

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 25, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 25, 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 Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Natural Scenic Rivers to Committee Appointments and add discussion regarding Sanctuary County. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to approve the regular session minutes of February 11, 2020 as presented. 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

Sabra Boyle, Benzie Senior Resources, presented a written report on behalf of Doug Durand and stated that they are now into the tax season with tax preparations; they received a 2% grant allocation from the Grand Traverse Band and purchased a 2016 Dodge Journey for Home Delivered Meals; the Volunteer Recognition event is being planned; lunch is now being served 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sheriff Schendel spoke regarding the Jail Millage which end in December 2020; asks for it to be placed on the August 4, 2020 ballot; length of the millage request is still under consideration; still have opening in the Jail.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, provided the board with his annual report for 2019. Total shelter intakes for dogs were 221 and cats were 118. This report can be viewed in the board packet.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written December 2019 and January 2020 activity report.

Jesse Zylstra, Recycling Coordinator, presented a written activity report.

ACTION ITEMS

Centra Wellness Resolution: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to adopt resolution 2020-005 Preserve the Public Mental Health System as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

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Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and also spoke regarding the Chamber reorganization and they will be posting one position; Building Authority discussions regarding the generator at the Maples; Friends of Point Betsie – set their 2020 Goals.

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached) and spoke about the Crystal Lake Township meeting; the HR Committee organizational meeting; Centra Wellness; City of Frankfort and DHHS.

Comm Nye provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding HR Committee; Centra Wellness; Benzonia Township; EDS and DHHS Behavior Health.

9:45 a.m. Kay Bond and Jack Harnish, Advocates for Benzie County

Ms. Bond stated that they have several new board members; they are refocusing on the role of the Advocates: To Do Advocacy, To Be Supportive and To Advocate for Causes. The next step is to find a partner or a new home for the START program. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is strong at 270+ children are receiving the books; working on Community Building, Affordable Housing.

Chuck Clarke & Ed Hoogterp, Point Betsie Lighthouse

Mr. Clarke reported that six bids were sent out for the Shoreline Protection System Historic Structures with one response; that bid was \$45,550 with a 90-day timeline for them; Mr. Clarke will get a contract to Mitch for Mr. Figura to review and be placed on the agenda for March 10.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, that the Board of Commissioners acknowledge Baird Innovation Engineered was the sole bid and approve for the Historic Structures Report for Shoreline Protection System, in the amount of \$45,550.00 with the Friends of Point Betsie covering the cost. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:04 a.m. Break

10:18 a.m. Reconvene

Jennifer Berkey and Mark Breederland, MSU Extension—Report on Great Lakes Water Levels

Ms. Berkey indicated that they will be hiring a couple of positions; she is working with Mitch and Maridee on a Leadership Training.

Mr. Breederland presented information in a Power Point format which can be viewed in the board packet. He stated that we are on track to break the 101-year-old history in 2020 with high water levels on the Great Lakes.

10:43 a.m. Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter closed session pursuant to MCL15.268(c) for strategy regarding negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement with the POAM EMS bargaining unit at the request of the employer. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:04 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to ratify the total tentative agreement reached with POAM Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics on February 3, 2020 effective today thru September 30, 2021, authorizing the board chair to sign upon review and approval of labor counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – continued

Comm Taylor reported on the HR Committee; Health Insurance Committee – they have heard from Priority and next will be McLaren Health; Land Bank was cancelled; Benzie Senior Resources – Jessica Carland with the Benzie Bus gave a talk regarding the BTA millage; June 6, 2020 will be a Benzie Senior Resources Golf Outing.

Comm Warsecke reported that the Benzie Transportation Authority is out encouraging the millage; they had their audit and received an Unqualified Opinion (which is the highest). Benzie Transportation Authority has two openings on their board.

Comm Sauer reported that at the Road Commission meeting, they have extended their bid to Elmer's this year; Brownell Road needs work; discussed fees. Village of Elberta has a new clerk, Roberta Benedict. Presented at the Eagle Scout Ceremony which was a very nice event. The Maples – audit is completed, and they have increased their income with cash on hand for 118 days; they still have issues with the kitchens that need to be addressed; they have purchased another van; still are a 5 Star rating.

Chair Roelofs thanks Gary Sauer for representing the Board of Commissioners at the Eagle Scout Ceremony. The DAV has provided a van for veteran's use as needed. EMS – the new ambulance has been ordered. It is good to put the EMS negotiations to rest. Village of Lake Ann is discussing streets and guardrails.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written report. Will attend a meeting on February 26 regarding the refinancing of the Maples bond debt. He is working to set up POAM union with three reopeners. Has been working on the RFQ for legal services. Requests one or two commissioners to sit on this committee with he and Dawn Olney, County Clerk. Comm Jeannot volunteers.

MAC Conference is scheduled for April 15-17. Comm Roelofs, Comm Farrell, Comm Nye and Mitch Deisch will attend – Clerk Olney will make the appropriate reservations.

Opioid Symposium is scheduled for April 2. Comm Farrell, Comm Nye, Comm Sauer and Mitch Deisch will attend. County Administrator's office will make appropriate reservations.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$368,239.36, as presented. Roll call. 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 item 1 of the February 11, 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

Natural Scenic Rivers: Comm Sauer with Comm Farrell as the Alternate. Clerk Olney will notify Brian Bury of the DNR.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion held regarding Sanctuary Counties: Comm Sauer would like to get information to the Board members so that you can make a decision. He would like to talk with the Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff as well for their input.

This will be discussed further this afternoon at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Kalkaska County resolution regarding Second Amendment Sanctuary County received.
- Alcona County resolution regarding 2nd Amendment Resolution received.
- Oceana County resolution Declaring Oceana County to be a County that supports the Second Amendment received.
- Berrien County resolution Reaffirming to Support the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States, including Second Amendment received.
- Cheboygan County resolution regarding Stepping Up Initiative received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority January 2020 financial statements received.
- Marquette County resolution Requesting the Great Lakes Shoreline be Declared a Disaster Area and to Seek Assistance received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of December 16, 2019 received.
- Wexford County resolution to Declare Wexford County to be a Second Amendment Sanctuary County received.
- Letter received from Mary Haan regarding Sanctuary County.

12:13 p.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Farrell, to adjourn at 12:14 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 amended.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of February 11, 2020 as presented.
3. Adopted resolution 2020-005 Preserve the Public Mental Health System as presented.
4. Acknowledged Baird Innovation Engineered was the sole bid and approve for the Historic Structures Report for Shoreline Protection System, in the amount of \$45,550.00 with the Friends of Point Betsie covering the cost.
5. Entered closed session pursuant to MCL15.268(c) for strategy regarding negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

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6. Ratified the total tentative agreement reached with POAM Emergency Medical Technicians & Paramedics on February 3, 2020 effective today thru September 30, 2021, authorizing the board chair to sign upon review and approval of labor counsel.
7. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$368,239.36, as presented.
8. Approved item 1 of the February 11, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
9. Appointed Comm Sauer with Comm Farrell as alternate to Natural Scenic Rivers.

DRAFT

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

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February 11, 2020

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows.

1. Approve the Green Lake Township Advanced Life Support Ambulance Intercept Agreement as presented

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
February 25, 2020

- Attended 7 meetings on behalf of the county since February 11th.
- **2/13** Platte Township – Discussions included Ironman Competition 2020, County's financial reporting tools (budget to actual and budget at a glance), potential Headlee action in 2021 and Maples update.
- **2/19** Benzie County Chamber – Discussion on a partnership with EDC on business retention visits, CVB official transfer date to TCVB is March 1st with operations moving no later than June 30th. Two positions will be eliminated. The front desk position will be re-classified as an operation manager and interviews will begin soon. Discussion about Chamber still acting as a point of contact for visitors. The Board supported the Benzie Bus mileage renewal.
- **2/19** Building Authority – Continuing to pursue generator upgrade. Discussion on work orders requested by Maples staff without BA approval or knowledge. It was shared with me that the current building bond language offers an opportunity to either refinance bond or payoff. The window is open for the next 4 to 6 months. Meeting time has been changed to start at 10am on the 3rd Wednesday to accommodate all attendees' schedules.
- **2/20** Northern MI Community Action Agency – In my capacity on the NMCAA housing committee we discussed the housing project with Homestretch in Honor. It appears much work needs to be done to secure funding for this project. On April 30th there will be a summit in Lansing to discuss human services needs in Michigan.
- **2/21** Capital Budget Workshop – Great input from the staff and attendees. Commissioners Sauer and Farrell were also in attendance. This will be discussed in detail at the COTW today.
- **2/21** Economic Development Committee – A presentation was made to update the group on progress for extension of broad band in the county. I suggest we include on a future BOC agenda an update by the sub-committee. Commissioner Nye was also in attendance and I will invite her to provide additional details of that meeting.
- **2/24** Friends of Pointe Betsie – Goals for 2020 are: repair water damage to apron, hire an executive director, road end project and recruit new board members. Road end project could be completed either in Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. Current estimated cost is \$542k.
- **Other** –
 - February 12th I attended an open house for the alternative home schooling at Eden Bible Church. Currently they have about 24 students. The idea is to augment home schooling by holding classes 3 days and home schooling for 2 days during the week.
 - February 24th I attended a session lead by Representative O'Malley to discuss the business needs of Benzie County. Commissioner Nye was also in attendance. Approximately 12 businesses were represented with a good diversity among the attendees. Issues focused on were staffing, housing, child care and rail transportation.

Commissioner's Report to the BOC
Linda Farrell, District #3
Frankfort and Crystal Lake Township
February 25, 2020

Meetings I have attended since our last February 11, 2020 meeting

2/11 – Crystal Lake Township Board Meeting – They have set the salaries for the coming fiscal year. They passed 2 Road improvement proposals an overlay on Elm to Bridge if Frankfort will pay 50%; Their part is from the Road Commission match. The other is for a culvert replacement. 50% (<\$5000) by CLT, 50% by Road Commission match. They passed a proposal to replace the dying water pump at the township hall. They are considering drilling a new well in the future.

2/12 Human Resources Committee – We had our organizational meeting. **Commissioner Ney, Commissioner Taylor, Deputy Administrator Cutler, Administrator Deitsch and Tammy Bowers attended.** We identified some specific policies for review. Maridee sent us a working copy of the policy manual so we can each make suggestions.

2/13 – Centra Wellness Network – The focus remains on the MDHHS proposed changes to the CMH system. There are ongoing talks about a rural exemption for the northern lower peninsula and the UP. I will attend the CWN Board retreat this Friday, February 28.

2/18 – City of Frankfort – They will revive the Community Center Committee which has lagged of late. They are moving forward with plans to alleviate groundwater problem at Mineral Springs park with Sheet wall, a berm, raise some of the grade, plant a rain garden, and add stone and mulch. They are planning a joint meeting members of the City Council and Planning Commission to work out details of the Short-term Rental Ordinance. Their Housing Commission is moving forward and they are asking for people to serve on the commission. The regular meeting time was changed from 5:30pm to 5:00pm on the 3rd Tuesdays.

2/21 – Finance/Capital Improvement Plan sub-committee. Further discussions today.

2/21 – MDHHS Presentation on the Future of Behavior Health with Commissioner Ney in Grayling. It was a lively discussion with many folks voicing their support for the current system and concerns for losing their services. Director Gordon emphasized that the Department is listening and that changes are being made based on feedback being given. I support, the passage today of the Resolution to Preserve the Public Health System.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonia Township
Commissioner Report
February 25, 2020

February 12 Human Resource Committee

Organizational meeting, selected portions of employee manual to review/update for next meeting: Sections 1 – 6.

February 13 Centra Wellness Board Meeting.

Focus on MDHHS new behavioral model.

February 14 Benzonia Township

Lake & Leaf presentation; new marijuana grow, processing and dispensary in Benzonia that intends to create 200 jobs.

February 19 Centra Wellness Planning & Finance Committee

Financial Statements reviewed and recommended for full Board approval.

February 20 Joint Court – Cancelled

February 21 EDC Meeting

Paula Figura presented a broadband mapping update.

Business Retention & Expansion Visit Workshop – 2020 Fundamentals Course; EDC voted to cost share courses with the Chamber of Commerce. Course dates: March 17, 19, 24, 26 at noon.

Location: Chamber of Commerce.

February 21 MDHHS Behavioral Health Forum

Director Gordon presented proposed change as an

'opportunity to simplify'. Strong opposition by attendees. Several requests for data supporting the proposed change.

February 24 Parks and Recreation

Closed session and approval of recommendation of legal counsel.

Point Betsie road end parking project and shoreline protection system project discussed.