

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 28, 2020

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

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of July 14, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the special session minutes of July 16, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input – None

Public Hearing – Railroad Point Natural Area

Chris Sullivan, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, updated the board and public on the process involved. Typically, the public hearing is prior to application for the grant; due to COVID the application will be complete with the minutes and resolution; GTRLC have committed to raising all the match for the project.

Richard Figura stated that there was an in-holder in the Natural Point Area owned by Mr. and Mrs. Cole, Mr. Cole has since passed away and Mrs. Cole is now the sole owner of about 9 acres with 230 feet on Crystal Lake, this acquisition will complete a large portion of the Railroad Point Natural Area; we have a purchase agreement that has been executed between Mrs. Cole and the Conservancy; the county will have complete ownership to the property after the Land Conservancy signs over those rights.

Comm Jeannot – Are we using any county tax dollars to purchase the property or outside sources? County pays for Administration costs; the acquisition costs are from the trust fund and conservancy.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Taylor, to open the Public Hearing. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Input – None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to close the Public Hearing. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 5

July 28, 2020

Resolution 2020-023: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to adopt resolution 2020-023 Authorizing a Grant Application for Acquisition of Land to Add to the Railroad Point Natural Area, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, reported that the BV Community Center has announced that they have a mobile dental van that is in the process of being converted for dental care through NW Michigan Health Services; Project Fresh is going along with only 16 coupons left; working on a grant for shelf-stable foods; the Gathering Place will remain closed through September 30; they are taking over 1,000 phone calls per month. Once we reach Phase 6, we will remain closed for an additional six weeks.

Tom King, EMS, reported that everything is going well; call volume is still down; all ambulances are good; Frankfort ambulance was down for four weeks, but up and running now; have replaced the LUCUS machine – our cost was \$150.00 after insurance paid.

Sheriff Schendel reported on a 911 call from Sleeping Bear Dunes Lakeshore area; mom and two children on a float that got disconnected from each other; two good Samaritans swam out to rescue one of the children. EMS was waiting and the children are fine. He has been able to locate the two gentlemen and would like to present them with a life-saving award in a few weeks.

ACTION ITEMS

Address Protests: Addresses on Birch View Trail were changed and some of the residents have filed a protest; Mitch Deisch to work with Tom Longanbach and Matt Nordfjord on proper wording for the next meeting to allow the individuals to maintain their current address with the understanding that the addresses will be changed when the property changes hands.

Pay Property Taxes: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Farrell, to authorize the County Treasurer to pay the 2017 property taxes for parcel number 10-02-021-016-00 in the amount of \$5,457.96 using Fund 532 dollars, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:54 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. Reconvene

Matt McCauley, CEO of Networks Northwest, gave the 2019 Annual Report. He highlighted the Talent Development, Business Development and Community Development – we want to create incentives to work, not disincentives. They are a census repository for the region and the data can be found at www.benchmarksnorthwest.org working with MEDC on a Business Restart for those businesses effective by COVID. Connectivity Broadband access is critical for our area for those that work from home, school disruptions, we need to attract and keep companies. Comm Nye ask if NWNW will share the retention visit information with the EDC. Comm Jeannot stated that Rural Development is ready to roll out some funds toward broadband, are they ready to talk about that? Yes they are.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 5

July 28, 2020

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and reported on the Building Authority meeting regarding the tasks to be completed include the generator and landscaping; they are hiring a project manager for right sizing the generator. EDC/BRA; Chamber is working on their budget to support their activities now that the Convention and Visitor Bureau has merged with Traverse City Tourism; discussions with the Maples Chair regarding the Document of Understanding and it could be in place by the end of September.

Comm Farrell attended the Crystal Lake Township meeting virtually and reported that the Clerk has 300 AV requests; Frankfort meeting they reported they held the Sidewalk Sale, they approved a volleyball tournament; declined to apply for hazard pay; erosion along the beach; Health Dept reported an increase in Lyme disease in Benzie County.

Comm Nye attended the Centra Wellness Planning & Finance meeting; HR minutes are in the packet; EDC up to \$2,500 approved to hire Tim Irvin and Karly Haas to apply for a grant to improve broadband and would require county ownership and 25% match; Parks & Rec had a presentation from Sarah Kirk regarding two options for carry-in boat launch; Point Betsie Lighthouse apron was discussed and the BVT is taking steps to address the trail from Mollineaux Road to Beulah 8' or 10' path.

Comm Taylor spoke regarding the Betsie Valley Community mobile dental service van – fully funded, local donations and some businesses as well, grants, Webber Foundation and an anonymous donor. Land Bank – reviewed the current property that they hold and those that they may acquire.

Comm Warsecke attended the BTA meeting last evening – they will suspend the search for a new director at this time until the contract ends (May 2021) or the director leaves.

Comm Sauer attended the Village of Elberta with concerns over the lifesaving station and park. Health Department – TB case was in Leelanau. Road Commission has completed the Quonset roofs and are happy; MDOT placed a camera in Elberta to see the water coming over the road, gives you an idea if they are going to shut the road down; 2021 project on River Road in Elberta with Federal Aid; the Road Commission hired a new finance manager – came from Leelanau County Road Commission; will clean up Wier Road for accessibility. Maples – DHHS is at the end of their layoffs, they are still working from home; they are still having trouble with Legionella.

Chair Roelofs – no report.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mitch stated that the Headlee #2 subcommittee will meet today; he has sent emails to the township supervisors regarding the Tax Allocation Committee and Jason Barnard would like the appointment of the townships; Health Department updated to 26 confirmed COVID cases in Benzie County.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from July 15, 2020 thru July 28, 2020 in the amount of \$186,913.56 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 5

July 28, 2020

Budget Amendment: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve the 2019/20 Budget Amendment request for fund 721 Penal Fines in the amount of \$3,000.00 as follows:

Increase:

721-000-691.00	Budgeted Use of Fund Balance	\$2,000.00
721-000-655.00	Interest	\$1,000.00

Increase:

721-000-957.00	Misc - Disburse Interest	\$3,000.00
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Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

Land Sale Proceeds: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the Land Sale proceeds accounts report as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve items 1-5 of the July 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BVTMC: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, accept the resignation of David Oellerich and appoint Elizabeth (Beth) Roethler as the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail representative to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE – None

11:43 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to adjourn at 11:43 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), 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 presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of July 14, 2020 as presented.
3. Approved the special session minutes of July 16, 2020 as presented.
4. Public Hearing held regarding Railroad Point Natural Area.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 5 of 5

July 28, 2020

5. Adopted resolution 2020-023 Authorizing a Grant Application for Acquisition of Land to Add to the Railroad Point Natural Area, as presented.
6. Authorized the County Treasurer to pay the 2017 property taxes for parcel number 10-02-021-016-00 in the amount of \$5,457.96 using Fund 532 funds, as presented.
7. Matt McCauley, CEO of Networks Northwest, gave the 2019 Annual Report.
8. Approved payment of the bills from July 15, 2020 thru July 28, 2020 in the amount of \$186,913.56 as presented.
9. Approved the 2019/20 Budget Amendment request for fund 721 Penal Fines in the amount of \$3,000.00 as presented.
10. Accepted the Land Sale proceeds accounts report as presented.
11. Approved items 1-5 of the July 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
12. Accepted the resignation of David Oellerich and appoint Elizabeth (Beth) Roethler as the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail representative to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
July 28, 2020

- Participated in 6 meetings on behalf of the County since our July 14th meeting.
- **7/15 Building Authority** – Tasks to be completed include the generator and landscaping. BA is hiring a project manager for right sizing the generator.
- **7/16 BOC Special Meeting** – All Commissioners participated.
- **7/17 EDC/BRA** – The majority of this meeting was used to comply with the open meetings act as a result of action taken at the June meeting. June meeting was not posted properly.
- **7/21 BOC Budget** – All Commissioners participated.
- **7/22 Benzie County Chamber** – Working on budget to support Chamber (BCCC) now that the Benzie County Convention and Visitor Bureau (BCCVB) has merged with Traverse City Tourism Bureau. BCCVB has gifted \$100k to the BC Chamber.
- **7/22 BOC Budget** – All Commissioners participated.
- **Other –**
 - Discussions continue regarding the document of understanding (DOU) between Maples and Board of Commissioners. It appears we will have this in place by the end of September.

RECEIVED

JUL 28 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Committee of the Whole

Page 4 of 4

July 14, 2020

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. To adopt the 2020-2021 Health Plan as discussed, with switching to the Blues for vision and dental.
2. To authorize purchase of three years four months (3 years, 4 months) additional service credit to Cody Kastl as presented with no cost to the county, authorizing the chair to sign.
3. To authorize purchase of five (5) years additional service credit to Lucy Burns as presented with no cost to the county, authorizing the chair to sign.
4. To amend the 2019-2020 General Fund budget for payoff of Undersheriff payout in the amount of \$17,850.00.
5. To adopt the 2019-2020 Jail Budget Amendment as presented in the amount of \$48,000.00.