

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 14, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 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 (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of July 23, 2020 as amended on page 3. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:08 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, stated that she attended the Village of Honor meeting and the former President of the Village came without a mask; the police were called, and eventually he was allowed to remain at the meeting without a mask, she left because she felt unsafe. How do we proceed – am I not allowed to attend a public meeting.

9:10 a.m. Public Input Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Rebecca Hubers, provided a 911 written report and stated that reimbursement was received from Benzonia Township as reimbursement for the docking station. Regarding Emergency Management, Susan and she just submitted for public assistance reimbursement to FEMA for payroll & PPE related to COVID. There are a lot of different sources, but we cannot double-dip so we need to be careful. She is looking at space needs for 911 and Emergency Management – there was talk at one time of moving those offices to the basement of the Sheriff Dept. Regarding the submissions, we are screening and only submitting for what they allow; if we submit everything, it will drag the reimbursements down.

ACTION ITEMS

Betsie Valley Trail MOU: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the Michigan DNR Memorandum of Understanding for the Recreation Improvement Fund with the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council in the amount of \$9,000.00 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Legal Services Contract: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the general legal services contract with Cohl, Stoker and Toskey with an amendment to include ...sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, after discussions with the law firm and authorizing the chair to

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sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke
Nays: None Motion carried.

2020-022 BA Functions: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve Resolution 2020-022 authorizing the Building Authority to perform all required functions to finalize the Maples Medical Care Facility generator re-wiring and other outstanding projects, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

CST Legal Opinion re Maples Operating Millage: Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to authorize the attorney/client document received from Cohl Stoker & Toskey dated July 6, 2020 be made public regarding the Benzie County Maples Medical Care Facility Operating Millage. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COVID-19: Lisa Peacock, Health Officer, reported that we have been focusing a lot on the increase in cases – mostly related to travel in and out of the area and young people in their 20s mostly at gatherings. Since June 25 we have increased another 30 cases and we have been working a lot on contact tracing with each new case. We have been working with the schools on a roadmap to school, we are in Phase 5 and hope to start school in Phase 5. Executive Order 2020-145 enhanced the employer/employee rules; and 2020-147 strengthens the mask requirements. An earlier Order required nursing homes to do testing.

9:55 a.m. Break

10:01 a.m. Reconvene

Richard Taylor, President of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, updated the board on the status of the repairs needed, the Point Betsie seawall and apron is crumbling; it was completed by Luedtke in 1940s; this is an incredible asset to the county, region and state; and we are lucky it is ours; Benzie County owns it and the Friends run it; last year we had 30,000 visitors. Saving the lighthouse is urgent and it is time to fix the problem. The Friends Group has worked independently for the county since the lighthouse has been open. The current situation is getting larger than any envisioned – the friends of the county. We are asking you to enroll in this process by gathering people to discuss the matter. Kurt Luedtke's estimate last year was in the \$950,000 range. We set about for a capital campaign and raised \$1.4 million. Baird (engineering study) has now estimated between \$5.7 - \$9.4 million range. The solution would be to assemble a consortium of a larger group to help solve this problem and tackle this battle.

Comm Jeannot asked: What role for the Board of Commissioners? Benevolent role of co-hosting; some participation of the county – cooperation, organizing, as we try and tackle a job to large for the county or the friends.

Comm Sauer asked what type of commitment have you received from Tim Irvin? Had one conversation; no specific role has been determined.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and reported that on July 2 he attended the Lake Township; July 7 – Budget discussions; July 8 – Friends of Point Betsie remains closed this year;

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July 9 – Maples met with chair to discuss document of understanding; July 13 – Almira Township; Building Authority meets July 15 @ 10 a.m.

Comm Farrell provided a written report (attached) and reported that on July 6 she attended the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Oversight Board; July 7 – Budget review meeting; July 13 – Frankfort School Board – they are busy writing the plan to reopen schools; Crystal Lake Township tonight.

Comm Nye reported that on July 2 she attended the Ad Hoc Headlee restoration committee; July 6 – Village of Benzonia and they adopted three ordinances, they held a Special Meeting for a moratorium to extend until July 22 for the new ordinances to take effect; July 8 – Benzonia Township -- discussed Memorial Park having a water issue that is being addressed; July 8 the Village of Beulah meeting where there is an issue with the property line at Papano's, the superintendent resigned so that leaves one person working, the detours down Lake and Benzie Streets are dangerous, they are filing a Notice of Intent to apply to EGLE for a Non Source Point Grant for Stormwater Runoff and E-coli, the Beulah Art Fair is happening on August 1, also the Crystal Lake team marathon; July 9 attended Centra Wellness Board meeting; July 27 meeting at P/R will have presentation from Sarah Kirk regarding handicap accessible carry-in access site – several groups will be invited to attend as well.

Comm Taylor reported that at the LPT meeting it was mentioned that several events have been cancelled, including the Ironman; Homestead Township Trustee has resigned; the Clerk is busy with AV ballots; attended our budget meeting with all of you; she attended the July 9 CARES Act webinar; Village of Honor meeting – was there when there was an incident with Mr. Rodzik, deputy was called and he was allowed to remain, the officer stayed as well.

Comm Warsecke provided a written report (attached) and reported on Solid Waste on June 24; July 2 the Headlee Subcommittee met; July 8 the Colfax Township board met; July 13 he attended the Inland Township meeting; July 13 also attended the Benzie School Board meeting.

Comm Sauer reported that the Road Commission is going to repair the Quonset buildings. The Maples voted to give hazard pay to all employees and they have received \$436,310 in COVID cash to date; as of today, they have 142 days cash on hand. Joyfield Township is going to receive \$1,500 in COVID cash for election safety. Blaine Township as well. Frankfort is talking about making their fire chief full time, along with 3-4 employees. They are setting a Public Hearing on September 3 regarding short-term rentals. Chair of the Betsie Valley Trail has resigned. Attended the CARES webinar. Attended the Village of Thompsonville meeting on July 13.

Comm Roelofs reported that he attended the Headlee reset meeting and they will meet one more time; attended the budget meetings; Veterans Affairs – they have received the recognition granite piece for the Grand Traverse Band as a thank you to their commitment to the Benzie County Veterans Affairs and will lay it tomorrow morning; will attend Village of Lake Ann tonight.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Deisch provided a written report (attached); Headlee Reset Committee will meet later today; have received a response to Mr. Nordfjord regarding the CST contract mentioned earlier today.

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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to rescind the prior motion to approve the Cohl Stoker Toskey contract with an amendment regarding sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the Cohl Stroker Toskey contract as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from June 24, 2020 thru July 14, 2020 in the amount of \$388,257.88, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, spoke regarding foreclosure – June 29 there were 13 foreclosures, 5 are clean-up pieces; five 10-acre parcels, 3 of which are wooded; that leaves 2 parcels that either have a structure or debris that needs to be removed before sale. The County Treasurer is still willing to pay for 1/3 of the cost to enclose the 3 main counters.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve item 1 of the June 23, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve item 1 of the July 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole Budget Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Chair Roelofs inquired regarding the interview of Mark Willette-Green – to be scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority May 2020 financial statement received.
- Eaton County resolution to Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of February 24, 2020 received.
- Arenac County resolution regarding Enbridge received.
- Menominee County resolution in Support of the 2020 Upper Peninsula State Fair received.
- Ingham County resolution to Create the Ingham County Racial Equity Taskforce received.
- Tuscola County resolution in Support of Line 5 received.
- Census 2020 updated information received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for June received.
- Platte Lake elevation report for June received.

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11:33 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, commented regarding the handicap parking spaces in Beulah and Frankfort Beach and that they are being used by non-handicap individuals – needs to be enforced; also spoke regarding trash and plastic.

Comm Jeannot asked Clerk Olney about the electronic AV Ballots without a signature; she is not aware of actual electronic AV ballots except for MOVE ballots, he could be referring to AV applications. He will check his source and get back to the Clerk.

11:36 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 11:36 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor (phone) 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 July 23, 2020 as amended on page 3.
3. Accepted the Michigan DNR Memorandum of Understanding for the Recreation Improvement Fund with the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council in the amount of \$9,000.00 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
4. Approved the general legal services contract with Cohl, Stoker and Toskey with an amendment to include ...sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, after discussions with the law firm and authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Approved Resolution 2020-022 authorizing the Building Authority to perform all required functions to finalize the Maples Medical Care Facility generator re-wiring and other outstanding projects, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Authorized the attorney/client document received from Cohl Stoker & Toskey dated July 6, 2020 be made public regarding the Benzie County Maples Medical Care Facility Operating Millage.
7. Rescinded the prior motion to approve the Cohl Stoker Toskey contract with an amendment regarding sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.
8. Approved the Cohl Stroker Toskey contract as presented.
9. Approved payment of the bills from June 24, 2020 thru July 14, 2020 in the amount of \$388,257.88, as presented.
10. Approved item 1 of the June 23, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Approved item 1 of the July 7, 2020 Committee of the Whole Budget Consent Calendar as presented.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
July 14, 2020

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our June 23rd meeting.
- **7/2 Lake Township** – Good turnout at the clean-up day despite distancing concerns. Number of absentee ballots for August election have increased compared to previous years.
- **7/7 BOC Budget Discussions** – All Commissioners participated.
- **7/8 Friends of PB Lighthouse** – The attractions at the lighthouse will remain closed for this year. The apartment will continue to be available for rent. The solution for the breakwater wall is an on going discussion. Dick Taylor, Chair, will be making a presentation at this meeting.
- **7/9 Maples** – Met with Scott Harrison, Chair, to discuss document of understanding between the BOC and Maples. This will be an agenda item for this meeting.
- **7/13 Almira Township** – Considering request for hazardous duty pay. I have put Mark Roper in touch with Susan Boyd for update on how and when to qualify.
- **Other –**
 - I have stayed in contact with many of my assigned committees and agencies by phone. The purpose is to share information regarding the current situation (COVID-19) and determine if the BOC needs to act on any issues on the group's behalf.
 - Building Authority meeting will be July 15th at 10am. We will be discussing a resolution at this meeting as a result of re-funding the bond for the Maples project.

July 14, 2020
Commissioner's Report to BOC
Linda Farrell
District #3

I have attended 3 meetings on the behalf of Benzie County since our June 23rd meeting:

July 6 - SUD (Substance Use Disorder) Oversight Board

- We approved numerous PA2 Funds Use requests, including funds for a CWN MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) clinics in Benzie and Manistee Counties which serve up to 100 people in both counties. Benzie County will receive \$5,960; Manistee \$94,892. The money is apportioned based on the number of people served per county.

July 7 - With the other County Commissioners I attended the Budget Review meeting (by phone).

(July 8th - HR meeting was postponed)

July 13 - FEAS School Board

- They are busy writing 3 required Plans for Re-Opening based on five defined phases of district Coronavirus levels/activity.
- They approved several contracts, including for Administrative Units, Superintendent, TBAISD and Centra Wellness
- There was a presentation by Ella Larsen, student from the Interact Club, on the club's plan to have solar panels installed at the school. This included a fundraising plan. Ella was also appointed the Student Representative to the School Board for the 20-21 School year.

July 14 - Tonight is Crystal Lake Township meeting

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

District 6
Commissioner Report
E. Warsecke

Solid Waste - 6-24-20

- Scrap tire grant approved
- Scrap tire collection 7-18 in Thompsonville from 9am - 1pm
- Household hazzardous waste and tires at the road commission 8-15-20 from 9am - 1pm

Headlee Subcommittee - 7-2-20

Budget Meeting 7-7-20

Colfax Township 7-8-20

- Doug Durand presented the Senior Resources report
- Clean up day was a success - 50 yards collected - which is 5 more than last year

Inland Township 7-13-20


- 17 fire dept calls for service the previous month
- Planning commission has received the requested info on the gravel pit and the next meeting is 7-20 at 6pm
- The proposed farmers market this Saturday may be cancelled due to lack of vendors
- Annual audit has been completed

Benzie School Board 7-13-20

- Update given on the bond proposal - Golf outing fundraiser Sunday at the Crystal Lk Golf course. 5 teams are still needed. They are putting together informational postcards and will be mailing them out to voters.
- The school will be supplying Chromebook computers to HS students for their 4 years.



448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator 
Date: July 8, 2020
Subject: Administrator Update 7/14/2020 BOC Meeting

1. **Headlee Restoration** - The full BOC will be discussing the Headlee Restoration process at the Committee of the Whole July 14, 2020 Meeting. Some highlights to date.
 - a. Emails to Township Supervisors regarding the Tax Allocation Board (TAB) sent out.
 - b. Contacted ISD Superintendent Nick Ceglarek regarding a TAB representative. Waiting to hear back from Mr. Ceglarek.
 - c. Reached out to former Howell City Manager Shea Charles regarding participating in a phone conversation with the Headlee Restoration Subcommittee #3, who is responsible for producing educational materials. The City of Howell did a great job laying out their request in 2018. Mr. Charles agreed to participate in a future meeting.
 - d. Discussed with Probate Judge John Mead his role in nominating a Benzie resident.

More discussion will follow with the full BOC at the 7/14/2020 COTW meeting.

2. **Next Budget Meetings** – The next budget meetings are scheduled for Tuesday July 21, 2020 (all day) and Wednesday July 22, 20 (1/2 day, starting at 9:00 am). Incorporated into the draft 20/21 FY budget is a 5% (2.5% Emergency Management & 2.5% 911) increase in wages for Emergency Manager/Central Dispatch Director Rebecca Hubers. Please note that Ms. Hubers did not ask for this to happen. This was a discussion with Chair Bob Roelofs and I in recognition of Ms. Hubers performing multiple duties. Ultimately the BOC will decide on this salary increase during the budgeting process.
3. **Vacation** – Just a reminder I will be on vacation Thursday July 16, 2020 through Sunday July 19, 2020, back in the office Monday July 20, 2020.

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DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617