

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 8, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 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 – Frankfort), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone – Interlochen)

Others Via Phone: Tim Markey, Annie Browning, Don Schaffer

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of November 24, 2020 as amended on pages 2 and 3. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, let the board know that the Organizational meeting will be held on January 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.; and the swearing in for county officers and new commissioners will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. – prior to the regular board meeting.

9:06 a.m. Public Input Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, spoke regarding an Interlocal Agreement for Designated Assessor position – have heard back from 4 of the 13 jurisdictions with their approval.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Benzie County to Approve the Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 as presented, contingent on 7 or more of the 13 assessing districts approving this contract and authorizing the County to pay the \$250.00 and the chair and clerk to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

Rebecca Hubers, Director Central Dispatch, discussed the MPSC cost report for the IP-Based 911. The 2021 budget estimate was based on the first 3 quarters of payments and with that estimate, we will be about \$22,000 less than what the State surcharges have been. The state covered the transition costs to transfer to NextGen 911; they will not be covering the continued maintenance for the service; in 2019 receive \$142,000 from State surcharge and in 2020 will be about the same. We assess a \$3.00 county surcharge for the lines in Benzie County; the \$3.00 is critical for the operations of Benzie County 911 without the use of General Fund. Her priorities are keeping the room (Central Dispatch) covered with staff and equipment to provide service to the community. Smart 911 – 811 residents have signed up; it is a profile of the individual and their household to provide information if services need to come to their home.

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Her staff is doing wonderful, her priority is to always have double staff; by the end of 2021 she has every intention to have two people in dispatch at all times, even if it is due to mandated overtime.

U/S Greg Hubers gave an update on the homicide in Elberta, MSP is involved and brought in an Intelligence Analyst from District 7 in Gaylord. COVID update – several Road Patrol are quarantined; one positive case is what made two quarantined; working on a limited staff basis and will continue until the end of the year; EMS Suburban has sold, and the plow is now on the MiBID site and at least the minimum has been met.

Maridee Cutler, Deputy County Administrator, gave an update on the conference room zoom meetings; been working with 3 different companies with a quote from one, Buist Electric out of Grand Rapids; will provide a ceiling mount display with two TVs; one camera on the wall then to add streaming and recording, an additional \$4,264.00. To be discussed at the Committee of the Whole this afternoon and she will provide copies to everyone.

9:45 a.m. Lisa Peacock, Health Director for Benzie Leelanau District Health Department gave an update on the COVID-19 Virus; 944 cases which includes the probable cases as well; Benzie = 492 and 276 are active cases; 50% of our total cases came in November; Benzie has 8 deaths and see about 50/50 of male/female with the most frequent age range is 60-69. Hospitals had very high numbers in November. They are working on vaccine planning – it will be a 3-phase approach:

- 1 – EMS, Hospital Workers, Long Term Care staff and residents; Critical infrastructure workers; over 65; chronic persons
- 2 – Catch up critical individuals and start with the general population
- 3 – when we have sufficient supply, it will be added to our vaccine schedule.

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses – the initial and then again after 3 weeks.

10:06 a.m. Tad Peacock, Conservation District Annual Report for 2020

He reported on Invasive Species; Aquatic Invasive Species; Forestry Update; Waterways; Education & Outreach; Natural Resource Conservation Service; Produce Safety Program. They are thankful for the millage dollars that they received.

Comm Jeannot asked for a breakdown of their general operating expenses as well as a comparison for 2018 and 2019; Tad will provide that information to the Clerk.

10:25 a.m. Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Annual Report for 2020

Did somewhat better than expected, thanks to Payroll Protection Plan; increase in Home Delivered Meals and shelf-stable foods; added expense and maintenance of the vehicles. On a positive note – this has opened the door to new re-adjustments to the agency; received a lot of grants, but not able to use them all. Have been making some great renovations to the building. Have some great new board members, looking at doing a training with so many new board members. Snow plowing has 120 clients signed up.

10:40 a.m. Break

10:46 a.m. Reconvene

ACTION ITEMS

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Resolution 2020-030: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to adopt resolution 2020-030 to Authorize the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Benzie as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to table this motion to the next meeting, December 22, 2020.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Roelofs attended an Area Agency on Aging training session last week.

Comm Jeannot has provided a written report (attached).

Comm Farrell attended the City of Frankfort meeting where they talked about plans for an Affordable Housing Development; applied for two 2% grant from the Grand Traverse Band; 71% voter turnout at the November election. She also attended two Centra Wellness meetings and stated that they continue to see patients virtually. Did have a phone call with the Crystal Lake Township Zoning Administrator where it was stated that FEMA has made new flood insurance maps which effect the Betsie River; in order for the residents in these areas to have flood insurance, the townships need to pass resolutions that they will abide by these maps. We may need to enter into agreement with the townships for enforcement of the flood insurance maps.

Comm Nye spoke regarding the EDC Business Retention Subcommittee where new members were added, and we talked about what the visits would look like. Village of Benzonia is finalizing their water project and they will also be receiving assistance from the engineers to apply for an Asset Management Plan through EGLE.

Comm Taylor attended the Homestead Township meeting and reported that the new Supervisor is appointing Teresa Peiffer as her Deputy; Treasurer Pat DeLorme is appointing Chris Anthony as her deputy. They did approve the assessor of record; the assessor was on the call they had about 154 sales, 38 PRE changes; tabled the Home Stretch PILOT until the Village has approved it in writing the Home Stretch parcels to R2. The Supervisor would like to send a survey to the residents to find out what it is that they would like to see in the township – changes or what. She is donating two microphones and an amplifier before the next meeting.

Comm Warsecke has no report, but apologizes for not being present, thank you for understanding.

Comm Sauer commented on the New Board of Commissioner school. Joyfield is trying to get numbers locked down on the on limited site on Mick Road; Rosemary Naulty was appointed as the Zoning Administrator. Blaine -- stated that none of the townships have been approached regarding the Ironman, but Josh has asked that all of the township supervisors attend to a meeting on December 15 about the Ironman Competition; have heard a complaint regarding the closing part of M-22 at Watervale for the Ironman – they have a wedding schedule for that venue that day; hope they take public input regarding this.

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

Comm Roelofs asks about Raise the Age – is it 16 to 17 or 17 to 18? 16-17 – Cameron reported to Mitch that they are still unsure of how the split will be

Comm Sauer asked if Mitch knew that there is legislation going through the State Legislature now to restructure Headlee?

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Comm Jeannot asked about potential funds from the Medical Marijuana sales that would be allowed to be used under certain circumstances.

These funds can be used for education on drug use, could be used under the County's oversight, it could be captured for a county entity such as VA or Centra Wellness.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from November 24, 2020 thru December 7, 2020 in the amount of \$282,365.04, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone) Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Nye, to approve item 1 of the November 24, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nay: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

SWAC: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to reappoint Todd Warren to the Benzie County Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a 2-year term, expiring December 31, 2022. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Kalkaska County resolution recommending Impeachment of Governor Whitmer received.
- MMRMA letter deferring funding for the Bolo Wrap Project for the Jail received.
- MMRMA letter granting funding for the Bumper Guard Project for the Sheriff Dept received.
- MMRMA letter granting funding for the In-Car Camera project for the Sheriff Dept received.
- Copy of letter to Parks & Recreation from the Road Commission in support of the proposed single-track motorcycle trail on state land in Platte Township received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation Report for November 2020 received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation Report for November 2020 received.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept minutes of November 18, 2020 received.
- Letter received from EGLE regarding BrixStone Farms in Bear Lake request for a proposed large quantity water withdraw.

11:52 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 11:54 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke (phone) Nays: None Motion carried.

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding SWAC to Committee Appointments.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of November 24, 2020 as amended.
3. Approved the Interlocal Agreement for Benzie County to Approve the Designated Assessor for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2025 as presented, contingent on 7 or more of the 13 assessing districts approving this contract and authorizing the County to pay the \$250.00 and the chair and clerk to sign.
4. Tabled resolution 2020-030 to Authorize the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Benzie.
5. Approved payment of the bills from November 24, 2020 thru December 7, 2020 in the amount of \$282,365.04, as presented.
6. Approved item 1 of the November 24, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Reappointed Todd Warren to the Benzie County Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a 2-year term, expiring December 31, 2022.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
December 8, 2020

- Participated in 2 meetings on behalf of the County since our November 24th meeting.
- **12/3 EDC/Retention Committee** – Betsie Evans has accepted chair role for this sub-committee. Discussion on vision, mission and expansion of committee members. The limitation to do site visits with businesses will slow implementation of this activity. A resource document for business will likely be developed and distributed.
- **12/3 Lake Township** – Remote meeting. Kyle Orr (co-owner Riverside Canoes) new Trustee. Township office closed. Appointment only with some exception. Approved inter-local governmental agreement for designated assessor.
- **Other –**
 - I participated in the November 30th MAC Podcast on legislative issues. Highlights include extension of OMA remotely (HR6207), 4-year county commissioner terms (SB504&505), additional COVID funding at State level, net proceeds disposition on tax foreclosures and State House speaker for next term Jason Wetworth.
 - Iron Man date set for September 12, 2021. In discussion with Platte and Lake Township I learned they have not been formally approached about their consent.
 - Platte Township will act on inter-local agreement for designated assessor at their January meeting.

RECEIVED

DEC 07 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617



448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator
Date: December 2, 2020
Subject: Admin Update 12/8/20 BOC meeting

M D Deisch

1. **House Bill 6027** – Attached is second draft of HB ⁶²⁰⁷6027, that is currently being discussed by the State Legislature. The primary intent of the HB would be to extend the ability for the County to hold remote/virtual meetings after December 31, 2020. I have communicated with Rep. Jack O'Malley regarding the possibility of HB 6027 being approved prior to the end of December 2020. Rep. O'Malley is researching this topic and will be getting back to me with this information.
2. **Declaration of State of Emergency** – Included in the 12/8/20 agenda under action items is a Declaration of a State of Emergency that was prepared by Administration and reviewed and approved by corporate legal counsel. The intent of the Declaration of State of Emergency is to ensure that after December 31, 2020 that Benzie County will continue to be able to hold virtual meetings. If the State Legislature also passes a law allowing for virtual meetings, the BOC actions will simply be redundant to the State Legislature regarding allowing for virtual meetings. In addition, the Declaration of State of Emergency will ensure that Benzie County would be eligible for any future federal or state pandemic funding, grant or loans.
3. **Designated Assessor** - Equalization Director Tom Longanbach has been working to have a contract naming a Designated Assessor in Benzie County before the end of December 2020, which is recent requirement by the State of Michigan. Tom is currently working with Township Supervisors and the City of Frankfort to identify a Designated Assessor if a unit of government every needed their services. Tom will be presenting this information to the BOC at the 12/8/20 meeting. More to follow.
4. **Continued Headlee Restoration COTW Meeting** – I am currently working on the Headlee Restoration A-Z information manual that I will be presenting in a draft format to the full BOC at the 12/8/2020 COTW meeting. In addition, the BOC needs to decide when they want to pass a resolution forming the Tax Allocation Committee to meet and decide the division of general fund millages between the County, Townships and ISD. More to follow.

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DEC 02 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617