

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 7, 2020**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in an organizational meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by County Clerk Dawn Olney at 9:00 a.m.

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner Sauer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Election of Chair:**

Commissioner Jeannot nominates Gary Sauer

Commissioner Nye nominates Bob Roelofs

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

Comm Farrell asks that each of the two nominees tell us why they want to be the chair this year.

Comm Sauer stated that he doesn't plan to stay in the leadership role forever, but some people feel when we change often, it looks like we are a non-cohesive board. We came up with the strategic plan that needs to move forward, financial review, space needs – we need to continue these items.

Unfunded liability – we have to address it as a part of the financial review. We are working on the Headlee. Sends the wrong message to the public if we change leadership in the middle of taking care of these items. Been chair for 2 years; and vice chair for 1 year. Honored to serve in those roles and will do the best he can if given that chance again. Thank you for the opportunity and will work as hard as I can for this board and Benzie County.

Comm Roelofs says thank you all for this past year; you have taught me many things. That I serve not only the residents that voted for me, I serve all of the Benzie County residents. Getting along with people is huge. Really appreciate what the employees bring to us. The Strategic Plan needs to be forefront. Financial study is huge – we need to pay attention to it. If elected, look forward to serving everyone.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to have the vote for chair be open voice vote. Ayes: Jeannot, Sauer and Taylor Nays: Farrell, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Motion fails.

Secret ballot is used for election; tallied by clerk.

Commissioner Sauer received 3 votes

Commissioner Roelofs received 4 votes

Comm Roelofs assumes the chair.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve the agenda as amended, add Legal Counsel RFP prior to adoption of Resolutions. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:15 a.m. Public Input

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Valerie Gerhart – Advocates for Benzie County – public forum being held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 -- 5:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Mills Community House regarding childcare. A lasagna dinner will be served from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. The program will begin following dinner.

9:18 a.m. Public Input Closed

### **Election of Vice Chair:**

Commissioner Sauer nominates Art Jeannot

Commissioner Taylor nominates Rhonda Nye

Chair Roelofs nominates Evan Warsecke

Voice vote: Jeannot – Jeannot; Nye – Warsecke; Roelofs – Warsecke; Taylor – Nye; Warsecke – Warsecke; Farrell – Nye; Sauer -- Jeannot

Comm Warsecke declared Vice Chair for 2020.

### **Meeting Dates and Times:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to set the start time for all 2020 Board of Commissioner meetings at 9:00 a.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs and Taylor Nays: Sauer and Warsecke  
Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to set the 2020 meetings dates and times as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **Board Rules:**

Changes to be made: All references to chairman or chairperson will now be chair.

1.1 – remove March and December

1.12 -- MCL 46.1 to be researched for Annual Meeting

1.51 -- Text to be added as a means of providing notice to the Board members

4.4 – Appointment to Authorities & Other Agencies: Remove AES and Add MAC Transportation and MAC Ag & Tourism

Motion by Nye, seconded by Farrell, to re-establish the HR Committee to meet monthly and report to the Committee of the Whole (COTW). Ayes: Farrell, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot and Sauer

5.11 Agenda: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to move Action Items to follow Elected Officials & Dept Head Comments and move Presentation of Correspondence before Public Input. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:25 a.m. Comm Farrell excused

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the 2020 Board Rules with changes. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

### **Public Input Statement:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Taylor, to adopt the Public Input statement as presented. Roll call.

Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

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**Commissioner Committee Appointments:**

Chair Roelofs requested that commissioners provide their preference list to him so that appointments can be made. Requests to be submitted by January 14, 2020.

**Step 3 – COAM Grievance #19-935:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to appoint County Administrator Mitchell Deisch to act on its behalf regarding Step 3 of the COAM grievance # 19-935. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

**Resolutions:**

Depositories: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to adopt resolution 2020-001 setting the County Depositories as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

ACH: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to adopt resolution 2020-002 ACH (Automatic Clearing House) Electronic Transfer Transactions as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Fair Housing: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to adopt resolution 2020-003 Fair Housing Resolution as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

Payment of Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to authorize payment of the bills from December 17, 2019 to January 7, 2020 in the amount of \$410,978.05. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

RFQ – Legal Services: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to direct the appropriate management to put together an RFQ for general legal counsel for this board. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

County Administrator Mitch Deisch stated that he could have the information to this board by the end of March 2020.

10:53 a.m. PUBLIC INPUT

Comm Sauer said thank you for the opportunity to have served as Chair of this board; phone reimbursement to the chair is allowed and he never took it – he would ask that the chair continue that way.

Comm Jeannot stated that he feels we went through the right process today and we remember that we are working for all.

Annie Browning said that you did a really good job today; diverse perspectives are the best.

10:55 a.m. Public Input Closed

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to adjourn until January 14, 2020 Regular Meeting or the call of the chair. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Farrell Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs -- Chairman

Dawn Olney – Benzie County Clerk

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1. Bob Roelofs elected chair for 2020.
2. Approved the agenda as amended, add Legal Counsel RFQ.
3. Evan Warsecke elected Vice Chair for 2020.
4. Set the start time for all 2020 Board of Commissioner meetings at 9:00 a.m.
5. Set the 2020 meetings dates and times as presented.
6. Authorized to re-establish the HR Committee to meet monthly and report to the Committee of the Whole (COTW).
7. Amended the Agenda format to move Action Items to follow Elected Officials & Dept Head Comments and move Presentation of Correspondence before Public Input.
8. Adopted the 2020 Board Rules with changes.
9. Adopted the Public Input statement as presented.
10. Appointed County Administrator Mitchell Deisch to act on its behalf regarding Step 3 of the COAM grievance # 19-935.
11. Adopted resolution 2020-001 setting the County Depositories.
12. Adopted resolution 2020-002 ACH (Automatic Clearing House) Electronic Transfer Transactions.
13. Adopted resolution 2020-003 Fair Housing Resolution as presented.
14. Authorized payment of the bills in the amount of \$410,978.05.
15. Directed the appropriate management to put together an RFQ for general legal counsel for this board. County Administrator Mitch Deisch indicated that he could have the information to this board by the end of March 2020.