

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 22, 2020

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 22, 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 (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke

The invocation was given by Chairman Roelofs ~~Sauer~~ and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Agenda:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to approve the agenda as amended, removing Ikens Easement and adding Audit Bids. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of September 8, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Schendel and Lt. Frank Peck, Michigan State Police Cadillac Post presented awards. Lt. Peck presented to Deputy Joe Send with Benzie County Sheriff Office and C.J. Sierzputowski with MSP awards for life saving by performing CPR on a cardiac arrest patient; Sheriff Schendel presented an award to Deputy Kirk Parker for his heroic effort in trying to save a drowning victim on July 4, 2020.

Chairman Roelofs also thanked the individuals for their service on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to accept the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Contract between the Michigan State Police and Benzie County Sheriff's Office as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

U/S Hubers stated that the family of the drowning victim is from Tennessee and they will be here until Wednesday; the 12 year old has not been recovered yet; they will begin again tomorrow due to the weather at the pier today.

Tom King, EMS Director, gave an update that all vehicles are in good order; Stryker was here and did maintenance on the heart monitors that were purchased last year; August they had 180 calls; UVC lights for cleaning are working well; one employee came down with COVID with one of the family members having to be hospitalized; continuing education training is being reviewed.

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Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and stated that the Board of Directors adopted their FY 20/21 Budget; Thank You to Rebecca for the additional 500 masks; Fall clean-up starts October 1, which includes removing a/c units; snow removal begins November 15; Christmas Bag letters went out to the churches yesterday.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, reported that should the Sheriff Office need assistance tomorrow with the search, he will allow Dillon to assist—he is a certified marine officer; shelter siding is being put on now; trees are removed; purchased two projectors – dart guns; will call and make an offer of employment for the clerk position today; dog and cat numbers are slightly lower than normal; we are still feeding horses; we will receive the Spay and Neuter Grant again and will start October 1.

Comm Jeannot asked if there have been any citizen complaints regarding the driving of the county trucks home – no there have not been.

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, updated the board regarding the lawsuit where several county clerks were named defendants; a stipulation has entered to dismiss the county clerks.

Comm Sauer asked regarding the assessor information provided by Equalization; Mitch will discuss this with Tom Longanbach and bring back to this board on October 13 under Unfinished Business.

ACTION ITEMS

Appropriations Act: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the FY 2020-2021 Appropriations Act as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot and Nye (phone) Motion carried.

Appendix A: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt Appendix A – Elected Officials Salaries for FY 2020-2021 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Appendix B: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt Appendix B – Appointed Officials Wages/Salary for FY 2020-2021 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Employee Roster: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Taylor, to adopt the Employee Roster for FY 2020-2021 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

L-4029: Motion by Taylor, seconded by Jeannot, to adopt the L-4029 for Benzie County as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

EMPG Work Agreement: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the FY 2021 Work Agreement with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Ikens Easement Request: Removed from Agenda.

Auditing Services: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to accept the bid of Maner Costerisan for county auditing services for the three years 2020 – 2022 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Roelofs attended the Village of Lake Ann meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding the budget and capital improvement plan.

Comm Farrell provide a written report (attached) and reported that she attended several meetings and joined the After-Action Review regarding COVID; Crystal Lake Township where there was discussion held regarding cemeteries, grant applied for to purchase another tabulator for elections, they will continue to meet remotely and meeting agendas and packets will be posted on the township website; Human Resources meeting was held with Comm Nye and Taylor; Centra Wellness Board meeting; Benzie's FY20 anticipated liquor tax balance is \$147,152 at NMRE; attended the Frankfort Elberta School board meeting and City of Frankfort.

Comm Nye attended five meetings – HR meeting – they will continue to give monthly updates, with the entire policy coming to the BOC for final approval; Benzonia Township – a permit has been issued on the Papano's building, there is an effort to recall the Marijuana Ordinance; Village of Beulah – doesn't consider the Papano's issue done, they are dealing with the dock waiting list; Village of Benzonia – they are working on the North Street water line which will separate Beulah and Benzonia service, remote read water meters have been installed, a new clerk has been hired.

Comm Taylor reported that she attended the HR meeting; Village of Honor – a resident was questioning the speed limit signs on Riverside Drive and Deadstream Road, they passed a resolution to not allow any political signs at Maley Park; Land Bank Authority – received and updated property inventory; Benzie Senior Resources report was given earlier.

Comm Warsecke attended the Conservation District meeting – nothing to report; Inland Township & BCCS are the same night, but he ended up being called into work, so did not attend.

Comm Sauer reported that he attended the Road Commission meeting where they talked about the MTF funds being on the rise, Cedar Run and Reynolds Road solar stop signs, Elmer's will be paving Pioneer & King Road area; Village of Thompsonville meeting Eclipse gave a presentation, there will be no Fall Fest; MAC workers comp refunds have increased this year; Health Dept COVID testing on Tuesdays in Leelanau and Wednesdays in Benzie; Village of Elberta restroom project has been completed; LEPC – Elmer's will apply 2" of asphalt to the causeway in Elberta.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written report and talks about Executive Order 181 and the Ikens' request for easement – the request is for 75 feet and 47 feet goes across the county property; there is a \$300 application fee to the DNR for a Conservation Easement, we need to discuss if you are still in support to move forward for approval on October 13.

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Comm Sauer stated that he feels we should either cut the fee (\$2,000) in half or waive it; the county should help with this; he has no issue with it; this should not be a money maker.

Comm Roelofs stated that by allowing the Ikenes to go across county property, how does that help the county? It's not about the money, these people trespassed on county property; they didn't ask permission; they violated our space; it's not their property and they did it without permission.

Comm Jeannot discussed the need to ensure any decision we make can be applied consistently in any future request.

Comm Farrell state that it is important to not allow trespass, then ask for forgiveness.

Mitch will forward to the Parks & Rec with information.

Comm Jeannot inquired regarding the County Administrator's annual evaluation; asked if perhaps HR should work on it this year.

Mitch provided the BOC members with a spreadsheet regarding COVID funding received.

Susan Boyd, Finance Manager, provided a Fund Balance report.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from September 8, 2020 thru September 22, 2020 in the amount of \$246,219.33, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Taylor, to authorize the County Treasurer to interfund borrow up to \$1,000,000 to balance the cash in all accounts in the General Ledger. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve items 1-3 of the October 8, 2020 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Land Bank Authority: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the resignation of Amy Bissell from the Land Bank Authority. Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), Roelofs, Sauer, Taylor and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Health Dept Board of Appeals: Chair appoints: Commissioners Farrell, Nye and Roelofs to serve on this committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Health Department minutes of September 4, 2020 received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority financial statements for June, July and August 2020 received.

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- MMRMA notice regarding increase in legal fees cost received.
- Message from Kristi Johnson, Chief Operating Officer, POMH received.
- Bay County resolution regarding financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

11:28 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Taylor, to adjourn at 11:29 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Roll call. Ayes: Farrell (phone), Jeannot, Nye (phone), 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 September 8, 2020 as presented.
3. Accepted the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Contract between the Michigan State Police and Benzie County Sheriff's Office.
4. Adopted the FY 2020-2021 Appropriations Act as presented.
5. Adopted Appendix A – Elected Officials Salaries for FY 2020-2021 as presented.
6. Adopted Appendix B – Appointed Officials Wages/Salary for FY 2020-2021 as presented.
7. Adopted the Employee Roster for FY 2020-2021 as presented.
8. Adopted the L-4029 for Benzie County as presented.
9. Authorized the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the FY 2021 Work Agreement with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division as presented.
10. Accepted the bid of Maner Costerisan for county auditing services for the three years 2020 – 2022 as presented.
11. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$246,219.33, as presented.
12. Authorized the County Treasurer to interfund borrow up to \$1,000,000 to balance the cash in all accounts in the General Ledger.
13. Approved items 1-3 of the October 8, 2020 COTW Consent Calendar as presented.
14. Accepted the resignation of Amy Bissell from the Land Bank Authority.
15. Commissioners Farrell, Nye and Roelofs appointed to the Benzie Leelanau Health Department Board of Appeals committee.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
September 22, 2020

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our September 8th meeting.
- **9/10 Friends of Pointe Betsie** – Gary Sauer and I continue to participate with this group to review solutions to high water issues and road end upgrade. An RFP will be available to propose construction solutions and funding.
- **9/14 Almira Township** – The Township continues working with BC Road Commission to find solutions for the intersection of Cedar Run and Reynolds Rd. Will open the Township Hall, Monday through Friday for students to have access to broadband if they can work out an agreement with Charter.
- **9/16 Benzie Chamber of Commerce** – Housing North and Broadband Summit is scheduled for October 20 to 22, 2020.
- **9/16 Building Authority** – Comstock and their sub-contractors are finished at the Maples. Bids were open for upgrading the generator. The high bid was \$72,332 with the low at \$34,610.
- **9/21 Northern MI Commissioner Association** – Discussed revenue sharing, CARES Act funding and tourism.
- **Other –**
 - EDC/BRA cancelled due to lack of a quorum.
 - Housing development in Honor continues to move forward. The plans have been submitted to the Village of Honor Planning Commission and anticipate action in October. The PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) request will be formally requested to the Village and Homestead Township soon. Capital funding through MEDC is in process.
 - Advocates for a Better Benzie are having conversations with Grow Benzie to merge the two organizations. Grow Benzie would be the surviving agency.

RECEIVED

SEP 21 2020

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Commissioner's Report to BOC
September 22, 2020
Linda Farrell
District #3
Frankfort and Crystal Lake Twp.

I have attended 6 meetings on behalf of the County, joined the Community COVID update call, and joined the AAR Benzie County COVID Response Report call since our BOC meeting on September 8th.

September 8th

- Crystal Lake Township
 - There was much public comment and written correspondence (some of which was read aloud) objecting to a proposal to allow alcohol in the cemeteries. There was also public objection to altering the management of the cemeteries. It was decided to hold a joint Cemetery Committee/Trustees Special meeting to address these issues. The date for the Special Meeting will be set soon, published, and interested parties notified.
 - Approved an application for a grant to purchase a new ballot tabulator for the express purpose of counting absentee/mail-in ballots. In the instance that the grant is not received, approval was given for up to \$6000 to purchase a new tabulator.
 - The Trustees voted unanimously to continue meeting remotely to be in compliance with the Governor's orders. Meeting agendas and packets will now be posted on the township website at least 18 hours before meetings.
 - Greg Wright was re-appointed to the township Planning Commission

September 9th

- Human Resources Committee - with Commissioners Nye and Taylor
 - As Chair, Commissioner Nye will give an update. Minutes are included in today's meeting packet.

September 10th

- Central Wellness Network Board Meeting -
 - The FY21 budget of \$17,671,870 was passed.
 - Discussed CWN's current Liquor Tax Project requests for FY21 and the need to make adjustments due to limited funds available in Manistee County

September 14th

- NMRE Substance Used Disorder Oversight Board Meeting -
 - Two requests from CWN were tabled and sent back for adjustment and/or more information.
 - Benzie County's FY20 Anticipated Liquor Tax Balance is \$147,152
- Frankfort Elberta Area Schools Board Meeting
 - Off to a good start.
 - Much discussion about their plans to meet the educational and emotional needs of the face-to-face and remote learning students - a huge task
 - Information is on their website at <https://www.frankfort.k12.mi.us/district-home>

September 15th

- City of Frankfort Council Meeting
 - Fall Fest is cancelled
 - House-to-house Trick-or-Treat in Frankfort is cancelled. A committee will be formed to organize a Halloween parade on Saturday, October 31, with possible distribution

of candy by people watching the parade. The city may prepare bags of candy for kids.

- The City continues exploratory talks with the Iron Man organization for a race in August or September, 2021
- City Clerk Kim Kidder assured residents that there would be no problem with election ballots mailed to Frankfort. A specially designated ballot box has been installed in the hallway of City Hall for people to drop ballot requests and completed ballots if they prefer not to mail them. The clerk expects to mail Absentee Voter ballots that have been previously requested beginning this week.