

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 25, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 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 (phone)

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of August 11, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Schendel presented Good Samaritan Life Saving Awards to Justin Perry and Jason Hatfield. The incident occurred on July 25, 2020 at Peterson Beach. Their quick actions and selflessness saved this little girl's life.

Scott Decker with the National Park Service also presented awards to these two gentlemen.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, reported that the automatic doors have been installed at the Gathering Place and the electricity will be hooked up to them this week. Care Giver Resource library is available September 1. All Program Fresh coupons have been distributed. Working with finalizing the partnership NW Michigan Dental Mobile van to provide in-home visits to seniors. Working on closing out the fiscal year as well.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, stated that they are looking for a new Clerk for the shelter, 30 hours per week. They are receiving quotes for siding of the shelter, garage door replacement as well; a couple of trees are being taken down.

Tom King, EMS, reported that their call volume is rebounding; the new ambulance is in service with no issues; Internal Education is being planned for their staff; UVC lights are in and have been used with the transfer of two COVID positive patients – they are used for disinfecting of the ambulance.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Recycling, reported that the turnout at the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics collections have increased.

ACTION ITEMS

Solid Waste Contract Extension: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to authorize the amendment to the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant between the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and

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Energy and Benzie County Solid Waste Department as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

POAM Corrections Grievance: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to authorize Mitchell D. Deisch, County Administrator, to act on behalf of the Labor Subcommittee regarding POAM Grievance #20-242. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

Maples – Document of Understanding: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to adopt the Maples Document of Understanding, contingent upon the Maples Board adopting on Thursday, August 27, 2020, as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Warsecke presented a written report (attached) and stated regarding the Benzie Central Superintendent – they are in negotiations with her at this time.

Comm Farrell presented a written report (attached) – she attended Crystal Lake Township meeting; Centra Wellness Board meeting; City of Frankfort Council meeting and Frankfort Elberta Area School Board meeting – they will be having a soft-start opening with a combination of in-person and remote learning for weeks 1 and 2, then the 3rd week will be full on face-to-face.

Comm Jeannot presented a written report (attached) and reported that the Benzie Chamber is in early discussions with Networks Northwest for a business liaison; Sept 11 Golf Outing at Crystal Lake Golf Club and they are still looking for teams. Building Authority is seeking sealed bids for the generator project at the Maples. EDC Broadband Subcommittee has an opening for the Chair position – Paula Figura has agreed to that position at this time.

9:57 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Reconvene

Jennifer Berkey, District Director, MSU Extension, provided the Benzie County 2019-2020 Annual Report.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS (continued)

Comm Nye reported that Benzonia Township has received a survey on the Papano's building which appears to be in the township – not village; they say the annexation was never completed. Attended the Centra Wellness board meeting, she and Comm Farrell are requesting Chip Johnston review their notes from the meeting, behavior health is so complex that they don't want to provide the incorrect information. EDC Broadband – a feasibility study needs to be done before any grants can be awarded – CTC Technology was suggested to do that study.

Comm Jeannot stated that he has done some research and there is a planning document in place. Benzie County Broadband Summit will be held in October; Intergovernmental Meeting was held yesterday via Zoom; Candidate forum is being planned for September 21, 2020; Parks & Rec met on August 24 and they have received an easement request for underground utilities on the RR Point property.

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Comm Taylor attended the Road Commission (Comm Sauer will report); Benzie Senior Resources (already reported today); Land Bank Authority – they reviewed the property inventory; the new foreclosure list and possible purchases.

Comm Sauer reported on the Road Commission and the MTF funds are coming back up; they have a new Finance Director – Joel Nedow, and they are very happy with him; Lake Twp came to the Road Comm meeting with a request for roads to be paved – when the project was done, the cost was increased by 20% over the original estimate ~~costs~~/bid – they have worked out a plan to have it paid. School Safety Committee met, and September 8 will be the start of school for Benzie and Frankfort. Attended MAC virtual meetings. Elberta – has a sign ordinance which covers political signs; Lifesaving Station is having issues.

Comm Roelofs reported that he attended the EMS Advisory Board meeting where they discussed Station 2 and the reimbursement to the county – rent and/or purchase.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written report (attached); he also spoke regarding the letter from Judge Mead reporting that Terry Money will be his appointment to the Tax Allocation Board to address Benzie County's Headlee Rollback issue.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to approve payment of the bills from August 12, 2020 thru August 25, 2020 in the amount of \$248,613.88, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that the September tax sale will be 100% online this year – go to www.tax-sale.info and search for Benzie County properties. She is participating in Zoom meetings due to the County Treasurer's Conference being cancelled this year.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve item 1 of the August 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: Jeannot and Nye Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Road Commission minutes of July 23, 2020 received.

11:29 a.m. Public Input – None

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) 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 August 11, 2020 as presented.
3. Authorized the amendment to the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant between the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and Benzie County Solid Waste Department as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
4. Authorized Mitchell D. Deisch, County Administrator, to act on behalf of the Labor Subcommittee regarding POAM Grievance #20-242.
5. Adopted the Maples Document of Understanding, contingent upon the Maples Board adopting on Thursday, August 27, 2020, as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Approved payment of the bills from August 12, 2020 thru August 25, 2020 in the amount of \$248,613.88, as presented.
7. Approved item 1 of the August 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
August 25, 2020

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our August 11th meeting.
- **8/19 Benzie County Chamber** – City of Frankfort is in discussions with the Ironman organization to possibly host the 2021 event. The Chamber is actively looking for a tenant to occupy available space at their location. A tentative date of September 28th is being considered to hold a forum for Federal and State candidates seeking office. Discussions have begun with Networks Northwest (NWNW) to fill the gap in Benzie County on retention calls. Currently the NWNW is looking for a business liaison to manage our community. Annual golf outing is scheduled for September 11th at Crystal Lake Golf Club from 10am to 5pm.
- **8/19 Building Authority** – Authority is soliciting sealed bids for upgrading the generator at the Maples. They have hired a project manager to oversee this activity. It is anticipated that the work would begin approximately 3 months after the contractor is selected. Landscaping should be completed in month of September. Upon completion of these 2 projects, the original construction project will be considered final.
- **8/20 Northern Michigan Community Action Agency** – Census activity was discussed. Benzie County apparently has low response rate. Concerns are the allocation of federal dollars over the next 10 years. I have requested that an annual report be scheduled for presentation to the Benzie County Commissioners.
- **8/21 EDC** – Chairmanship for the broad band subcommittee was discussed. Bob Russell who has been serving in that capacity has stepped down for the foreseeable future. Paula Figura has agreed to fill that role on an interim basis. A feasibility study/plan needs to be completed if we are going to be competitive for grants. If the County Chamber can reach an agreement with Networks Northwest it could benefit the EDCs business retention plan.
- **Other –**
 - (Repeat from August 11th report) I anticipate that the Maples Board (DHHS) will take affirmative action regarding the document of understanding (DOU) between Maples and Board of Commissioners at their August 27th meeting. The DOU will be on the BOC agenda for our August 25th meeting. I encourage the BOC to adopt this DOU.
 - Dick Taylor, Chair of the Friends for Betsie Lighthouse and I have stayed in contact about water front issues at that location. No solutions are in place as of this writing.

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AUG 24 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Commissioner's Report to BOC
August 25th, 2020
Linda Farrell
District #3
Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township

I have attended 3 meetings on behalf of Benzie County since our August 11th, 2020 BOC meeting:

August 11th - Crystal Lake Township Meeting

- The Clerk presented the Primary Election Report:
 - an estimated 370 (corrected to 470) ballots were processed;
 - William Northway was successful as a write-in Trustee candidate and will be on the November ballot
- They had a very successful Clean-up event, serving 91 residents, more than filling 2 trucks
- Zoning Administrator reported CLT does not have a time limit for political sign removal

August 13th - Centra Wellness Board Meeting with Commissioner Nye. She and I have talked and have decided to alternate months for giving the CWN Board meeting report. I will defer to Commissioner Nye for the report of the August meeting.

August 18th - City of Frankfort Council Meeting

- Superintendent Josh Mills reported that the City has been contacted by "Iron Man" about the possibility of holding the event in Benzie county in 2021.
- The Coast Guard will leave the Frankfort Life-Saving Station on September 8th - right as the water conditions become most dangerous in the year according to the Superintendent; the sheriff keeps a boat in the Bay, but it was not known when it will be pulled for the season
- Infrastructure and Road Millage was approved - 68% yes
 - Michigan Avenue Beech Street to George Street road work to begin this week
 - Sidewalks on Leelanau, Forrest and Michigan Ave. this fall
 - Market Square Park Bathroom Project is proceeding
- Leaf pickup will be as usual this year mid-to-late October to 1st snow — Info will be on the website www.frankfortmich.com
 - They are continuing to explore a possible workforce housing development with Socks Construction at the corner of Main and Lake Streets (M22) - where the current Lions Club Building is
- The Council made appointments to committees:
 - Mary Link to ZBA
 - Mike Farmer to Planning Commission
 - Mike Elwell to DDA
- The Bluffs of Frankfort has not presented a new proposal so erosion issue remains tabled. There was significant public comment opposed to allowing a rock revetment on the City of Frankfort Beach; several residents asked for a public information forum before any decisions are made.

August 19th - HR Committee Meeting was postponed

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

District 6
Commissioner Warsecke

- 8-12-20 Colfax Twp board meeting.
- Discussion held on whether there should be a second brining of the roads.
 - Clerk reported that the election turnout was about 1/3 of registered voters.
 - Campground reports to have been very busy all summer.
- 8-13-20 Benzie Conservation District
- Finalized the budget for the next fiscal year
 - Discussion was held on becoming a hub for water testing in the area with new lab equipment.
 - Continued work on drone licensing.
 - Continued work on Covid 19 preparedness plan.
- 8-18-20 Benzie Bus
- Fares are still no charge due to Covid
 - 90% of the busses currently are running on propane and they are researching the feasibility of electric busses.
 - Ecolane - a new computer dispatching program has been put into operation. This will map routes more efficiently and assist with giving riders more direct routes. There is also an app that will allow riders to pay and it will also text reminders and updates.
 - Essential worker pay has been brought down to \$3 hr. With the idea of bringing it back to normal, on a meeting to meeting basis.
- 8-24-20 Benzie Schools
- I was asked to attend the meet and greet with the 3 superintendent candidates. All 3 were highly qualified and the school board chose Aimee Erfourth as the next superintendent.



448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator *M Deisch/sb*
Date: August 19, 2020
Subject: Administrative Update 8/25/2020 BOC Meeting

1. **Executive Order 170** – On Saturday August 15, 2020 Governor Whitmer signed EO-170 into law. EO 170 will require significantly more COVID 19 testing of inmates being housed in the Benzie County Jail, before any transfers from County jails to MDOC state facilities take place. In addition, new risk reduction protocols will be required by County Jails. On August 17, 2020, I spoke to Undersheriff Greg Hubers about EO-170 and Undersheriff Hubers assured me that the Benzie County Jail is aware of EO-170 and are taking the required steps to comply. Attached is EO-170.
2. **Railroad Point Easement Request** – Last week a request was made for me to meet with Frank Iken/Barbara Marshall regarding an easement across county property at Railroad Point. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 19, 2020. I have copied Commissioner Rhonda Nye and Parks and Rec Chair Cathy Demitroff on the meeting and requests by Iken/Marshall. This easement request is for approximately 70' in the Railroad Point natural area to allow for undergrounding of electrical wires to their private residency. You will recognize the Marshall parcel as one that was often mentioned during the acquisition of the Cole property. I will have more information after the meeting but wanted to make sure the BOC was aware of this request. More to follow.
3. **MMRMA Refund and 20/21 proposed budget** – This week we were informed by MMRMA that our refund disbursement would be approximately \$63,000. In the past we have split the refund between the general fund budget and our self-insured retainer fund. Thus \$31,500 would be available as revenue in the 20/21 fiscal year, eliminating the need to remove an additional \$20,000 (travel line items) that was discussed at the last COTW budget discussion. When looking at the travel line item, it was comprised mainly of per diem travel costs and obligated/contractual travel costs, which was going to make reducing it by \$20,000 very challenging and possibly unrealistic.

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617