

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 28, 2020**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 28, 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 Taylor, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Health Dept to Committee Appointments. 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 January 14, 2020 as amended, add sentence to Cameron Clark statement on page 1 and correcting statement of Elizabeth Calcutt on page 3. 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**

Tom King, EMS, provided a written report and stated that they have ordered their new ambulance and expect delivery in about four months. Next fiscal year they will start gathering data for the Medicare Studies. Will reimburse the cost of computers-accessories and docking stations to Emergency Management. Audit is taking place for the 800mghz grant equipment. Union negotiations are scheduled again for February 3, 2020.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written monthly activity report and spoke regarding the Great Lakes Water Levels meeting which was held in Manistee on January 17 – EGLE has reached out to her and offered to do a similar presentation in Benzie County. Attended an Ironman Traverse City 2020 planning meeting in December.

Comm Jeannot asked that extra effort be given to talk with the township supervisors regarding the Ironman.

Comm Sauer stated that the road commission does not shut down local roads, that is up to the townships.

Ms. Hubers reviewed the Disaster Declaration Process; flooding is a disaster event, erosion is not. We would need to exhaust all funds to be able to request disaster funds. I caution to pass resolutions stating we are in a disaster; we need to take it slow and easy and do not believe that we are there yet.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Recycling, scrap tire reimbursement has been received for 2019; we have an opportunity for a Materials Quality Grant which is \$3.00 per household up to \$150,000 with a deadline of February 28 and will provide for cameras, fencing at sites. Green for Life Environmental Inc has acquired American Waste on January 10, 2020 for \$380 million and there are no changes to our program at this time.

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Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided his monthly reports and stated that they started taking appointments for income tax preparation and 40 appointments were made yesterday; Share the Love event with Subaru report has been sent in. They have received just under \$19,000 from the Grand Traverse Band and will use those funds to replace a home-delivered meals vehicle. Home Delivered Meal survey results have been provided to you.

Comm Jeannot asked if they are fully staffed on the Home Health Care side? Mr. Durand stated that they will be looking at additional staff due to seniors returning to the area in the Spring; the clientele has doubled since merging with Benzie Home Health Care.

### **ACTION ITEMS – None**

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Jeannot provided a written report regarding Building Authority, Northern Michigan Community Action Agency and Chamber of Commerce (attached).

Comm Farrell provided a written report regarding Crystal Lake Township, Great Lakes Water Levels Informational Meeting, City of Frankfort, Human Service Collaborative and Benzie-Leelanau Health Department (attached).

Comm Nye provided a written report regarding Land Bank, EDC, Local Emergency Response Committee, Land Bank/Brownfield event, Centra Wellness Planning & Finance; Village of Benzonia and Parks and Recreation (attached).

Comm Taylor provided a written report regarding Land Bank, Benzie Senior Resources and Local Planning Team (attached).

Comm Warsecke provided a written report regarding Grow Benzie Marijuana Symposium, Inland/Homestead Joint Planning Commission and Conservation District (attached).

Comm Sauer reported that the Village of Elberta continues to look for a clerk; Rebecca covered the water issues. Health Department – new meeting day for 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 2:00 p.m. alternating counties; Dr. Ryckman has resigned from the Health Board; they are working on Bylaws; still working on the Early Childhood Development program. During the coffee Hour with Senator VanderWall and Rep O'Malley there was talk of a webinar on February 6 at 5:00 p.m.

Chair Roelofs reported the EMS have ordered a new ambulance; Domestic Violence Task Force -- Women's Resource Center was the main discussion. Veterans Affairs – grant application – if approved could be up to \$50,000. VA Clinic Ribbon cutting will be Thursday, January 30 at 1:00 pm

10:09 a.m. Ingemar Johansson, Platte River Park

Updated the board regarding the Platte River Park; transfer of title has been completed to Homestead Township on December 13. Hope to break ground on Phase I for the secondary entrance from Indian Hill. Phase II will be the primary entrance off 31. February 20 meeting 6:00 p.m. at the Gathering Place – to touch base with the community and keep them informed.

10:24 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Reconvene

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**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – written report provided. They are working on getting the union negotiations scheduled; there is a lack of response from the business agents. Chair Roelofs indicated that Monday, February 3 is scheduled with the EMS union.

### **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$349,877.75, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None**

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to suspend the board rules regarding appointments to Boards, Commissions and Agencies for this meeting and move forward to take action. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

Land Bank: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to appoint Vincent Edwards to the vacant seat on the Land Bank Authority with a term ending April 5, 2021. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

SWAC: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Farrell, to appoint Annie Browning to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a 2-year term to expire on December 31, 2021. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to reinstate the board rules regarding appointments to Boards, Commissions and Agencies. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Farrell, to accept the resignation of Dr. George Ryckman from the Benzie-Leelanau Health Board. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Transportation Authority December 2019 financial report received.
- Iosco County resolution regarding Second Amendment Sanctuary County received.
- Marquette County resolution regarding Affirming the board's Support of Constitutional Rights received.

10:49 a.m. Public Input – None

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Ayes: Farrell, Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

### INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding Health Dept to Committee Appointments.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 14, 2020 as amended, add sentence to Cameron Clark statement on page 1 and correcting statement of Elizabeth Calcutt on page 3.
3. Authorized payment of the bills in the amount of \$349,877.75, as presented.
4. Suspended the board rules regarding appointments to Boards, Commissions and Agencies for this meeting and move forward to take action.
5. Appointed Vincent Edwards to the vacant seat on the Land Bank Authority with a term ending April 5, 2021.
6. Appointed Annie Browning to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for a 2-year term to expire on December 31, 2021.
7. Reinstated the board rules regarding appointments to Boards, Commissions and Agencies.
8. Accepted the resignation of Dr. George Ryckman from the Benzie-Leelanau Health Board.

**Committee of the Whole**

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**January 28, 2020**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. To accept the application authorizing the chair to sign prior to the next Board of Commissioners meeting due to the deadline of February 5, 2020, in the amount of \$1,725.00.
2. To authorize a budget adjustment as follows: From 213-351-707.12 to 213-351-707.01 in the amount of \$3,243.24 to cover the Comp Time payoff for Korey Kelley.
3. To lift the hiring freeze.
4. To approve one additional Emergency Communications Specialist and to hire two Emergency Communications Specialists from a pool of applicants together with approval of up to \$38,000 Budget Amendment.
5. To approve Installation of Web-Based Tridium Controls System at the Benzie County Jail in the amount of \$20,387.00.
6. To replace dry pendants in cooler and freezer in the kitchen at the Benzie County Jail with Simplex Grinnel LP at a cost of \$3,734.00.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**January 28, 2020**

- Attended 3 meetings on behalf of the county since January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **1/15** Building Authority – Eric VanDusen was re-elected as Chair with Jim Clark as Secretary. At the last accounting of phase 3, cost will come in at approximately \$1,056,000. Roof on older structure has been identified as in need of repair or re-placement. Meetings times have been changed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting at 9am.
- **1/16** Northern MI Community Action Agency – Agency is in the process of hiring an individual for fundraising. There has not been a position for this in recent years.
- **1/22** Benzie County Chamber of Commerce – BCCVB may merge with Traverse City Tourism as early as June 2020. Hugh Walton is the 2020 president and Matt Olsen is treasurer of the BCCC. The Chamber board continues to evaluate what the BCCC looks like after the BCCVB merge.
- **Other** –
  - I attended the “Coffee Hour” with Senator VanderWall and Representative O’Malley on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Gary Sauer was also in attendance. Topics of discussion included changes of funding for emotional and mentally ill individuals, cameras on buses to reduce incidences of vehicles passing them and legislation that would limit retired lawmakers to a 2-year period before joining the ranks of lobbyist.
  - The DHHS board has sent a modified proposal on our request to document our relationship.

January 28, 2020  
Commissioner Farrell Report to BOC  
District #3 – CLT and City of Frankfort

January 14<sup>th</sup> – Crystal Lake Township

The township is taking proposals for auditors and had a proposal presentation by Baird, Cotter & Bishop; they also had a proposal presentation by their current insurer asking for renewal of insurance with addition of cyber liability insurance.

January 17<sup>th</sup> - I attended, with Commissioner Sauer, Administrator Deitsch, County Emergency Manager Hubers and County Baliff Hubers, the "Great Lakes Water Levels Informational Meeting" in Manistee at the Ramsdall Theater Auditorium. Presenters and attendees included: Mark Breederland from MSU Extension Division Sea Grant; Representatives from NOAA, Michigan EGLE, and US Army Corp of Engineers. Information was given about historic Great Lakes water levels and that water levels are expected to be higher in 2020 than in 2019. The provided info on who to contact to expedite the EGLE mitigation permit process for homeowners directly affected by shore erosion. For more info visit [www.Michigan.gov/highwater](http://www.Michigan.gov/highwater). View, download and print the booklet, "*Living on the Coast – Protecting Investments in Shore Property on the Great Lakes*" at <https://sewicoastalresilience.org/resilience-resources/resource-of-the-month/living-on-the-coast-protecting-investments-in-shore-property/>

January 21 – City of Frankfort Council meeting

- Talking to MDOT about a 3-way stop at M-22 and 7<sup>th</sup> Street. MDOT will not allow a stoplight because the hasn't been a fatality.
- There were 37 land use permits in 2019; 20 in 2018
- Council agreed to set up a line item in the budget to receive donations for a proposed skating rink/pavilion
- They are seeking Chamber Foundation Grant to address the marina water issue and park flooding
- The City plans to install a steel roof on the pavilion built last summer by the START program at Bellows Park on Crystal Lake
- A permanent Absentee Ballot Application list will now be kept by the City Clerk. Once a voter submits an application to the clerk, the voter will receive an absentee ballot application before *each* election.
- A group of citizens attended and voiced their concern about the process for determining the location and design of the future beach bathrooms

January 22 – Human Services Collaborative (HSC)

- Presentation by Abigail Byar about Spark in the Dark – A non-profit started in Traverse City in 2017 which now has close to 11,000 members. The purpose is to connect people who have a need to people who have that item to give. Over 11,000 asks have been fulfilled each year since 2017. It could be a Thanksgiving turkey, or a bedroom set, or anything someone needs.

January 23 – BLDHD

- Physician's Update by Dr. Meyerson: January is National Radon Action Month. Radon test kits are available through January at the Health Department for a donation of a non-perishable food or healthcare item. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, behind smoking. His entire report is available at [www.blhdhd.org/publications](http://www.blhdhd.org/publications)
- The Board is reviewing our By-Laws for updating
- The meeting dates have been changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of odd months at 2pm, alternating locations between Leelanau and Benzie County Health Departments.



Rhonda Nye  
Commissioner Report  
January 28, 2020

January 15<sup>th</sup> Land Bank Meeting.

Personal interview to serve on the Land Bank has been cancelled; fully support Vince Edwards serving in this capacity. I will continue to attend meetings and support the Land Bank's purpose. Two lots in Thompsonville will be returned to the Land Bank from the Start Program. Habitat for Humanity has expressed interest in the properties. Property inventory was updated. Retainer agreement for the Homestretch project in Honor was extended for one year.

January 17<sup>th</sup> EDC Meeting

Rick Coates, Benzie County Chamber Executive Director and newest member of EDC Committee introduced. Chris Varenhorst, Eclipse gave a presentation regarding improved broadband coverage due to acquisition of M22 company.

January 21<sup>st</sup> Local Emergency Response Committee

Schedule set, continuing to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 2:00.  
T. Markay remains Chair and R. Hubers will serve as Vice Chair/Secretary.  
April 16-18 Hazmat Responder Conference at Crystal Mountain.  
Shoreline erosion was discussed; County Resolution would have no effect as it's essentially a private property issue at this time.

January 21<sup>st</sup> Land Bank/Brownfield Development Informational Event at Leelanau Government Center  
Jim Tischler, Development Director for the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority and Jeff Hawkins, President, Envirolitics Technologies, Inc shared information and benefits regarding Land Bank and Brownfield tools.

January 22<sup>nd</sup> Centra Wellness Planning & Finance Meeting

Financial statements reviewed: Enterprise Fund, A/R Report, Cash Analysis, Check Registers and Credit Card Statements. MDHHS Public Forums Scheduled – Virtual Forum, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. The link for this event will be shared on [www.Michigan.gov/FutureOfBehavioralHealth](http://www.Michigan.gov/FutureOfBehavioralHealth) in late January.

January 24<sup>th</sup> Village of Benzonia Special Meeting – Village of Benzonia Master Plan 2020 & 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan approved.

January 27<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation Committee

Approved the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program Resolution; final approval to treat Railroad Point impacted area will be requested from the BOC at the next meeting. Repair of shoreline protective apron at Point Betsie has begun with an RFP for a historic structure report. This will be followed with concept planning and construction drawings to facilitate repair. Grants are being sought to extend the Betsie Valley trail from the Mayfair area down to the Park in Elberta.



SHERRY TAYLOR  
County Commissioner – Homestead Twp  
1/14/2020 – 1/28/2020

1/15/2020      Land Bank – Updates on current properties. Rhonda Nye announced she is withdrawing her application to replace Terry Money's vacancy.

1/15/2020      Benzie Senior Resources – Two new board members who are husband and wife. Many new faces in the past year. Looking forward to another great year of serving the Benzie Senior's.

1/23/2020      Local Planning Team – Had visitors from Paul Oliver Hospital speak about their plans to make Paul Oliver a Community Hospital that will better serve the county in their Emergency Department and Acute Care Unit. They have Trauma Level IV designation. Average length of stay in the emergency department is 96 minutes. Average door to doctor time is five minutes. 50% faster door to EKG time compared to best practice. They have four acute care beds where they can keep patients without life threatening issues. Hoping to have less transfers from Paul Oliver to Munson. Will need to educate the public as this has not been past practice. I mentioned to them that something needs to be done so that costs for services are comparable with Munson in TC. It cost's more to have a mammogram at Paul Oliver than it does at Munson in TC.

District 6  
Commissioner Report  
E. Warsecke

01-14-20 Grow Benzie - Marijuana Symposium

I was asked to participate in a panel discussion to share my perspective both as a county commissioner and a law enforcement representative. Highlights from the meeting include.

- The 10% sales tax on recreational mj is broken down to be doled out 35% to schools, 35% to roads, 15% to the township, and 15% to the county.
- The business Lake & Leaf will be opening in Benzonia as an MJ producer, they are expecting to eventually employ up to 200 people.

01-15-20 Inland/Homestead JPC - Turtle Lake Campground

The owner of the Turtle Lake campground is asking for a variance to add 61 new sites to the park, bringing the total to 307. A lot of information was presented, the issue was tabled until a future meeting.

01-16-20 Updates from the Conservation District

- Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday at 4pm, there will be no meetings the months of March, May, and July.
- Received another invasive species grant in the amount of \$126,700 over the three years.
- Received a 2% GTB grant for the purpose of purchasing a drone in the amount of \$3,500.

01-20-20 Inland/Homestead JPC special meeting

- Gravel Pit meeting - cancelled.