

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 26, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 via teleconferencing in the Frank F. Walterhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Roelofs.

Present were: Commissioners Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke
Absent: None

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

Agenda:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to approve the regular session minutes of May 12, 2020 as presented. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve the closed session minutes of May 12, 2020 as presented. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:06 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom King, EMS Director, reported that their call volume is down a bit; the ambulance which had a new engine installed has been completed, the radiator was also replaced and an antifreeze flush as well; staff is holding up well.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, reported that the water level going into Elberta is being controlled with a one-way traffic and a temporary light; it is the Dept of Transportation's call on the management of that roadway; Facemasks – Emergency Management does have a supply for First Responders provided through state surplus; she has asked that all departments fund their own purchase of facemasks for staff; Emergency Management cannot provide a free supply to the Government Center.

Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, stated that she knows someone that may be a resource for masks; her office has been taking appointments and will continue with that practice even when the building is open back up to the public; she has been in contact with her software vendor and is working toward getting all index images available for on-line access.

Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, stated that the EO 100 Stay at Home Order is in effect until June 12; the Emergency Declaration extends to June 19, 2020.

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Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, presented Revenue and Expenditure Reports for year ending 9/30/19 and for first quarter ending 12/31/19. Discussions held regarding the reports being too old to be beneficial. Susan will provide reports 45 days following quarterly end date.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, indicated that reports should be able to be done either the Friday or Monday prior to a board meeting with real-time figures. These are not audited reports, just projections.

Susan agrees and will prepare Friday or Monday before the meeting.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and stated that they are working to prepare for reopening; their services fall under a different set of guidelines due to the clientele being in the highest risk; they have their first two clients signed up with Face North for services; they delivered their final self-safe boxes last week and are now working on delivery of fresh produce; they are also providing facemasks to all clients.

ACTION ITEMS

Remonumentation Contract: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into the Remonumentation Contract with Crystal Surveying thru November 30, 2020, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

BACN 2% Grant Application: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve the 2% Grant Application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on behalf of Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN), authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Taylor Motion carried.

COVID-19

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to approve Resolution 2020-017 extending the closure of the Government Center to the public through June 12, 2020 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, stated that he has provided Executive Orders 96, 97, 99, 100 and 103 to each commissioner.

Comm Jeannot asked that perhaps we could gather information we have learned from this and how we can better serve the public; what are we doing during the lock down and how we could continue to do when we open.

10:00 a.m. Det. Troy Lamerson, Benzie County Sheriff Office

Requests permission to donate excess property accumulated in the property room at the Sheriff Dept. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to allow the Sheriff Office to donate extra property in their possession following a property audit. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:06 a.m. Greg Hubers, Hazard Pay

Requests approval of Hazard Pay to all First Responders in the amount of \$250.00 per pay period retroactive to March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 or the end of the Michigan State of Emergency, whichever shall occur first.

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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to deny the request for Hazard Pay. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: Warsecke Motion carried.

10:47 a.m. Break

10:54 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported that he met with Pat Heins and Felice Kelly-Ware regarding the Drug Court activity; Village of Lake Ann is getting new guardrails in the Village; their storm sewers are being cleaned out today. The Almira Township Historical Society usually holds a July 4th celebration and it is being cancelled this year. Veterans Affairs is moving along well. Comm Jeannot asked if any type of celebration will be held replacing the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial – Chair Roelofs reported that they are considering some type of picnic possibly in August.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached).

Comm Nye provided a written report (attached).

Comm Taylor stated that she attended the HR committee meeting which has been reported on; she attended the BSR meeting via teleconference which Mr. Durand reported on; she has attended a couple webinars as well.

Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the committee interview for Benzie Transportation Authority; looking forward to getting back to normal.

Comm Sauer reported that the historic sign at Diamond Crossing in Thompsonville is moving forward; attended the MAC Ag/Tourism meeting; Village of Elberta held a virtual meeting – June 1 will be their audit; they will be replacing their water meters; will cost them \$35,000 for replacing the lead and copper lines which is required by EGLE.

Chair Roelofs reported that the National Guard did COVID testing at the jail – 7 inmates volunteered, and some Government Center staff as well.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – provided a written report (attached).

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from May 12, 2020 thru May 26, 2020 in the amount of \$159,826.10, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, stated that her office is working on getting caught up; foreclosure has been extended thru July 20 at 5:00 p.m.; she is work on the 2020-21 budget.

~~COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE~~

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BTA: Interview committee has decided not to make a recommendation at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comm Jeannot inquired of the Appendix H to the COVID Leave Policy that was to be provided as an attachment to the Plan, Prepare and Respond Plan. Mr. Deisch stated that it is not ready for this meeting and will have it this afternoon at Committee of the Whole.

NEW BUSINESS

Comm Farrell asks if a link to the Census could be placed on our website. Mr. Deisch stated yes.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Census information received.
- Road Commission minutes of April 23, 2020 received.
- Menominee County resolution regarding Executive Order 2020-77 received
- Tuscola County resolution regarding Moving Tuscola Forward received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority financial statement or April 2020 received.

11:40 a.m. Public Input

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, commented regarding technology use/not use in offices or work at home, the County Treasurer's office is a customer service office and you cannot provide customer service at home. Even if we were able to send our employees home with phones and laptops, there is the issue of some employees not having reliable internet access at their homes.

Comm Taylor explained her reason for a no vote on the 2% grant application for BACN – they are a 501C3 but yet in this paperwork we got, is their budget of \$3 million to construct a new building; giving money that is taking away from services. Doesn't have to be a brand-new building.

11:43 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of May 12, 2020 as presented.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of May 12, 2020 as presented.
4. Approved to enter into the Remonumentation Contract with Crystal Surveying thru November 30, 2020, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Approved the 2% Grant Application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on behalf of Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN), authorizing the chair to sign.

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6. Approved Resolution 2020-017 extending the closure of the Government Center to the public through June 12, 2020 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Denied the request for Hazard Pay.
8. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$159,826.10, as presented.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
May 26, 2020

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the county since May 12th.
- **5/18** Northern MI Commissioners Association – Had a presentation on high water issues through out Michigan. Lake Michigan could rise another 4 to 6 inches by August.
- **5/18** Benzie County Chamber of Commerce – Participated with a select community group to develop a “tool kit” for Benzie County businesses for re-opening.
- **5/20** Building Authority – Key take away from that meeting are wrapping up the project by updating generator usage, landscaping and possible work on kitchen cabinets and dishwashers. Committee anticipates moving responsibilities to BOC after bond is re-funded.
- **5/21** Northern MI Community Action Agency - Met as the Executive Committee only to stay in compliance of the Governors’ executive orders. Discussed growing demand on home delivered meals and housing needs for veterans and homeless.
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- **Other –**
 - As most citizens, I have participated in several conference calls regarding the Governor’s executive orders and updates on COVID-19.
 - I have stayed in contact with many of my assigned committees and agencies by phone. The purpose is to share information regarding the current situation (COVID-19) and determine if the BOC needs to act on any issues on the group’s behalf.

RECEIVED

MAY 26 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Commissioner's Report to BOC

May 26, 2020

Linda Farrell

District #3

Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township

I attended five meetings since we last met.

May 12, 2020 – Crystal Lake Township Board Meeting by call-in

- Continuing their operations from home through May 28 with adjustments as needed
- Discussed developing regular hours for appointments by phone

May 13 and 20, 2020 – BLDHD Weekly Community COVID-19 Updates - virtual meeting

May 14, 2020 – Centra Wellness Network Board Meeting - virtual meeting

- Conversations about MDHHS proposed Mental Health Organization and Funding continue with our NMRE promoting the Behavioral Health Home Model and a Rural Exemption
- CWN received an excellent CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) evaluation – Congratulations to all the CWN Administration and Staff
- Some staff are being called back to work with appropriate safety measures; Skill Building and Employment Specialists may be called back June 1st
- Some staff worried about exposure possibilities
- They have a good 2-week PPE supply
- Board elections were held – Dennis Risser, Chair; Linda Farrell, Vice-Chair; Rhonda Nye, Secretary

May 19, 2020 City of Frankfort City Council Meeting – virtual meeting

- On June 1st at 3pm will hold a Public Hearing on their Operating Millage of 12.6928 - with adoption expected immediately following - to join the virtual public meeting contact City Hall
- 4th of July Parade, Cookout, Carnival and Fireworks have been cancelled. No decision yet on Sand Castle Building Contest
- City may close parts of Main street to vehicle traffic on some days/evenings to allow more open air dining options; details to come later
- City hall remain closed to the public except by appointment
- City Hall restrooms are open and are cleaned and sanitized 3 times/day

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
May 26, 2020

May 13 – HR Committee:

Committee continues to review Staff Policy Manual; edits are being assigned and compiled into one document. 'At Will' employee edits are complete. Discussion regarding 2.2 Sexual Harassment, edits will be made by Comm. Taylor. Each Commissioner will research two Counties to determine how hierarchy is implemented for discrimination issues.

May 14 - Centra Wellness Board Meeting:

Dennis Risser voted Chair, Linda Farrell voted Vice Chair, Rhonda Nye voted Secretary. Don Smeltzer appointed to vacant NMRE seat. Covid-19 response discussed. Purchase of two vehicles approved.

May 18 – Benzie County Recovery Zoom Meeting:

Rick Coates, Chamber of Commerce, invited a cross section of the community to gather insight in developing a plan for reengaging the Benzie County Economy. The objective was to create a functional Economic Recovery Business Plan & Toolkit to assist our businesses reopening.

May 21 – Regional Public Defender Meeting:

Caseload statistics discussed: each attorney handling 160-190 cases per year which is within allowable caseload and warrants the number of attorneys currently on staff. 2021 Compliance Plan and Budget has been submitted and will be one of the first reviewed by the State. Continuing Legal Education is being conducted via Zoom. No jury trials until after June 22; 10 people limit problematic for 12-person jury.



448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator *M D Deisch*
Date: May 21, 2020
Subject: COTW C19 Continued Discussion & Admin Update 5/26/2020

1. **Resolution 2020-016** - Resolution 2020-16 expires on May 28, 2020 at 11:59 pm, which is the same time as EO-92 expires for the State of Michigan Stay Home order. If Governor Whitmer follows her normal pattern she will discuss her intent the Friday before the previous EO expires or Friday May 22, 2020. With offices being closed for Memorial Day on Monday May 25, 2020, I am hopeful that we will have more information available for the BOC to discuss. With the re-opening of much of Region 6, I am hopeful that Governor Whitmer allows us to re-open County facilities to the public after EO-92 expires. We shall see.
2. **COVID 19 Plan, Preparedness and Response Plan** – the BOC approved the most recent C19 Preparedness plan on May 12, 2020. EO-92 has additional requirements that need to be incorporated, most importantly full compliance with MIOSHA rules associated with providing a safe working environment. DCA Maridee Cutler, EM Rebecca Hubers and I had a video meeting on 5/20/2020 to discuss the specific needs and changes that need to be made. EO-92 allows for the plan to be developed (I believe it needs to be approved by BOC) 2 weeks after we open to the public. I do not believe the plan will be available for the 5/26/2020 meeting but should be available for the 6/9/2020 BOC meeting. Significant input is being received from the new 40+ page BLDHD Businesses Toolkit that they have produced. More to follow.
3. **Memorial Day** – Non-Emergency offices for Benzie County will not be open on Monday May 25, 2020 in observation of Memorial Day. Thank you to everyone who has served this country and provided all that we have!
4. **Headlee Re-Set Subcommittee #1** – I am attempting to reset the cancelled Headlee Subcommittee#1 (Commissioners Jeannot, Sauer and Taylor, Treasurer Thompson, and Finance Manager Boyd) to hold a conference call with Ogemaw County. This meeting was scheduled and cancelled at the onset of the C19 pandemic shutdowns. We (I) need to get this project re-energized and back on track.
5. **Attorney Interview** – As we approach the last week of May 2020, I am going to push back the General Legal Counsel interviews until June 2020, with the hopes that we can have in person interviews at that time, rather than attempting to set up a video interview. I will work with BOC to get these interviews scheduled.