

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 14, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 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 Chair Roelofs and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to approve the agenda as amended, adding COTW items 9, 10, 11 and Veterans Grant Request to Action Items. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of December 17, 2019 as corrected. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve the closed session minutes of December 17, 2019 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Farrell, seconded by Taylor, to approve the organizational meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as presented. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:10 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Cameron Clark, Juvenile Officer, gave a quarterly report on the juvenile court and the Child Care fund; at this time there are no line items that exceed 25%; there have been no individuals placed in residential treatment or detention that would cause use of the Child Care funds. Mr. Clark indicated that he is nervous about what could be happening with our local Centra Wellness and what will happen with funding. This is with respect to what is happening at the State level.

ACTION ITEMS

Rebecca Hubers, request for a budget amendment to allow for Mobile CAD Laptop Replacement Requests to purchase 30 docking stations and 31 laptops; they will all need new power supply; install will be with Grand Traverse Mobile. This project began last fiscal year but was not completed and the funds that were budgeted were not used and returned to fund balance; then it was not budgeted for this fiscal year. She believes the townships will reimburse for this and she will obtain that in writing from them.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the request to purchase 31 laptop computers and all accessories related to it, not to exceed \$145,000 with the understanding that working with administration will look for opportunities to allocate the cost among appropriate cost centers and with

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 7

January 14, 2020

funds to come from fund 261 Emergency Services. Commissioner Jeannot requested that the 5-year capital expenditure plan be updated. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to amend the 2019/2020 budget for fund 261, Emergency Services as follows:

Increase:

261-325-970.00	Equipment	\$60,000
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Increase:

261-000-691.00	Fund Balance	\$60,000
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Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chair Roelofs says thank you to Lori Lautenbach for extending her service to Benzie County and schedule her retirement to a later date to assist with the transition.

Susan Boyd – Byce & Associates final payment

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to amend the 2019/2020 General Fund budget as follows:

Increase:

101-172-800.00	Contracted Services	\$4,625.18
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Increase:

101-000-691.00	Budgeted Use of F/B	\$4,625.18
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Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Maridee Cutler – Server Replacement

Motion by Farrell, seconded by Taylor, to amend the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Budget as follows:

Increase:

401-000-691.00	Fund Balance	\$7,781.13
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Increase:

401-000-967.00	Project Expenses	\$7,781.13
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Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:00 Tad Peacock, Conservation District, 2019 Annual Report

Mr. Peacock reported on the programs offered by the Conservation District – Aquatic Invasive Species Pathways Program – boat cleaning, education; River Clean Ups Lake & Stream Monitoring – 121 new and returning volunteers put in 518 volunteer hours; Direct Engagement & Education – served over 3,059 students & adults; Forestry; Natural Resources Conservation Services; Invasive Species Network; Outreach.

10:15 Fred Oeflien, Flooding Issues at Watervale

Lives on Lower Herring Lake in Blaine Township; everything from the watershed drains down to Herring Lake; it is much higher – about 2 feet over the dam – and been having to excavate the dam about 3 times per month; they have had 40 feet of dune loss with the flooding issue. The water raises about 1 inch per day. He presented a resolution which has been presented to Blaine Township. We

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 7

January 14, 2020

need to take this to a higher level – the International Joint Commission needs to come up with a plan to reduce the inflow. There will be an informational meeting on the Great Lakes Water Levels on Friday, January 17, 2020 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Ramsdell Theatre Auditorium.

10:30 Elizabeth Calcutt, Networks Northwest – 2020-24 Joint Recreation and Cultural Plan

This is an update to the 2015 plan and the county opened it up to all jurisdictions in Benzie County to participate in this plan, and Benzonia and Weldon Township responded. ~~however Weldon has decided not to participate at this point.~~ However, Weldon Township temporarily delayed completion of the draft due to recent developments in their recreation plans. Two public input periods were held; a survey was sent with 175 responses. Three main area in the feedback were 1) Trail Development; 2) Public Water Access and 3) Indoor Recreation facilities. Township has approved and next step is for the County to adopt and then submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their approval.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to adopt the Benzie County Joint Resolution Plan Resolution of Adoption #2020-004 Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:33 a.m. Break

10:41 a.m. Reconvene

ACTION ITEM (continued)

VA Grant: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to authorize Karen Korolenko to apply for the Veterans Service Fund Grant. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached).

Comm Nye provided a written report (attached).

Comm Taylor provided a written report (attached).

Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the January 8 Solid Waste organizational meeting; we have received a \$8,000 scrap tire grant for 2020; Chris Wood with Bay Area Recycling gave a presentation. Also, on January 8 he attended the Colfax Township meeting where it was reported that their audit has been completed and there are no negative issues found; in the Spring will redo their drainfield. January 13 he attended the Inland Township meeting – they will be holding their chili cookoff on February 1 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm; January 20 a special meeting at 6:00 pm regarding the gravel pit; will be holding a special meeting regarding Turtle Lake Campground expansion; they increased the per diems to \$60.00 for half day and \$120.00 for full day.

Comm Sauer reported on the Local Road projects that Love Road will be moved to 2021 to focus additional funds to it, so Crawford Road and the end of Forrester Road have been added to the list for 2020. Federal Aid project will do Homestead Road to Pioneer Road. Swamp Road culverts

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 7

January 14, 2020

discussion and there is one major one that will need to be replaced. Emergency lights at Cedar Run and Reynolds Road – solar power lights are not working well. Talked about the rumor that Reith Reilly will be closing their Traverse City plant. Village of Elberta the clerk has resigned. Joyfield Township is looking for an assessor. Blaine Township is working on cemetery fees; they have changed their meeting dates beginning in April with be 1st Thursday at 7:30 pm. DHHS has changed their meetings to the 4th Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Weldon Township – the Village of Thompsonville is officially out of the JPC. Since we have no Planning Commission, Weldon Township have submitted the Master Plan to us, but have received no response. Who is handling this?

Chair Roelofs reported that the Veterans Affairs are working on a recognition for the Grand Traverse Band and all they do for us; he has been attending the union negotiations; attended the 911 meeting last week. Training – Critical and Virtual Academy for different testing of staff; the jail already uses this training; they are all online. Recognizes Lori Lautenbach for extending her retirement and remaining with us for a while longer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

- At the organizational meeting it was requested to do an RFQ/RFP for general legal counsel.
 - Have received multiple drafts of RFQ/RFP from other counties. We have never had a contract with our attorneys. Asks for one or two commission members to help review those RFQ, will also reach out to an elected official; the true way to do this is to do interviews by the full board.
 - Budget at a Glance are completed
 - Ingham County would be happy to meet with the committee regarding the millage issue.
 - We still have several contracts opened and the hiring freeze ended December 31, 2019. Not sure how you want to proceed; multiple department heads that want to fill positions. Until the reopeners are settled, any new union employees would hire into the DB plan.
- Dan Smith, Jail Administrator, indicated that he has two position open and two will go to the academy on March 3; we are in a bind. Hope you do not leave it open-ended.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Taylor, to impose a hiring freeze to January 28, 2020 to allow time to gather information and revisit at that time. Ayes: Farrell, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Taylor Nays: Jeannot and Warsecke Motion carried.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve payment of the bills from January 8, 2020 thru January 13, 2020 in the amount of \$274,845.29, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Comm Sauer removes #7

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Farrell, to approve items 1-6 of the December 17, 2019

Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 5 of 7

January 14, 2020

#7: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to approve \$1,812.00 out of TNT fund balance to help purchase the True Narc, when sufficient funds are available. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Building Authority: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to reappoint Jeff Johnson to the Building Authority for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

EMS: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to rescind the motion made on December 17, 2019 regarding EMS appointments. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Gaylord Jowett and Martha Bates to the EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Farrell, to reappoint Tim Markey as the Fire Chief Representative to the EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Land Bank: Schedule interviews with the two candidates for Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 9:00 and 9:20 a.m. Comm Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor, Treasurer Thompson, Co Admin Mitch Deisch to be the interview team.

EDC: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to appoint Richard A. Coates to represent the Chamber of Commerce on the EDC/BRA for a 6-year term expiring January 31, 2026. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Kalkaska County resolution in support of Line 5 Tunnel received.
- Kalkaska County resolution in support of 4-year terms for County Commissioners received.
- Road Commission minutes of November 14, December 5 and 19, 2019 received.
- Health Department minutes of December 12, 2019 received.
- MMRMA letter regarding net asset distribution received.
- Bay County resolution in support of 4-year terms for County Commissioners received.
- Bay County resolution regarding Request to Declare the Great Lakes Shoreline as a Disaster Area and Seeking Assistance received.

12:30 p.m. Public Input

COMMISSIONERS

Page 6 of 7

January 14, 2020

Mark Smith, Lower Herring Lake, stated that they have a plan in place regarding the flooding issues at Herring Lake. Thank you for what you do for the community.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, stated that she will see how many resolutions there are regarding the flooding issues.

Comm Sauer reported that the MMRMA dividend check has been received.

12:35 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Taylor, seconded by Jeannot, to adjourn at 12:35 p.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding COTW items 9, 10, 11 and Veterans Grant Request to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of December 17, 2019 as corrected.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of December 17, 2019 as presented.
4. Approved the organizational meeting minutes of January 7, 2020 as presented.
5. Approved the request to purchase 31 laptop computers and all accessories related to it, not to exceed \$145,000 with the understanding that working with administration will look for opportunities to allocate the cost among appropriate cost centers and with funds to come from fund 261 Emergency Services. Commissioner Jeannot requested that the 5-year capital expenditure plan be updated.
6. Amended the 2019/2020 budget for fund 261, Emergency Services in the amount of \$60,000.
7. Amended the 2019/2020 General Fund budget in the amount of \$4,625.18 for the final payment to Byce & Associates.
8. Amended the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$7,781.13 to purchase new server.
9. Adopted the Benzie County Joint Resolution Plan Resolution of Adoption #2020-004.
10. Authorized Karen Korolenko to apply for the Veterans Service Fund Grant.
11. Imposed a hiring freeze to January 28, 2020 to allow time to gather information and revisit at that time.
12. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$274,845.29, as presented.
13. Approved items 1-6 of the December 17, 2019 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
14. Approved \$1,812.00 out of TNT fund balance to help purchase the True Narc, when sufficient funds are available.
15. Reappointed Jeff Johnson to the Building Authority for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.
16. Rescinded the motion made on December 17, 2019 regarding EMS appointments.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 7 of 7

January 14, 2020

17. Reappointed Gaylord Jowett and Martha Bates to the EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.
18. Reappointed Tim Markey as the Fire Chief Representative to the EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term to expire on December 31, 2022.
19. Appointed Richard A. Coates to represent the Chamber of Commerce on the EDC/BRA for a 6-year term expiring January 31, 2026.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
January 14, 2020

- Attended 6 meetings on behalf of the county since December 17th.
- **12/19** NMCAA – A presentation of the annual audit was presented. No major concerns. I would encourage the BOC to invite the agency to give an update of their activities at one of our future meetings.
- **1/2** Lake Township – Grand Traverse Land Conservancy is acquiring approximately 166 acres in the Township. This will have a modest impact on the tax roll.
- **1/7** Platte Township – I learned that Benzie Bus millage will be on the March ballot. The Township is in the process of acquiring the Morgan School from the Grange Organization. It is unknown at this time what they will do with it. It is likely that the property will be made available for sale. Jill Brown is the new assessor.
- **1/9** Centra Wellness – Several commissioners attended a presentation on the State's plan to re-organize how we deliver services for emotionally and mentally impaired citizens. The presentation was held in Manistee. I will let others provide the details in their report. It is apparent that as commissioners we need to contact the State to express our concerns. The contact is Robert Gordon at MDHHS 517-373-3740.
- **1/10** BCCC – At the Chamber's request, Mitch and I meet with the new Executive Director (Rick Coates). Blake Brooks and Senator VanderWall were also present. We discussed EDC activity and any role the Chamber may have going forward. We have invited the Chamber to update the BOC at a future meeting when their new business strategy is developed. As a reminder, The CVB will be joining the Traverse City Tourism Bureau for day to day management.
- **1/13** Almira Township – Township just authorized purchase of a new ambulance. Jim Sturmer (Lake Ann Village President) commented on the need for new guard rails in the Village. Current guard rails are out of compliance. Concerned about cost and commented that may residents and non-residents of Benzie County benefit from this upgrade and would like to see outside funds being contributed in addition to Village funds.
- **Other –**
 - I reported in December that Jeff Johnson would not seeking re-appointment to the Building Authority. As you see from today's packet, Jeff has agreed to accept a re-appointment until the building project is completed.
 - The next BCCC Business After Hours is Thursday, January 16th at the Chamber office. It runs from 4:30 to 6:30pm.
 - The BA meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 15th at 9am. This is their annual organizational meeting.

Linda Farrell
Commissioner's Report to BOC
January 14, 2020

Since the December 17, 2019 BOC meeting I have attended 3 meetings for Benzie County.

December 17 – City of Frankfort Council Meeting

-The City of Frankfort has been awarded \$225,100 through a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program. The funding will be used for the installation of beach restrooms. Public forums will be held in the coming months to determine design and location. Dates for the forums will be set soon.

- City continues their water meter replacement. 150 water meters are left to change.

-Several new housing developments are being explored:

- A developer is hoping to build up to 4 duplexes for "active seniors" each with an ADU (accessory dwelling unit) above the garage.
- Habitat for Humanity is hoping to build 2 houses beginning this spring. The city is working with them on 2 lots on Hall Street south of the HS track.
- Jowett Funeral Home building has been purchased. The buyer is exploring converting it to workforce housing that would include a one-bedroom and a three-bedroom apartment downstairs; and 2 two-bedroom apartments upstairs.

-Police Chief reports that LARA (Licensing and Regulatory Affairs) will regulate school safety; all City of Frankfort are CPR certified. *34 ff*

- The City has contracted to have the downtown sidewalks snow-blown this winter. Additionally, as a pilot program, they are snow-blowing the sidewalk route from the elementary school to the public library, and the sidewalks on James Street between the elementary school and the high school.

- The City Council members will now each receive \$30 per meeting (up from \$25) this year, increasing to \$36 per meeting next calendar year, based on recommendations from a committee tasked with setting those payments.

On January 9 - I attended the CWN Meeting on proposed changes to Medicare funding with Commissioners ~~Nyle~~ Taylor, Jeannot and Sauer. Chip Johnston, Executive Director of Centra Wellness Network, and Eric Kurtz, CEO of Northern Michigan Regional Entity presented overviews of present services provided by CWN and the system design proposals of MDHHS and their potential impacts on the current system.

On January 13 – Frankfort/Elberta School Board Meeting

-Election of officers: Mike Pasche was re-elected as President; Arah Johnson was re-elected as Vice-President; Stephanie Scott was re-elected and Treasurer; Julie Stefanski was elected as Secretary

-Presentation by Alexis Donovan Athletic Trainer for Frankfort and Benzie Central

-SRO report – working on Emergency Operations Plan including drills with the kids; so far kids have been alerted to drills beforehand; in the future they will hold unannounced drills; The kids are responding well and in a very timely fashion to the drills.

-Joint Frankfort/BC Highschool art show "Winter Blizzard" opened on Sunday, and will continue to be exhibited upstairs at Iron Fish distillery.

Also, there was a regional Scholastic juried art – 21 works of art from 15 Frankfort HS students were recognized, and 3 students received "Gold Keys" and their works will advance to the Nationals.

BOC MEETING JANUARY 14, 2020
COMMISSIONER NYE REPORT

I have attended five meetings on behalf of the County since our last meeting:

- 1) December 23rd – EMS Union mediation meeting. Next meeting scheduled for February 3, 2020.
- 2) January 6th – Village of Benzonia Regular Meeting/Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - a. Dollar General was granted a zoning variance to reduce the number of required parking spaces from 91 to 30.
 - b. A temporary moratorium was established for six months on the issuance of any commercial land use permits along US 31 & South Street within the village.
 - c. Dollar General requested an exception to the moratorium and was asked to submit request, in writing, at the next regular meeting.

An existing sign ordinance was amended to allow a digital message to change; the existing ordinance only allowed for the time/date/weather to change.

The Village Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the draft Master Plan including the Park and Recreation Plan at 6:30 pm on January 23, 2020 at the Village Office, 1276 Michigan Ave.

- 3) January 7th – BOC Organizational Meeting.
- 4) January 8th – Benzonia Township Meeting.
 - a. Open hearing held for the township Park and Recreation Plan (plan can be viewed online or copies in the Township Office).
 - b. Love Road re-paving/hill reduction project has been bumped to 2021 so both parts of the project can be completed at once.
 - c. Four options (attorney provided) to address blighted property on Homestead Road discussed. The option to file a 'Nuisance in Circuit Court' was selected and will be pursued.
- 5) January 9th – Village of Beulah. Unable to attend due to...
- 6) January 9th – Special Meeting 'Invitation to Discuss the State of Michigan Re-Design of Mental Health Services and What it Could Mean to the Counties and Communities of Benzie and Manistee'.
 - a. Invited: Benzie and Manistee County Administrators, Commissioners, Senator Curt VanderWall, and Representative Jack O'Malley.
 - b. Presentation regarding basic services an CMHSP should provide, services Centra Wellness Network (CWN) provides beyond basic services, and what the system redesign could mean to CWN.
 - c. Indicated a 'call to action' will be required to prevent proposed changes from impacting our current behavioral health services in a negative manner.

SHERRY TAYLOR
County Commissioner – Homestead Twp
12/17/2019 – 1/13/2020

12/18/2019 Land Bank – Updates on current properties, foreclosure on land contract property in Thompsonville. Resident behind in payments, no insurance on house because no furnace currently using a wood burning stove. Request was made for quote for new furnace but no one would enter the residence to give a quote.

Purchaser of property at 669 dump previously inquired about purchasing the adjacent property with pole barn still owned by the Land Bank. Property previously purchased and cleaned up is now for sale.

1/6/2020 Homestead Twp Meeting – Full house at the meeting but the board entered into close session with the township attorney and then with Mr. Jones and his attorney many of them left. Discussion regarding new fire truck financing.

1/7/2020 Organization Meeting

1/8/2020 BCRC Township Mtg – Regarding future paving projects

1/9/2020 AM BCRC Mtg – Finalized future paving projects/organizational mtg Chair and Vice Chair same as last year.

PM MDHHS Mtg Manistee – Very informational and concerning should the current proposed plans be implemented.

1/10/2020 Health Insurance Meeting – Reviewed HSA's, next meeting we will be having another healthcare provider in to discuss Priority Health.

1/13/2020 Village of Honor Mtg - Will be proposing council member's pay to \$60 next budget. New maintenance guy will be taking test for his CDL and DOT physical. Discussion about closing alley at Henry St. Possibility of more apartment units if the alley is closed off, or could be used for green area and to meet setback requirements. No official application from Homestretch yet but they did send in money for a PUD application. As currently proposed, there are quite a few zoning issues. Land use permit was issued to Corey's for their property where the salon was. They are planning on building apartments and tearing down part of the existing building.