

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 10, 2020**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 10, 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 in Frankfort, Michigan), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor  
Excused: Warsecke

The invocation was given by Commissioner Roelofs and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Chair Roelofs recognized all employees that are Veterans and/or Veteran families and thank them for their service.

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the regular session minutes of October 27, 2020 as corrected on page 4 Veterans Committee Appointment. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input

Vance Bates spoke on behalf of his grandson who is 10 years old and at age 7 was diagnosed as Type 1 Diabetic and is insulin dependent; it effect the entire family, and regarding National Diabetes Awareness Month he asks for the Commissions' support for a Proclamation recognizing this.

9:08 a.m. Public Input Closed

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Chip Johnston (on phone), Centra Wellness, spoke regarding opposing the use of local funds to support a federal Medicaid program; last year our amount was 1/5 of the budget and this year will remain the same; the yearly reduction is about \$80,000 toward this; these funds is used to contract with the Sheriff Dept to allow them to provide service to jail individuals as needed; will speak with Senator Vander Wall and Rep O'Malley regarding this matter as well.

Bert Gale, Building Dept, provided the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report; he reported that the second page is the title "other" permits – this accounts for solar projects and foundation encapsulations and those total 80 permits; without those, we are behind last year's numbers.

Tom King, EMS Director, reported that he received a letter yesterday that Mobile Medical Response is acquiring North Flight EMS and the ambulance billing will be affected, they want him to sign an agreement to allow MMR to take over all billing which is normally done by North Flight. They will do an RFP to search out other options – possibility of in-house billing.

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Maridee Cutler, Deputy County Administrator, gave an update on the HR committee meetings that are being held – they are focused on reviewing the staff handbook; have had six meetings and reviewed 16 policies; all changes will be brought to this COTW for recommendation and to this board for final approval and will include changes to the Employee Roster as well.

Maridee Cutler also reported regarding Buildings & Grounds and stated that she and Rick Morris have reviewed multiple items and equipment in the building – most equipment is 44 years old; working to gather information regarding life span on these items and items will be added as discovered to an ongoing list; came up with 22 different project around the building that need to be updated.

Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, update on BLHD digitization project, based on input from attorney and Eric Johnston, this project does qualify to use Building Dept funds for this project, so it will proceed now rather than in two separate years.

Year-End Financials – GF revenue is down 10%; expenses are about 4% less; millage generated funds are only down about 1%. Did receive additional funding due to COVID from the CARES act.

### ACTION ITEMS

2020-025 Diabetes Awareness: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to adopt Proclamation 2020-025 recognizing November as Diabetes Awareness Month as amended. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Drug Court FY 2021 Grant: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the Michigan Supreme Court Michigan Drug Court Grant Program for FY 2021 Contract as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign electronically. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Sheriff Employees/Veterans: Board of Commissioners formally recognize the following Veterans serving our community as Sheriff Office employees: Jeremy Breitner, Corrections, U.S. Navy; Shana Skaggs, Corrections, U.S. Army; Brandon Simpkin, Corrections, U.S. Army; Brian Hastings, Corrections, U.S. Army; Kirk Parker, Road, U.S. Army, and Greg Hubers, Undersheriff, U.S. Army.

2020-026 Reaffirming Restricted Fund Balance: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to adopt Resolution 2020-026 Supporting the Restricted Fund Balance Policy dated July 15, 2014, as amended. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

BSR Service Agreement: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to adopt the Services Agreement between the Benzie County Commission on Aging and the Benzie Senior Resources dated October 1, 2020 contingent on the Benzie Senior Resources Board approval, authorizing the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Ikens Easement: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to adopt Resolution 2020-027 Authorizing the Ikens Easement Agreement for a Consumers Energy Easement, authorizing the Chair to sign.

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Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to adopt Resolution 2020-028 Ikens Easement Agreement Consumers Energy Easement, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to adopt Resolution 2020-029 Approving Easement to Consumers Energy on Railroad Point Property, authorizing the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

10:24 a.m. Break

10:31 a.m. Reconvene

MERS Defined Benefit: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Farrell, to adopt MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the following divisions: 10030101 Courthouse Employees; 10030102 Sheriff Dept; 10030114 EMS Union; 10030122 COAM after 10/01/2011; 10030121 Sheriff Dept after 10/01/2011; 10030120 COAM; 10030113 Courthouse Employee's after 10/01/2012; 10030112 Non-Union & Non-Elected; 10030111 Commissioners; 10030110 Elected Officials. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

MERS Defined Contribution: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to adopt MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the following divisions: 100301110631 Non-Union/Elected/Commissioners/EMS Union/Sheriff – all employees hired after 12/31/2018. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

NetLink Maintenance Agreements: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to adopt Copier Maintenance Agreement for 10/3/2020 – 10/2/2021 as presented for the following departments: Copier Room/Downstairs; Veteran's Affairs; District Court; Probate Court; Register of Deeds; Probation & Parole; Animal Control; Administration; Equalization; County Clerk; Treasurer/Commissioner's Room. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Human Services Collaborative Dues: Comm Farrell to ask more questions of the group as to how they receive funding and then request contributions; Comm Taylor asks for a list of those taxpaying members; Mitch stated that in the future when someone is requesting funds, they should make a presentation to the full board. Comm Farrell will ask Sarah May if she could come to a meeting to discuss this matter.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Nye reported that the Village of Benzonia is winding down with their USDA water project, they approved a repeal and replace of their burning ordinance to make it less restrictive; EDC Business Retention Subcommittee meeting – they will recruit community members; Centra Wellness

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Executive Meeting; Village of Beulah moved their meeting to November 19; had a tour of the Jail facilities; 911 and Sheriff facilities.

Comm Taylor reported that the Village of Honor new President is Jeff Sandman; Homestretch was in attendance and the project was put on hold at this time due to zoning for the PUD.

Comm Sauer reported that Joyfield Township is looking for a Zoning Administrator, also for a limited site spot on Mick Road to remove trees; Blaine Township – Tom Campbell retired as supervisor; Village of Thompsonville is talking about putting up some flashing speed signs.

Comm Roelofs attended one meeting this month virtually; attempted to attend the Chamber Summit – he could hear them, but they couldn't hear him; no Veterans Affairs meeting this month – he and Camp Bailey put up new flags at the Veterans Memorial.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and reported that Almira Township is looking for a new fire chief; Election and/or the re-election of this board – hope that is a sign of the confidence of the community of what we are doing; rent to EMS – the only place we collect rent is BSR for \$1.00. Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, stated that we charge rent to DHHS, Michigan Works, Building Dept, 911.

Comm Farrell reported that BLHD was named outstanding member of the year; NMRE SUD – approved two liquor tax grants for Benzie County, 1) Centra Wellness for continuation of the medication assistance program in the jail and 2) Centra Wellness and the Benzie Are Youth; congratulations to everyone on their re-election and Tim Markey who will be joining us on the board.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch**

Provided a written report.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to acknowledge and support the execution of the letter of support to EGLE for the Beulah Crystal Lake Beulah Beach Remediation and Storm Water Reduction Proposal, Project 2021-0005 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

### **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve payment of the bills from October 27, 2020 thru November 10, 2020 in the amount of \$254,455.76, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Gearing up for providing the township taxes; Maples Debt reduction – the L4029 has been approved with the maximum amount levied.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to approve item 1 of the October 27, 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.

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## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Veterans Affairs: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to reappoint Bob Roelofs to the Benzie County Veterans Affairs Committee for a term ending December 31, 2023. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

## **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Alcona County resolution regarding Sanctuary County received
- Betsie Valley Trail Management Council minutes of September 1, 2020 received.
- Parks & Rec resolution approving Easement on Railroad Point Property received.
- Letter from State DHHS regarding State Ward Chargeback Rate for 2021.
- HR Committee minutes of October 14, 2020 received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation report for October 2020 received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report for October 2020 received.

11:31 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to adjourn at 11:32 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding x. HSC Dues to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of October 27, 2020 as corrected on page 4 Veterans Committee Appointment.
3. Adopted Proclamation 2020-025 recognizing November as Diabetes Awareness Month as amended.
4. Approved the Michigan Supreme Court Michigan Drug Court Grant Program for FY 2021 Contract as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign electronically.
5. Adopted Resolution 2020-026 Supporting the Restricted Fund Balance Policy dated July 15, 2014, as amended.
6. Adopted the Services Agreement between the Benzie County Commission on Aging and the Benzie Senior Resources dated October 1, 2020 contingent on the Benzie Senior Resources Board approval, authorizing the Chair to sign.
7. Adopted Resolution 2020-027 Authorizing the Ikens Easement Agreement for a Consumers Energy Easement, authorizing the Chair to sign.
8. Adopted Resolution 2020-028 Ikens Easement Agreement Consumers Energy Easement, as presented.



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9. Adopted Resolution 2020-029 Approving Easement to Consumers Energy on Railroad Point Property, authorizing the Chair to sign.
10. Adopted MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the following divisions: 10030101 Courthouse Employees; 10030102 Sheriff Dept; 10030114 EMS Union; 10030122 COAM after 10/01/2011; 10030121 Sheriff Dept after 10/01/2011; 10030120 COAM; 10030113 Courthouse Employee's after 10/01/2012; 10030112 Non-Union & Non-Elected; 10030111 Commissioners; 10030110 Elected Officials.
11. Adopted MERS Defined Contribution Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum for the following divisions: 100301110631 Non-Union/Elected/Commissioners/EMS Union/Sheriff – all employees hired after 12/31/2018.
12. Adopted Copier Maintenance Agreement for 10/3/2020 – 10/2/2021 as presented for the following departments: Copier Room/Downstairs; Veteran's Affairs; District Court; Probate Court; Register of Deeds; Probation & Parole; Animal Control; Administration; Equalization; County Clerk; Treasurer/ Commissioner's Room.
13. Acknowledged and supported the execution of the letter of support to EGLE for the Beulah Crystal Lake Beulah Beach Remediation and Storm Water Reduction Proposal, Project 2021-0005 as presented.
14. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$254,455.76, as presented.
15. Approved item 1 of the October 27, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
16. Reappointed Bob Roelofs to the Benzie County Veterans Affairs Committee for a term ending December 31, 2023.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**November 10, 2020**

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **10/28 Benzie Chamber of Commerce** – The Chamber will continue to look for ways to make the business more financially secure. Although they are continuing to plan for future events, financial stability will occupy much of their discussion.
- **10/29 EDC** – There was discussion about business retention visits and the broadband sub-committee. It is planned to discuss coordinating retention visits with Networks Northwest. Meetings with community groups and public entities to discuss current progress on County wide broadband will be scheduled. The first 2 presentations are planned for Weldon and Joyfield Townships Planning Commissions. Our broadband efforts have caught the attention of Villanova University and Arizona State University. The 2 schools are working together on an initiative for rural development as a graduate school project. They want to have discussions with our group about the possibility of being included in their project. More to come on that subject. I have requested of the EDC to consider workforce housing efforts in 2021.
- **11/5 Lake Township** – John Rothhaar is leaving as a board trustee. He has been on the board since 2015. Kyle Orr (co-owner of Riverside Canoes) was elected to replace John. John will continue to serve on the township planning commission and ZBA. 89% voter turn out for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election. The township assessor (Carol Merrill) reported that several properties have sold in excess of \$1MM this year, some selling well above her assessed values.
- **11/9 Almira Township** - I will give any pertinent details at the BOC meeting.
- **Other –**
  - On November 3<sup>rd</sup> I participated in a discussion with Networks Northwest and Benzie County Chamber. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate efforts when calling on existing County businesses.
  - On November 4<sup>th</sup> I arranged a meet and greet for Rick Coates (BCCC Executive Director) and Norm Plumstead (Honor Bank CEO). Norm is the new CEO/President of the bank.

RECEIVED

NOV 06 2020

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617



448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission  
From: Mitchell D. Delsch, Administrator *MT Delsch*  
Date: November 4, 2020  
Subject: Administrative Update 11/10/20 BOC Meeting

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1. **Village of Beulah Letter of Support** – Last Friday Commissioner Sauer was contacted by representatives supporting a grant application for the Village of Beulah grant application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), which the letter of support was needed by Friday November 6, 2020. Based upon the fact that it was not able to get on the 11/10/20 BOC agenda and the fact that the Board of Commission passed a resolution 2019-019 and corresponding letter of support, I approached Chairperson Bob Roelofs if he would be willing to sign the same letter that was signed last year. Chairperson Roelofs signed the letter and I forwarded it to the grant representatives. Attached are the signed letter and the resolution that was approved last year.
2. **COTW 11/10/20 Agenda** – Based upon the need to focus on Headlee Restoration at the 11/10/20 COTW agenda, I have asked Deputy Administrator Maridee Cutler to once again minimize the COTW agenda. Thus, several of the items that need to be addressed will be included in the 11/10/20 BOC agenda. Once we get through the need to really focus on headlee restoration, the normal COTW agenda will return.
3. **COAM Union Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – Previously Administration discussed with the BOC the request by the COAM Road Command to add one additional Sgt. position to the COAM union, which would be coming from the FOPLC union. The rationale for increasing the number of COAM union members was to start succession planning for the ultimate retirement of 2 out of 3 union members over the next 2-3 years. I am in the process of preparing a draft MOU for the BOC to review and discuss. There will be a financial cost associated with this draft MOU, based upon a 12.5% pay differential between COAM Road Command and FOPLC Road Deputies. More to follow.

RECEIVED

NOV 04 2020

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617