

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**December 22, 2020**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 22, 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), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor  
Excused: Jeannot and Warsecke

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

**Minutes:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Taylor, to approve the regular session minutes of December 22, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Tom King, EMS, reported that the PAPRS are in and working nicely; Echo unit was auctioned off and raised \$13,000 which will cover the cost of the PAPRS; call volume is right on point; still transporting COVID cases; one educational class scheduled for next month; EMS bills – the MMR retained nearly all of the billers from North Flight, so no major changes in the billing.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written report and added a couple of items – Ironman meeting was held on December 16 with the township supervisors and there did not appear to be any strong opposition, Ironman staff will attend township board meetings with a presentation and answer questions; drove to CSA to check on the status of the dwelling that might fall in the lake; have received no word from EGLE regarding the demolition; some property owners are installing shore walls below them.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and also stated that they prepared 250 Christmas Bags and have received additional donations and will put together smaller bags as well; another 1,000 masks have been donated – they have given out over 3,000 masks to seniors.

Received a written report from Jesse Zylstra, Recycling Coordinator.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officers, Benzie-Leelanau Health Department, gave an updated report and stated that the cases and positivity rate are decreasing, however we still remain at risk in our region. Hospitals are seeing more critical patients. Testing: being done at both health department offices and they have a list on their website. Have received Pfizer vaccine and have started the coordination and vaccinating the essential workers.

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Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, reported that the audit went well, she is very pleased with our new audit firm.

### ACTION ITEMS

Road Commission Contracts: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to enter into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Government Center Roads and the Jail Access Road Maintenance and Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance for 3 years, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Roelofs reported that he has had a busy last couple of weeks; yesterday he picked up gifts at the Grand Traverse Veterans Affairs Clinic for children in Benzie County; the Veterans Vehicle has been wrapped with Red, White and Blue; he will ask this board for a designated parking spot for the vehicle. He fielded a couple of phone calls recently regarding snowplowing – people don't understand that Benzie County gets a different type of snow than Grand Traverse County; the road commission drivers are doing their best and work hard, give them a thank you when you see them. Did receive one other call and it has been an issue for 20 plus years; a development that has high water, one resident is being harassed by the other residents because his home was built up when it was constructed and has no water issues, the others around that home are having issues. The others feel he should pay for the fix for them.

Comm Farrell attended the Crystal Lake Twp meeting and they voted no on the Designated Assessor; there were a lot of questions regarding the Ironman; they are eager to receive the A-Z Manual, they are confused and have a lot of questions. December 9 she attended the HR committee. December 10 attended Centra Wellness and they approved the director's contract for one year and were also given a legislative update. December 14 she attended the Frankfort School Board meeting via streaming on You Tube -- they sent a survey out and received a 50% response rate regarding online schooling. Attended the Frankfort City Council meeting on December 15 and they said yes to the Designated Assessor, they are also eager to get the A-Z Manual; they will be requesting quotes to remove asbestos and to remove the old community center; she got sworn in yesterday and this is Sherry's last meeting – I will miss her.

Comm Nye attended the Village of Beulah meeting where they had extensive discussion regarding their budget; have two trustee seats open; sewer ordinance reviewed as written and sewer service outside the village has not be properly charged, so there will be an increase, there will be a scaled down Winterfest. Centra Wellness talked about a medical loss ratio which the state is attempting to redefine administration costs and as way to capture local dollars. Seven employees get a student loan repayment benefit; Land Bank; acknowledge Sherry's last meeting and it has been a pleasure serving with her.

Comm Taylor attended the Village of Honor meeting and everything is pretty much a go with Home Stretch; also, Stacy Alley will be closed to through traffic; the village was going to give Home Stretch property for parking, but they can't give it – have to sell it. HR Committee meeting – they continue to review the personnel manual; they have good discussions; she would like to continue to serve this committee as a citizen at large. Benzie Senior Resources – look forward to next year with

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new board members, it is just going to get better. Land Bank – Thompsonville property is moving forward – foundation, walls, trusses are up.

Comm Roelofs says thank you for time here; it has been fun working with you and everything you have brought to this board.

Comm Sauer reported Gilmore are in the flood zone area and talking about changing the maps to. Road Commission discussed the repair work on Esch Road to Otter Creek. Court security meeting. Attended the final MSU Commissioner school. Village of Elberta did a capital improvement study on their water – minimum \$5.8 million to correct the issues and EGLE stated that their main concern is with the two wells that were put in in 1944. Awarded a grant for the Elberta Beach Restoration project. Attended a school safety meeting yesterday, once again, Rebecca does a great job with holding meetings by zoom. Maples – no new COVID cases, testing two times per week; accepted their first new resident since this started; they want to vaccinate the residents and staff -- 30 staff have consented, 25 refused; in order to vaccinate any residents, they will have to contact the families. Legionella has been detected at POMH too.

Comm Jeannot (excused – provided a written report – attached).

10:07 a.m. Break

10:17 a.m. Reconvene

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

Provided a written report and stated that all union contracts will be open for negotiations in September 2021; About 20 EMS workers were vaccinated this past weekend; received a request from Crystal Lake Township to approve a joint resolution approving the new FEMA flood plain maps. We need to update the strategic plan after the first of the year; we had over 100 items on the Mitten Tree this year.

## **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve payment of the bills from December 8, 2020 thru December 22, 2020 in the amount of \$294,906.40, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve item 1 of the December 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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

Building Authority: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to reappoint James Clarke to the Benzie County Building Authority for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2023. Roll call. Ayes:

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

EMS: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to reappoint Mike Mead and James Franke to the Benzie County Emergency Medical Services Committee for 3-year terms expiring on December 31, 2023, and Bob Roelofs for 1-year term expiring December 31, 2021. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to remove from the table the motion regarding resolution 2020-030 from December 8, 2020. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

Vote on original motion as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone) Nays: Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Exc: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion fails.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

## **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Benzie Transportation Authority financial report for November 2020 received.

10:46 a.m. Public Input

Chairman Roelofs says thank you to all Elected Officials, Department Heads, Employees for everything you do for Benzie County every day. Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Farrell, to adjourn at 10:47 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Jeannot and 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 a third EMS committee appointment.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of December 22, 2020 as presented.
3. Approved to enter into contract with the Benzie County Road Commission for Government Center Roads and the Jail Access Road Maintenance and Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance for 3 years, authorizing the chair to sign.
4. Approved payment of the bills from December 8, 2020 thru December 22, 2020 in the amount of \$294,906.40, as presented.
5. Approved item 1 of the December 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
6. Reappointed David Schaffer to the Benzie County Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a 2-year term expiring on December 31, 2022.

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7. Reappointed James Clarke to the Benzie County Building Authority for a 3-year term expiring on December 31, 2023.
8. Reappointed Mike Mead and James Franke to the Benzie County Emergency Medical Services Committee for 3-year terms expiring on December 31, 2023, and Bob Roelofs for 1-year term expiring December 31, 2021.
9. Removed from the table the motion regarding resolution 2020-030 from December 8, 2020.
10. Denied motion to approve resolution 2020-030 as presented.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**December 22, 2020**

- Participated in 2 meetings on behalf of the County since our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **12/17 Northern MI Community Action Agency** – Annual audit was presented and accepted. No issues. After several years with the agency the finance manager has announced his retirement date. A replacement has been identified.
- **12/18 Friends of Pointe Betsie** – Group meeting to continue discussion on repair/re-placement of seawall and apron. Currently cost could run from \$4.7M up to \$9.8M. One solution would have an anticipated life of 30-50 years with another 40-70 years. Difference in cost would be up to 30% (average) as a best guess. It is anticipated that a final decision will be made by late January. Funding sources are still being explored.
- **Other –**
  - N/A

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE  
NEW YEAR**

**RECEIVED**

DEC 21 2020

DAVIN OLNEY  
POINTE COUNTY CLERK  
224 2nd St, PO 49617





448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission  
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator  
Date: December 16, 2020  
Subject: Administrator's Update 12-22-20

1. **Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) Standard 5** – Attached is a brief update on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) approval of Standard 5, Independence from the Judiciary, on October 29, 2020. Chief Public Defender Jared Henry has addressed the passing of Standard 5 and its impacts on the Manistee-Benzie Regional Public Defenders Office. The key is that Standard 5 can not be required to be implemented until the State of Michigan provides adequate funding. Funding for implementing Standard 5 is not included in the current State of Michigan budget.
2. **COTW /Headlee Manual Continued Discussion** – Numerous changes to the Headlee Manual where made based upon the 12/8/2020 conversation. I will have new (three holed punched) copies of all changes made for those who initially received a manual at the 12/22/20 COTW meeting. I am hoping that at this meeting that the BOC states that the manual is ready to be produced for remaining staff (Department Heads, DCA, etc.) and Township officials. Please let me know if you have any suggestions for changes to existing headlee manual documents asap, as we need to move forward with producing additional manuals.
3. **Mitten Tree** – This is the fifth year the Benzie County Government Center has hosted a mitten tree. Rather than traditional ornaments, the mitten tree is decorated with handmade and new winter clothing items that will be donated to local Benzie children in need of warm winter clothing at no cost. The tree will continue to accept new items until Tuesday December 22, 2020, when I will collect the clothing items and provide them to BACN to distribute to children in need. Along with employees donating to the tree, this year several businesses, including Team Elmer's, Wade Trim and the Spicer Group have made clothing donations to the mitten tree.
4. **Government Center Holiday Closings** – All non-emergency functions of Benzie County will be closed on Thursday December 24, 2020 & Friday December 25, 2020 in celebration of Christmas holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Monday December 28, 2020 at 8:00 am.

All non-emergency functions of Benzie County will be closed on Thursday December 31, 2020 and January 1, 2021 in celebration of the New Year's holiday. Regular office hours will resume on Monday January 4, 2020 at 8:00 am.

RECEIVED

DEC 16 2020

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617