

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 18, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Wednesday, March 18, 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 (by phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor (by phone)

Excused: Commissioner Warsecke

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

Agenda:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

Discussions regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Benzie County Governmental Operations: Michelle Klein and Lisa Peacock with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department are present to update the board on the Coronavirus.

Ms. Peacock stated that the overall goal is to flatten the curve of the pandemic. Social distancing is very important; we share the stress and concerns of all of you. We all need to work together with this. High-risk travelers are continuing to be monitored. We need to slow down the spread. At this time, we have 65 cases in Michigan but there are none reported in Benzie County. The goal is to not see any cases in the county. We support the hospitals and health care providers to be sure they have what they need. When a case is identified, the doctor and health department are both notified. Each case is different, so the investigation is different. Health Department enforces isolation and quarantine of individuals. The CDC is updated every afternoon, over 4,200 cases, 75 deaths in over 53 jurisdictions. As of yesterday, we had 65 cases in Michigan.

Michelle Klein – this disease is droplets and if you are 6 feet together, then you inhale those droplets. These droplets can stay alive on surfaces for days. It is important for you to wash your hands and stay 6 feet apart. Benzie Leelanau Health Dept has done 18 tests; 12 in Benzie County, 1 was negative in Benzie and 1 positive in Leelanau. Have not received the other results yet. Testing – is like a flu test with a quick swab in the nose and throat. Most providers are doing a flu test first, then to the state lab to test for COVID-19. Health care providers can do the test. If you or someone you know has symptoms, you need to stay home and call your health care provider. To do a test, you must have an order from the primary care doctor.

No health care provider: Call the health department or Munson has a Hotline set up: 231-935-0951. Flu test results are almost immediate upon screening.

Comm Jeannot asked, is an individual contagious before they show symptoms? We don't have enough information to say for sure.

If you feel you have symptoms, the important thing to do is to call first – do not just go to the doctor or to the emergency room.

Incubation period is 2 – 14 days

Quarantine – you are not sick, but may become sick

COMMISSIONERS – Special Meeting

Page 2 of 4

March 18, 2020

Isolation – you have been diagnosed; we have a little more authority to mandate the isolation. We can also determine when they can come out of isolation.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, stated that when the State opens the EOC at the state level, it also activates the local EOC as well; we are in the monitoring and assessment status at this time; she has assessed and ordered resources for the future as well. CDC guidelines are not always consistent with the Governor's Executive Orders.

Benzie Schools are providing breakfast and lunch three days per week to those standing at the normal bus stop from 9-11 a.m. No number to call or sign up.

Benzie Transportation Authority is ready and able for delivery and pick up if needed to the residents. POMH – incident command center staff 7-days per week; all ancillary services are closed – be sure and call first; screening all staff and visitors.

It is recommended: no matter where you want to do business, call ahead. Grocery stores and drive-in food are open; media sources are giving constant closers. Search for services to the best of your ability if you need something, otherwise call Emergency Management 231-882-0567. Asks that department heads start documenting any expenditures related to COVID-19. We will need very detailed documentation.

10:13 a.m. Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, stated that he has provided you with all of the Executive Orders from the Governor; Declaration of State of Emergency – Coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Courts; CDC Interim Guidance. EO 2020-02 – can we have a public meeting without a quorum – no, only the state to have the flexibility. MAC is working to get these changes for the local level as well.

Judge Thompson stated that the courts are not closed – only restricted operations to essential services. We are utilizing the polycom system for criminal matters. Also, anything involving children -- NA, show causes, child support. Chief Justice gave recommendation to the courts which was the result of our order. Supreme Court would allow LAO to stop foot traffic into the building.

Sheriff provided a list of changes they have made to the jail due to the COVID-19.

Mitch Deisch, discussions regarding proposed resolution of Protective Measures to Slow the Spread; this would lock the doors to general public access.

How do you define meetings as essential vs non-essential? This meeting is essential; EDC Friday is non-essential; Parks & Rec non-essential.

Comm Jeannot asks regarding #1 – would we have someone monitoring the front door? Yes #8 – how about adding Board Chair plus one sitting Commissioner.

Jennifer Savage, DHHS, stated that we have leased space in this building that we need to have access to; we will be using that room with the public to hold parenting time, and other programs. Asks to be a part of the conversation.

Comm Taylor stated that we need to limit exposure throughout the building; Geoff Miller is the School Resource Officer, could he be utilized at one of the doors.

COMMISSIONERS – Special Meeting

Page 3 of 4

March 18, 2020

Shaun Anchak, Probation/Parole, stated that he does have electronic access to open the lower level for his clients.

Comm Nye stated regarding #8 that we are still available – why limit it to two people – Comm Taylor and Comm Farrell agree.

Comm Sauer asked what is considered an essential meeting? Will be amended to read: In the event a special meeting is required, the meeting will follow measures needed to mitigate the potential of transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

Lisa Vogler stated the one option in light of closing this building, is simply to convene the Board of Commissioners in compliance with OMA in a different building and/or location.

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, stated the EO 2020-22 OMA with state does allow virtual meetings; the public would call in to the phone line.

Add: Require all employees to stay home if ill. Must be fever free (100.4 degrees) for 72 hours without fever suppressants before coming back to work.

Chair Sauer – need to discuss Spring Break and the location that they are going. We need to be aware of this.

Lisa Peacock stated they will be submitting a Travel Policy to the Board of Health this afternoon and would be happy to share that with you.

11:36 a.m. Break

11:57 a.m. Reconvene

Further discussions regarding the resolution; further changes are made and discussed amongst the board members.

12:10 p.m. Break

12:36 p.m. Reconvene

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to adopt 2020-007 Resolution of Protective Measures to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 Throughout Michigan as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Mitch stated that his goal is:

- Prepare Press Release with phone numbers of departments
- Work with Sheriff Dept for coverage at the door
- Place placard on the door

Comm Taylor indicated that Deputy Send says Thank You for the Birthday card.

12:48 p.m. Public Input – None

COMMISSIONERS – Special Meeting

Page 4 of 4

March 18, 2020

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Roelofs, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Adopted resolution 2020-007 Resolution of Protective Measures to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 Throughout Michigan as presented.

Resolution # 2020 – 007

RESOLVED BY THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION OF PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19
THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, On Tuesday March 10, 2020 Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency as the state's first positive cases of COVID-19 were identified; and

WHEREAS, As of Monday March 16, 2020 over 50 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Michigan with at least two Northern Michigan cases being confirmed and with the belief that this number will continue to increase; and


WHEREAS, Benzie County wants to protect both the general public and all county employees and help slow the spread of COVID-19, maintain compliance with all State of Michigan Executive Orders regarding COVID-19 and comply with the 19th Circuit and 85th District Courts Declaration of State of Emergency.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Benzie County Board of Commissioners are taking the following steps to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19 as follows:

1. As of Thursday March 19, 2020, 8:00 am, restrict access of the public to all of the following county-owned facilities: Government Center, Courts, Sheriff/Jail, Animal Control, EMS facilities. All County offices will be operating and will be available to be reached by the public via telephone, email and other forms of electronic communication. Only those general public that have made appointments will be allowed into county facilities. All public will be escorted to their various locations and then escorted out of the building.
2. All meetings will be cancelled.
3. In the event a special meeting is required, the meeting will follow measures needed to mitigate the potential of transmission of COVID-19, including social distancing, proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.


4. Comply with all current and future State Executive Orders as they relate to COVID-19.
5. Comply with 19th Circuit Court and 85th District Court Declaration of State of Emergency.
6. Eliminate all non-essential travel for county employees.
7. Board pledges to effectively communicate these new procedures to the public.
8. Require all employees who are ill to stay home. Must be fever free (100.4 degrees) for 72 hours without fever suppressants before coming back to work.
9. Comply with Benzie-Leelanau Health Department travel policy, contingent upon being approved by the Benzie-Leelanau Health Department Board.
10. Board delegates additional authority to the Board Chair to approve all previous Committee of the Whole consent agenda items, and all routine administrative decisions in the best interest of Benzie County, subject to subsequent ratifications by the Board of Commissioners at a later date.
11. All steps identified in this resolution shall remain in effect until Tuesday April 14, 2020 or a later date as determined by the Board of Commissioners.

Dated: March 18, 2020



Bob Roelofs, Chairperson

I, Dawn Olney, Clerk of the Benzie County Board of Commissioners, hereby do certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Benzie County Board of Commissioners on the 18th day March, 2020.



Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Travel Policy

Revised

March 18, 2020

Upon recommendations from the Health Officer, the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is hereby implementing the following travel restrictions and guidelines to limit potential exposure to the recent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)¹ outbreak:

BUSINESS RELATED INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- A complete ban has been issued on all business-related international travel.

BUSINESS RELATED DOMESTIC TRAVEL

- All domestic travel for BLDHD business has been placed on hold. Cancellation fees will be honored, please work with your direct supervisor.

There may be instances where employees will need to travel. This will be done on a case by case basis in coordination with the employee's direct supervisor.

PERSONAL TRAVEL

As you prepare for your vacations over the next few months, please note the following has been implemented until further notice:

International Travel:

Any BLDHD employee who has returned from international travel from a Level 2 or Level 3 CDC designated community-affected area may be required to remain home and should self-isolate for fourteen (14) days. Employees will be required to use personal time, vacation or unpaid leave during the 14-day isolation period.

If you have plans to travel internationally, or via Cruise Ships, please notify your supervisor, prior to travel; for potential self-isolation mandates upon your return home. Please note, you will be required to use your personal time, vacation and/or unpaid leave should you be self-isolated. This will also apply for any new designations as mandated by the CDC while you are on your trip.

Domestic Travel Outside of Michigan:

In an effort to ensure the safety of our employees and the citizens we serve, please notify your supervisor if you have plans to travel outside of Michigan within the contiguous United States².

¹ COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person.

² Be advised, domestic locations may also be defined as affected areas.

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Please keep in mind any new restrictions mandated by the CDC and/or the Health Officer, may change during your travels. Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department will follow all requirements as recommended by the CDC and/or the Health Officer, therefore you may need to self-isolate upon your return to Michigan. As with international travel, any self-isolation will require the use of annual, personal or unpaid leave.

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding this travel policy, please reach out to your direct supervisor.

Be advised, Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department's administrative staff will be monitoring the current emergency crisis. Therefore, these guidelines may be changing frequently, as new recommendations and updates come from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Health Officer.