

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 10, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 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, 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 Sauer, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of February 25, 2020 as corrected. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the closed session minutes of February 25, 2020 as corrected. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Michelle Klein, Benzie Leelanau Health Department gave an update regarding the COVID-19; there are 423 total confirmed cases in 35 states within the U.S. and there are none in Michigan at this time. If someone is suspected of having Corona, a respiratory test will be done. This is very contagious, and we need to protect vulnerable individuals – older individuals and those with health conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease) are at higher risk of severe illness. This illness is very similar to the flu. The best prevention is washing your hands; use of hand sanitizer if no soap and water is available; avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes; cover your mouth when you cough/sneeze with a tissue or upper sleeve/shoulder; avoid close contact with people who are sick; stay home when you are sick; prepare to stay home for a couple of weeks if needed – have enough food, medications, pet food, etc. to cover you for 14 days. Someone coming thru a high-risk country is screened and quarantined or remains home under self-quarantine. Munson Medical Center in Traverse City is the local quarantine site to have them in a negative-pressure room.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management & 911 Central Dispatch: The EOC is open and the task force is in place per Governor Whitmer; we do have supplies; they will refer an individual to the health department not ER due to possible infection. Thursday March 12 6 – 8 p.m. at the Garden Theatre will be the Lakeshore presentation regarding erosion. Our soil saturation is at 99%.

ACTION ITEMS

DNR Parks & Rec Passport Grant: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for Recreation Passport Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 with the

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DNR for the Betsie Valley Trail Reconstruction, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding Lake Township, trip to Ingham County to discuss the possible Headlee override issue; Almira Township – asked the County Administrator to follow up regarding the possibility of Thompsonville exiting from the ambulance service. Chair Roelofs said we should invite the Thompsonville ambulance crew to the next EMS meeting – Tuesday, March 17.

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding the Human Services Collaborative meeting on February 26; Benzie Leelanau Health Dept Special Meeting regarding Agreement for Early Childhood Health Services which Leelanau voters approved a millage for; Airport Authority; Northern Michigan Regional Entity Substance Use Disorder Oversight Board; she attended the Centra Wellness Network Board retreat.

Comm Nye provided a written report (attached) and spoke about the Village of Benzonia tabled a moratorium exemption request to the April board meeting; they have entered into a franchise agreement with the Village of Beulah regarding North Street; Centra Wellness meeting had a discussion regarding CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). MDOT Open House on March 4 was well attended; they will be investing \$5.3 million to remove and replace pavement on 1.7 miles of US 31 from M-115 to south of the Betsie River; this project also includes several other items; start date Monday March 23. Village of Beulah meeting they discussed the Cold Creek sediment basin will be dredged in the Fall; this is a shared expense with Benzonia Township; parking lines will be painted prior to Memorial Day. Chamber Government Relations Meeting – October 12 will be the Benzie County Summit; Ed Hoogterp presented a Storm Water Update addressing high E. Coli levels in Beulah Beach.

Comm Taylor provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding the Coho Festival being held August 28 – 30, 2020. Village of Honor will be receiving a SAW grant. Attended the Chamber meeting and they will hold their Summit on October 12.

10:00 a.m. Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources – Millage Request

Mr. Durand stated that they will be celebrating their 45th Anniversary of serving the seniors of Benzie County; he presented a power point showing the increase in services over the years and the request for a millage renewal.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to authorize the County Clerk to proceed with ballot wording preparation for the Commission on Aging renewal, 4 years, 0.8500 mill and place on the August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballot. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:15 a.m. Ed Hoogterp, Point Betsie Contract

Requests approval of the Agreement with the Consultant for services to Point Betsie Lighthouse.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to authorize approval of the Agreement between Benzie County (Owner) and W.F. Baird & Associates Ltd. (Consultant) for Professional Services at Point

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Betsie Lighthouse with the changes provided, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:30 a.m. John Smendzuik, County Surveyor

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the 2020 Revised County Plan for Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:47 a.m. Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to enter into a closed session pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider the possible acquisition of real property, to include County Administrator Mitch Deisch, County Clerk Dawn Olney and legal counsel Tim Figura. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to authorize the administration and legal counsel to proceed in accordance with the recommendation that was made in closed session. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to adopt resolution 2020-006 Expressing Intent to Pursue Grant for Acquisition of Land to Add to the Railroad Point Natural Area as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS (continued)

Comm Warsecke provided a written report (attached) regarding Benzie Bus – will be seeking applications for Executive Director as the current contract expires in June 2020; Inland Township and Benzie Central Schools – they will be placing a bond proposal on the August 4, 2020 ballot in the amount of \$39.5 million.

Comm Roelofs reported on the Veterans Affairs – getting ready for the Memorial Day service; have met with Administration Office for a weekly meeting and things are going better; Space Needs – need to get costs on these items – that need to be addressed; will attend the Coho Festival with the Veterans Administration.

Comm Sauer reported that Township budgets are completed; Blaine Supervisor will not run again. Road Commission had a special meeting looking at conceptual drawings to reconfigure the building they have. Architect gave an estimate of \$3.25 – \$4 million to redo. They are also looking at the possibility of the old school. The building structure is sound. Trip to Ingham. Comm Jeannot has been in contact with someone that may be interested in purchasing the school – perhaps they could work with the Road Commission to purchase and partner.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Provided written update. Provided a draft copy of the override committee; March 20 will have a telephone conversation with Ogema County. Space Needs committee report. Attorney RFP ready to go out to the press and attorneys in the area – Benzie County as well as surrounding counties. Lake to Leaf Dispensary presentation Friday March 20 at the EDC meeting.

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Comm Jeannot inquired if Michigan Works has been notified that we will need that space. Mr. Deisch indicated that he was waiting until this board saw the Space Needs notes.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from February 26, 2020 thru March 10, 2020 in the amount of \$301,028.38, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

County Treasurer Michelle Thompson also reported that her office is working on March settlement with the townships; she updated the board on the BA bond re-funding for the Maples. Bond Counsel will be here on April 28 to discuss this with you. Pros = your direct responsibility for debt – decide what the millage will be each year; determine the budget and take the responsibility. It takes out the middleman.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to authorize the County Treasurer to seek re-funding of the existing Maples bond in the name of the Benzie County Board of Commissioners. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve items 1-5 of the February 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

SWAC: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Christopher Cote to the SWAC for a 2-year term to expire December 31, 2021. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Road Commission minutes of January 30 and February 6, 2020 received.
- Health Department minutes of February 26, 2020 received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of January 27, 2020 received.
- Notice from Joyfield Township regarding updating of Master Plan received.
- Kalkaska County resolution Opposing Gov Whitmer's Road Bond Debt received.
- Hillsdale County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.
- Lake County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.
- Antrim County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.
- Arenac County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.
- Charlevoix County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.
- Charlevoix County resolution regarding Constitutional Sanctuary County received.
- Menominee County resolution regarding Second Amendment Sanctuary County received.
- Monroe County resolution regarding Second Amendment received.

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- Grand Traverse County resolution regarding HB/5530 and SB 723 regarding tax increment financing (TIF) received.

12:23 p.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Farrell, to adjourn at 12:23 p.m. Ayes: Farrell, 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 presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of February 25, 2020 as corrected.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of February 25, 2020 as corrected.
4. Accepted the Memorandum of Understanding for Recreation Passport Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 with the DNR for the Betsie Valley Trail Reconstruction, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Authorized the County Clerk to proceed with ballot wording preparation for the Commission on Aging renewal, 4 years, 0.8500 mill and place on the August 4, 2020 Primary Election ballot.
6. Authorized approval of the Agreement between Benzie County (Owner) and W.F. Baird & Associates Ltd. (Consultant) for Professional Services at Point Betsie Lighthouse with the changes provided, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Approved the 2020 Revised County Plan for Monumentation and Remonumentation Plan as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Entered into a closed session pursuant to Section 8(d) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to consider the possible acquisition of real property, to include County Administrator Mitch Deisch, County Clerk Dawn Olney and legal counsel Tim Figura.
9. Authorized the administration and legal counsel to proceed in accordance with the recommendation that was made in closed session.
10. Adopted resolution 2020-006 Expressing Intent to Pursue Grant for Acquisition of Land to Add to the Railroad Point Natural Area as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
11. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$301,028.38, as presented.
12. Authorized the County Treasurer to seek re-funding of the existing Maples bond in the name of the Benzie County Board of Commissioners.
13. Approved items 1-5 of the February 25, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
14. Reappointed Christopher Cote to the Solid Waste Advisory Council for a 2-year term to expire December 31, 2021.

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Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
March 10, 2020

- Attended 3 meetings on behalf of the county since February 25th.
- **3/5** Lake Township – Discussed yearend budget adjustments and identified township roads targeted for repair (Highland Dr and White Birch Trail).
- **3/6** Ingham County – Mitch Deisch, Shelly Thompson, Gary Sauer and I traveled to Ingham County to discuss processes for a Headlee override request. Much was learned to include how we should refer to this action and the importance of consistent communication of the request. A more complete report will be provided when we conclude our meetings with other counties.
- **3/9** Almira Township – Shared with me concern over Thompsonville possible exit from ambulance service. Mark Roper, Township Supervisor would like to have the appropriate parties meet to discuss coverage. Township in process of selling older ambulance. May get as much as \$30k more than budgeted.
- **Other –**
 - February 25th, I attended a discussion at Grow Benzie regarding the housing needs for our County. The event was modestly attended. One attendee announced their intentions to build 2 “tiny houses” in Thompsonville.
 - Monies are available for projects in rural communities through USDA. I have been in communication with the agency sharing our plans for broadband expansion. The sub-committee for this initiative has been included in this communication.

Commissioner Report to BOC
March 10, 2020
Linda Farrell
District #3
Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township

I attended 4 meetings on behalf of Benzie County since our last BOC meeting on February 25th:

February 26th - Benzie County Human Services Collaborative

- Jessica Carland gave a Benzie Bus services update
 - Benzie Bus is looking for 2 new board members
- Nancy Kida – Presented info about new “Shared Family Care” program that will be initiated this spring to increase supervised time between kids in foster care and their parents. There will be a mentor recruitment event at Grow Benzie on March 19th from noon to 1pm.
- Tuition free preschool applications are being taken for kids ages 3 and 4 before December 1 for Head Start and Great Start. For appt call 231-346-2116. I have a flyer with pull off numbers for the bulletin board.

February 26th - Special Meeting of the BLDHD

- Approved the interim “Agreement for Early Childhood Health Services” – The BLDHD will facilitate the program planning and development supported by the approved Leelanau County Early Childhood Health Services millage.

February 27th – Airport Authority (as Liaison)

- MDOT will do an aerial drone inspection of the Airport probably in late July for data collection to identify any runway encroachments. The data will be used to create a model that will have 6” 3-dimensional accuracy. This will be used to design a table of current and impending obstructions to be pinpointed for clearing.
- There is a problem with a security camera which will be expensive to fix; will consider upgrading entire system
- Dick Bayer shared letter from MDOT confirming the Frankfort City County Airport Authority is operating in accordance with its grant obligations. (The same he shared at our Feb 25th BOC meeting.)

March 2nd – NMRE SUD Oversight Board

- There were no grant applications that included Benzie County presented at this meeting.

I also attended:

February 25th - Housing Matters - Presentation by Sarah Lucas of Housing North at Grow Benzie
Commissioner Jeannot also attended.

February 28 – CWN Board Retreat – Strategic Plan was reviewed and updated

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
March 10, 2020

March 2 - Village of Benzonia:

Dollar General Moratorium exemption request was Tabled to the Regular April Meeting.
A franchise agreement with the Village of Beulah regarding North Street was approved.
MDOT Sidewalk Resolution was approved; essentially states that MDOT will build the sidewalks and the Village of Benzonia agrees to own and maintain them once built.

March 3 - Centra Wellness Executive Committee:

Discussion regarding CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) Schedule occurring March 11th – 13th; to meet CARF accreditation standard of care, an organization must prove they provide excellent programs and services. Once accredited, an organization must maintain those standards of care and improve them over time.
Full Board agenda set.

March 4 – MDOT Open House:

US 31 Road Reconstruction Project. MDOT investing \$5.3 million to remove and replace pavement on 1.7 miles of US 31 from M-115 to south of the Betsie River. This project also includes concrete curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk repairs and install, new culvert, sewer and drainage structures, updated guardrail and pavement markings. There will be no detours and the project will be shut down 3 p.m. July 2nd – July 6th morning.
Estimated Start Date: Monday, March 23rd
Estimated Completion Date: Saturday, October 10th
Contractor: Elmer's Carne and Dozer, Inc.

March 5 – Village of Beulah:

Cold Creek sediment basin will be dredged in the Fall; this is a shared expense with Benzonia Township which needs to be done when water levels are lowest.
Parking lines in Beulah will be painted prior to Memorial Weekend.
High Strength Waste Discharge Agreement approved with Five Shores Brewing and will be revisited in one year.

March 9 – Chamber Government Relations Meeting

The Chamber will be hosting a Benzie County Summit October 12th; panel discussions with the focus on economic development, education, tourism issues.
Ed Hoogterp, Drain Commissioner, presented a Storm Water Plan Update for the Village of Beulah addressing high E. Coli levels in Beulah Beach and options/grants to remedy the concentration.
Kirstie Sieloff, TC Connect Director of Government Relations, gave an update on RAAD (Rural Affairs and Development) which advocates the creation of a department or state level position to elevate rural issues. More information at nmichiganbusiness.com.

Sherry Taylor
District 5 County Commissioner
March 2 – 9, 2020

Monday, March 2, 2020

Homestead Twp – Lisa Holmes for the Coho Festival. This year's dates are August 28th – 30th. They will be running the concession stand at the ball fields again the year keeping the proceeds for the Festival. Looking for volunteers and exhibitors.

May 16th is clean up day from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Village of Honor will have curbside pickup

New Zoning Administrator is Rosemary Naulty, she is also the Village of Honor's Zoning Administrator.

After meeting with the township attorney, the board took a vote to appeal the judge's ruling and it passed four yeses and one abstain.

Monday, March 9, 2020

Village of Honor – in 2013 the village applied for a SAW grant for \$131,700 and were selected in the second drawing but the village board at that time turned it down. They have been given a second chance and are accepting the funds to complete a Federal Asset Management Plan for their sewer system. They will GPS all the manhole covers and television all of the sewer runs and then rate them for future maintenance.

USDA Loan has been approved for \$1.1 million with \$165,000 being their match. Just waiting for the funds to be disbursed.

Carrie Corey is demoing the building next to her salon in Honor, the Village is giving her a letter stating that they approve of this action. A variance for Sleeping Bear Riverside Cabins (New owners Haans) was approved. They requested a variance for fencing in the front of their property from 6' high to 8' high to help with safety and noise issues. They are a pet friendly property and have been getting a lot of customers. Their entrance will become a one-way drive also for safety.

Chamber of Commerce

Ed Hoogterp gave a presentation of the Storm Water Plan update.

October 12th is their Summit – 5 minute panel discussions and then 10-15 minute questions.

Working to get State funding cuts restored. Trying to get Pure Michigan funding but they would have to start advertising by mid-May for it to do any good.

US 31 paving project to start March 31st, will shut down for July 2 – 6th. October 10 completion date. No detour – single lane closures.

Candidate forum for general election.

District 6
Commissioner Report
E. Warsecke

03-04-20 Benzie Bus

- The director's contract expires June 2020
- Job posting for new director to be published 3-11-2020
- Interview panel met 3-4-20 and will meet again 3-18-2020

03-09-20 Inland Township

- Public hearing held on the budget
- There will be a public hearing on the planning ordinance 03-12-20
- Inland planning commission to begin 04-01-20
- Easter egg hunt at the Twp 4-9-20 from 9a-3p

03-09-20 Benzie Central School Board

- Approved the renewal of the permit to ~~Twisted~~ Trails
- Approved the contract for the superintendent
- Presentation given on the upcoming bond proposal
 - new proposal reduced from 3 mills to 2.1 mills
 - total cost 39.5 million down from 47.85
 - MS/HS - \$12,433,000
 - BV Elem - \$1,738,000
 - LA Elem - \$1,501,000
 - New Elem build - \$19,059,000
 - New bus garage & busses (over 10 years) - \$4,269,000
 - Technology infrastructure - \$500,000

03-11-20 Colfax Township