time and effort that have been spent with older employees.

Chairman Sauer, I appreciate the staff we have and the folks that work here.

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Comm Roelofs stated that he hates to see Commissioner Carland leave. Reverend Marvin Rosa passed away yesterday. Veterans Affairs met yesterday, they have found a link between agent orange and high blood pressure. Attended the 911 Advisory Board meeting and Domestic Violence Task Force meeting. Met with Rep Jack O'Malley on Saturday, talked a lot about Veterans activities and what is going on in the State, along with roads in Benzie County. On February 25, 2019, I will be on the Ice Breaker out of St. Ignace.

Chairman Sauer attended the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department re-organization meeting. State funding is a ~~huge~~ huge issue. Attended the Benzie County Road Commission meeting. They were approached by Inland Township regarding fixing Carmean and Brundage Roads. Inland Township would like to pay to have it paved, over a two-year span. Attended the Joyfield Township, Blaine Township and Village of Thompsonville meetings. Joyfield Township and Village of Thompsonville opted out of the recreational marijuana ordinance. Blaine Township hasn't officially opted out, but they will be opting out of the recreational marijuana ordinance. Will be receiving a check from our Worker Compensation Insurance carrier regarding past year close outs. Attended the Veteran Committee Action Team meeting. Good discussion on VA home loans. Ask that the Sheriff, Administrator and I sit down and talk about something that showed up on Facebook.

10:37 a.m. Break

10:49 a.m. Reconvene

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Provided written report dated February 4, 2019.
- MSU started to relocate yesterday.
- Michigan Works will go into the former MSU/Planning office.
- Getting signatures on the Strategic Plan.
- FOP contract negotiations are rescheduled for February 22, 2019.
- Attended a Conference in Battle Creek last week.

Chairman Sauer stated that we need to have the School Board or Matt, and TBA come in and discuss, to better understand, their funding formulas and where their money is allocated, at a separate meeting. Also invite our State Representative and State Senator to attend. Mitch will work on setting this up.

## FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Carland, seconded by Farrell, to approve payment of the bills from January 23, 2019 thru February 07, 2019 in the amount of \$617,485.17, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer reported that settlement of 2018 taxes begins March 1, 2019. We will pay out approximately \$2,000,000.00 for 2018 taxes gone delinquent in March from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

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### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Consent: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to approve items 1 through 3 of the January 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Chairman Sauer read the letter from Village of Thompsonville regarding their appointment of Charles Syer as their representative to the Betsie Valley Rails to Trails Committee.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to reappoint John Rothhaar, to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council, for a term expiring April 15, 2022. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to appoint Paula Figura, to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for a term expiring January 31, 2025. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to reappoint Carol Dye, to the Benzie County Housing Committee, for a term expiring February 01, 2024. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

MERS Corrective Action Plan: Motion by Carland, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the MERS Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act Corrective Action Plan: Defined Benefit Pension Retirement Systems as presented, authorizing chairman to sign. Roll Call Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Space Needs Agreement: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Farrell, to approve the Government Center Space Needs Assessment Professional Service Agreement with Byce and Associates in the amount of \$28,250.00, as presented, authorizing chairman to sign. Roll Call Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion Carried.

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Jackson County resolution #01-19.06 Michigan Indigent Defense Commission.
- Letter from MERS regarding RAP application for jail security project.
- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department minutes for January 24, 2019.
- Benzie County Road Commission minutes for January 17, 2019.
- Letter from Marjorie Pearsall-Groenwald for January 24, 2019.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Maridee Cutler, Deputy Administrative Assistant, discussed the Government Center Closing Policy. There are 5 non-union, non-elected, hourly employees that the Staff Personnel Policy is silent regarding paying for the time the Government Center was closed due to the weather closures.



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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Carland, to pay standard pay to the non-union, non-elected, hourly employees, for hours missed as a result of the Government Center being closed. Roll Call  
Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to accept the resignation of Commissioner Coury Carland, effective at midnight, February 24, 2019. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion Carried.

12:09 p.m. Public Input - None

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer to adjourn at 12:09 p.m. Ayes: Carland, Farrell, Jeannot, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Warsecke Nays: None Motion Carried.

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Gary G. Sauer, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Chief Deputy Clerk

## INDEX

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2. Approve the regular session minutes of January 22, 2019 as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from January 23, 2019 thru February 07, 2019 in the amount of \$617,485.17, as presented.
4. Approve items 1 through 3 of the January 22, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
5. Reappoint John Rothhaar, to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council, for a term expiring April 15, 2022.
6. Appoint Paula Figura, to the Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, for a term expiring January 31, 2025.
7. Reappoint Carol Dye, to the Benzie County Housing Committee, for a term expiring February 01, 2024.
8. Approve the MERS Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act Corrective Action Plan: Defined Benefit Pension Retirement Systems as presented, authorizing chairman to sign.
9. Approve the Government Center Space Needs Assessment Professional Service Agreement with Byce and Associates in the amount of \$28,250.00, as presented, authorizing chairman to sign.
10. Pay standard pay to the non-union, non-elected, hourly employees, for hours missed while the Government Center was closed.
11. Accept the resignation of Commissioner Coury Carland, effective at midnight, February 24, 2019.



**Committee of the Whole**

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**January 22, 2019**

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

1. To amend the 2018-19 Budget for fund 212 Benzie Kids in the amount of \$77.60.
2. To amend the 2018-19 budget for fund 425 Equipment Replacement Emergency Management in the amount of \$7,281.00.
3. To amend the 2018-19 Budget for fund 247 Animal Control in the amount of \$7,000.00.

