

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 8, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 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

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

Agenda:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve the agenda as amended, adding VA Grant Application to Action Items. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of August 25, 2020 as corrected on page 3 during Comm Sauer's report. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

PUBLIC HEARING – SETTING OF 2020-2021 BUDGET

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Farrell, to open the public hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

No Public Comments

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to close the public hearing. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Chip Johnston, Centra Wellness, stated that he appreciated the board's resolution earlier this year. There is a new director with the State Behavior Health; they are seeing an uptick in opioid use; liquor tax funds – be sure that too many hands are not dipping into the regional dollars.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, reminder that the deadline is December 31 for the county and local units to be under contract for an assessor; all but one unit is in compliance now; to become the assessor, you must be a level 3 or 4 – he is not interested in taking on the role.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Manager and Central Dispatch, reported that the health department has put out a bulletin that they are now offering drive-up testing for COVID-19 – Leelanau will be Tuesdays and Benzie will be Wednesdays 9:00 am – 12:00 noon – an appointment is required.

Emergency Management -- After Action Plan Thursday, September 17 at 1:00 pm.

911 – Lori's last day is September 18.

Mobile CAD – 2 jurisdictions with 2 units in each have not paid at this time.

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ACTION ITEMS

CESF Grant Prosecuting Attorney: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to accept the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Contract between the Michigan State Police and Benzie County Prosecutor's Office as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2020 EMPG Grant Agreement: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to enter into Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division for the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grants as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Budget Motion for Administration: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2019-2020 budget for all funds. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

BV Trail Amendment with MDNR: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to adopt the Amendment to Grant Agreement RIF 20-14 between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FY 2021 County Veteran Service Fund Grant: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to acknowledge that the grant has been submitted under the signature of the chair prior to the meeting with no contest. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Sauer reported that the Road Commission is short one mechanic; September 10 they will hold their annual rodeo picnic; they had no trouble getting salt this year. Maples – Document of Understanding has been signed; Scott Harrison, Chair of DHHS Board, said this will be an asset to all boards, current and future; DHHS continue to work from home. Betsie Valley Trail – poison ivy on the trail will be sprayed. Joyfield & Blaine Townships have received their ballot boxes and will need to be monitored regularly due to weather. Blaine Twp held a public hearing regarding short-term rentals, and they will continue to work on an ordinance and set up a citizen committee. Attended a special meeting of the Benzie Leelanau Health Dept where they bought a mobile tent and trailer to haul it. Attended a MAC webinar regarding Quality of Life for Veterans. Point Betsie Lighthouse – they have reached out to another engineering firm that will offer more options; we would be eligible for Trust Fund grant; one option could be to move the lighthouse.

Comm Warsecke – No report.

Comm Taylor – No report.

Comm Nye reported that she attended the Centra Wellness Executive meeting regarding the budget, NMRE has an increase of 8%, there are no programs to Benzie for the school year. Cole property

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sale is final. 101st State Representative forum will be recorded on September 14 by the Benzie County Chamber for YouTube. Benzonia Village Clerk has given notice to resign – it is an appointed position, so you do not have to be a Village resident.

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached) and reported that she attended the Human Service Collaborative meeting where they were provided information regarding mobile dental van; its first dental service will be at Betsie Valley School on September 17; Early Head Start has a zero wait list; Best Benzie spoke about a State government program called “Futures for Frontliners” which will provide free Community College for anyone with a high school diploma who has worked on the “frontline” during COVID; Both Benzie Central and Frankfort schools will hold a virtual FAFSA night in October; they were assured that Paul Oliver Hospital is not closing and they will have an increasing role in community health; Benzie Bus sent 500 masks to schools and Paul Oliver. Board of Health special meeting approved the purchase of a mobile tent and trailer to haul, for the Health Dept to be used for drive through COVID testing and immunizations.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding the Housing program and Block grants for home repairs for qualified individuals – this needs to have more press to make the residents aware.

Comm Roelofs reported that he attended one virtual meeting with AAA of Northwest Michigan, training for the board of directors; VA Clinic is giving flu shots to Veterans on Fridays 9 a.m. – 12 noon.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written report (attached) and stated that the Headlee #2 committee will be meeting today; stated that the weekly zoom meetings with Rep O’Malley has been great.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve payment of the bills from August 25, 2020 thru September 8, 2020 in the amount of \$337,039.80, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve items 1 and 2 of the August 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Benzie-Leelanau Health Dept Board of Appeals: No applications received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Leelanau County resolution to Condemn Racism received.

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- Alcona County resolution in Opposition to Continuing COVID Emergency Executive Orders from Lansing received.
- Alcona County resolution Opposing Executive Directive 2020-9 received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report received for August 2020.
- Crystal Lake elevation report received for August 2020.
- Road Commission minutes of August 27, 2020 received.
- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council minutes of July 7 and August 4, 2020 received.

Public Input – None

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to adjourn at 10:36 a.m. Roll call. 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 amended, adding VA Grant Application to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of August 25, 2020 as corrected.
3. PUBLIC HEARING – SETTING OF 2020-2021 BUDGET
4. Accepted the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Contract between the Michigan State Police and Benzie County Prosecutor's Office as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Approved to enter into Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division for the 2020 Emergency Management Performance Grants as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Authorized the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2019-2020 budget for all funds.
7. Adopted the Amendment to Grant Agreement RIF 20-14 between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Acknowledged that the grant has been submitted under the signature of the chair prior to the meeting with no contest.
9. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$337,039.80, as presented.
10. Approved items 1 and 2 of the August 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
September 8, 2020

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our August 25th meeting.
- **8/25 Housing Committee** – Approved approximately \$23k in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for qualified homeowners in Benzie County. Money used primarily for roof and hot water upgrades.
- **8/27 DHHS/Maples** – Document of Understanding was approved and signed.
- **9/3 Friends of Pointe Betsie** – Gary Sauer and I attended a meeting to discuss the process for shoring up/protecting the lighthouse. We are participating at the BOC Chairs request. An RFP will be developed for hiring an engineering firm. Many decisions are yet to be made to include pursuing short term or long-term solutions.
- **9/3 Lake Township** – There was a lengthy discussion regarding a final bill from the BC Road Commission versus the estimate.
- **Other –**
 - Working with Chair of the EDC/BRA to identify interim leadership for the Broadband Subcommittee. Paula Figura has agreed to fill that role for the near future.
 - I have encouraged Networks Northwest to consider partnering with the Benzie County Chamber and the EDC for the purpose of business retention visits. Networks Northwest is currently seeking an individual to be the business liaison for Benzie County. A proposed partnership may fill that need and at the same time offer revenue opportunity for the Chamber.

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

September 8, 2020
Commissioner's Report to the BOC
Linda Farrell
District #3
Frankfort and Crystal Lake Twp.

I have attended 4 meetings on behalf of Benzie County since our last meeting, August 25, 2020.

August 26th -

- Benzie County Human Services Collaborative -
 - Jennifer Kerns, NMHSI presented information about the Betsie Valley Community Center's (BVCC) mobile van. It will provide its first dental service at Betsie Valley School on September 17th. It is COVID safe with high air removal system. It will have Bluetooth capability and can be rented for for tele-health visits to dentists, physicians and other healthcare providers.
 - Early Head Start had a zero waitlist and one spot open for remote and in-person learning
 - Best Benzie spoke about a State Government Program called "Futures for Frontliners" which will provide free Community College for anyone with a High School diploma who has worked on the "frontline" during COVID.
Info on NMC website: <https://www.nmc.edu/admissions/futures-for-frontliners.html>
 - Benzie Central and FEAS with hold a virtual FAFSA help nights in October
 - Advise Michigan will provide college advisors at both high schools
 - Stephanie Williams of POH assured everyone that POH will have an increasing role in community health and IS NOT closing
 - Benzie Bus sent 500 disposable masks to schools and POH; They have a new dispatch software, and this month will role out a new mobile rider app

September 1st -

- Central Wellness Network Community Services and Relations Committee
 - Mental Health First Aid Program
 - Community volunteers learn how to support people in mental health crisis
 - 2 CWN staff have finished Trainer Training
 - Training will start soon in Manistee; eventually in Benzie
 - Perhaps in a year community wide training
 - Jail Services report
- Central Wellness Network Executive Committee -
 - Budget items covered by Commissioner Nye's report
 - BHH update covered by Chip Johnston's report

September 4th -

- Board of Health Special Meeting
 - Approved the purchase of a mobile tent and trailer for hauling for the Health Department to be used for drive through COVID testing and immunizations

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617