

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 10, 2019**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, in the Frank F. Walterhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Evan Warsecke.

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner Nye and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  
Comm Warsecke requested a moment of silence in memory of the 18<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of 9/11.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to approve the agenda as amended to add revisiting the Government Center and service drives shoulder repairs under Action Items; and discussion regarding the County Administrator evaluation under New Business. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

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

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Roelofs, to approve the regular session minutes of August 27, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Taylor, to approve the special session minutes of August 30, 2019 as amended. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input –

Michael Tallard, Homestead Township – expressed his concerns with what has happened with the Homestead Township Board.

9:08 a.m. Public Input – closed

Presentation of the 2019-20 Budget –

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to open the public hearing for adoption of the 2019-20 Budget. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

No public comment.

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

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Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Farrell, to set the 2019/2020 Budget for approval at the September 24, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting. Roll Call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke. Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Thomas King, EMS Coordinator, provided written report and stated that everything is going well; trucks are in good shape; working on getting a new vehicle; union discussions this month; working on Mutual Aid Agreement with Thompsonville..

Ron Berns, 911 Director provided written report.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Roelofs reported that he attended the Human Service Collaborative Board where early childhood development was a topic. Veterans Affairs meeting discussion was held about the pavilion. Veterans Day service on November 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Comm Nye reported that she attended six meetings. At the Central Wellness meeting Lakeshore Regional Entity was an important topic. MAC has issued a letter in response to MDHHS press release calling for the establishment of a new board. 8 of 15 appointments would be made by MDHHS. Construction Board of Appeals appointment with Sean Duperron. Village of Beulah has agreed to be the fiduciary for a grant application to establish Groundwater Management Plan. They increased the water ready to serve fee to \$94.28 and increased the rate to \$8.80 per 1000 gallons used. Village of Benzonia hired a new Assistant Superintendent, and DNR Passport Grant Bids for concrete came in much higher than expected. They will be taking the funds out of the water tower rental income.

Comm Farrell reported that she attended three meeting. Central Wellness Community Service and Relations Committee are working hard at getting their quality improvement plan in place. Suicide Prevention Walk will be in Manistee on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Domestic Violence Prevention event at the Vogue Theater in Manistee on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Substance Use Disorder Board meeting received an overview of county specific Liquor Tax usage for October 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019; Benzie County ending balance is \$114,864. MDHHS will have a free distribution of Naloxone on September 14<sup>th</sup>. No prescription, payment or name is required. Frankfort-Elberta Area School Board meeting stated that the Boot system is installed. First official drill will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. Asked Superintendent Tousley to arrange with Dawn, to have Officer Wright come and speak at a Board of Commissioners meeting. The Sleeping Bear Gateways Council is sponsoring a Community Conference on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to explore ways for our communities to prepare for the increasing number of seasonal visitors in the area.

Comm Jeannot reported that he attended six meetings. Platte Township are dealing with the issue of tiny homes. Lake Township has had someone approach their board about growing hemp. Almira Township is looking for a fire chief. They had 24 applications and they are interviewing the top four. Thanks to those who have turned in their evaluation, will discuss later in the meeting. Working with the Maples Board and Board of Commissioners regarding a document of understanding. September 16<sup>th</sup>, State Senator Curt VanderWall and State Representative Jack O'Malley will be at the Ironfish at 5:00 p.m.

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Comm Taylor reported that she attended two meetings. Homestead Township meeting there were people in the audience upset about the happenings at St. Ambrose. Village of Honor Coho Festival had a few snags but went well. Ladies did a really nice job. There have been questions regarding the Home Stretch project. Looking for variances regarding onsite parking for townhouse/apartments.

Comm Warsecke reported that Inland Township is having a meeting on September 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the gravel pit. There will be a craft show on September 9, 2019. Benzie County Central School is having a fund raiser Ms. Long's Closet at Crystal Mountain on November 2, 2019. Expecting 1350 children enrolled in the school this year.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Provided written report
- Tom Longanbach will inform the COTW regarding tax allocation this afternoon.
- Received names of four firms that specialize in millage education.
- Pension team meeting on September 18, 2019.
- Emergency Manager will meet with the dispatchers on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions regarding combining the offices.

## **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Roelofs, to approve payment of the bills from August 28, 2019 through September 09, 2019 in the amount of \$343,585.31, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, Treasurer reported that the 2019 Summer and Village taxes are due Monday, September 16, 2019 without penalty. They are working on cleaning up any issues with regards to the general ledger, anticipating the year end on September 30, 2019. Working on the summit for the Land Bank Authority.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to approve items 1 through 5, of the August 27, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Board of Canvassers: Ballots vote totals were Jeannette Feeheley -0-, Maureen Jeannot 4, Jan Mick 2, Barbara Bleyaert 2, Pete Brown 3, and Ron Dykstra 1.

Construction Board of Appeals: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Taylor, to appoint Sean Duperron to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term ending December 31, 2020. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

MERS Conference Delegates: Motion by Farrell, seconded by Roelofs, to appoint Tammy Bowers as the Employer Delegate to the MERS 2019 conference. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

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Comm Nye questioned why Maridee Cutler was not attending the MERS Conference as she is the Human Resource person.

Comm Farrell feels that Maridee should be attending also.

Mitch Diesch stated that is an internal staff related conversation and he will discuss that with Maridee later.

County Administrator Transfers: Motion by Warecke, seconded by Jeannot, to authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2018-19 budgets for all funds. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Commission Rules and Regulations for Railroad Point Natural Area: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to adopt the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission Rules and Regulations for the Railroad Point Natural Area as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Parking Lot/Service Road Work: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Farrell, to authorized Kerby's Backhoe to complete the parking lot and shoulder work in the amount of \$6,640. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

## PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the Village of Benzonia Planning Commission regarding review of the Village Master Plan received.
- Alger County resolution supporting the Caro Center received.
- Marquette County resolution regarding Party Affiliation on Ballots received.
- Benzie County Road Commission minutes of July 25, 2019 received.
- Eaton County resolution regarding waiver of health and rehabilitation services Medicaid audit takeback received.
- Cheboygan County resolution in support of Line 5 Tunnel received.
- Letter from Governor Gretchen Whitmer regarding the budget received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation levels for August 2019 received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation levels for August 2019 received.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

## NEW BUSINESS

Comm Jeannot suggested that the County Administrator's evaluation be moved to the October 8, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting as Mitch will be on vacation for the September 24, 2019 meeting. Suggest we contact the county attorney for an opinion regarding the County Administrator's performance evaluation being conducted in closed session.

10:02 a.m. Recess

10:15 a.m. Reconvene

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Comm Nye requests that we revisit the discussion regarding the Board of Canvassers appointment as no motion was made. After review of the Republican candidates' letters of interest, their support was for Janice Mick.

Board of Canvassers: Ballots vote totals were Jeannette Feeheley -0-, Maureen Jeannot -0-, Jan Mick 6, Barbara Bleyaert 2, Pete Brown 3, and Ron Dykstra 1.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to reappoint Janice Mick and appoint Pete Brown to the Board of Canvassers for a four-year term ending November 1, 2023. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.267 to discuss the potential of purchasing real property for ~~country~~ county purposes. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None. Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

10:33 a.m. Re-Enter Open Session

10:33 a.m. Public Input

Ron Berns, 911 Director, stated that he is disappointed with mixing the 911 funds with county funds. This was not the intent of the surcharge. Trainee resigned and supervisor is on medical and we have no candidates at this time to replaced them. You need someone that will be there every day. Good luck, he will be here for 36 more days.

10:36 a.m. Public Input closed

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion Carried.

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Evan Warsecke, Vice-Chair

Tammy Bowers, Chief Deputy County Clerk

## INDEX

1. Approve the agenda as amended.
2. Approve the special session minutes of August 22, 2019 as presented.
3. Approve the regular session minutes of August 27, 2019 as presented.
4. Approve the special session minutes of August 30, 2019 as amended.
5. Open the public hearing for adoption of the 2019-20 Budget.
6. Close the public hearing.
7. Set the 2019/2020 Budget for approval at the September 24, 2019 BOC meeting.
8. Approve payment of the bills from August 28, 2019 through September 09, 2019 in the amount of \$343,585.31.
9. Approve items 1 through 5, of the August 27, 2019 COTW Consent Calendar.
10. Appoint Sean Duperron to the Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term ending December 31, 2020.
11. Appoint Tammy Bowers as the employer delegate to the MERS 2019 conference.
12. Authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2018-19 budgets for all funds.

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13. Adopt the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Commission Rules and Regulations for the Railroad Point Natural Area.
14. Authorized Kerby's Backhoe to complete the parking lot and shoulder work in the amount of \$6,640.
15. Reappoint Janice Mick and appoint Pete Brown to the Board of Canvassers for a four-year term ending November 1, 2023.
16. Enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.267 to discuss the potential of purchasing real property for ~~country~~ county purposes.

**Committee of the Whole**

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**August 27, 2019**

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

1. To amend the 2018-19 EMS 214 Budget as presented, in the amount of \$3,029.53.
2. To amend the 2018-19 EMS 214 Budget as presented, in the amount of \$52,050.00.
3. To authorize the purchase of used gym equipment per the FOPLC Road Patrol Deputies contract in the amount of \$3,000.00, acknowledging that these funds may be expended prior to the next meeting.
4. To amend the 2018-19 Benzie Kids Budget 212 as presented, in the amount of \$220.00.
5. To amend the 2018-19 Central Dispatch 261 Budget as presented, in the amount of \$32,200.00.