

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 23, 2021**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 in the Frank Waltherhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Roelofs.

Present were: Commissioners Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke

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

**Agenda:**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve the agenda as amended, adding SRO Report under Dept Heads and 2021-014 Gilmore Twp Floodplain Resolution under Action Items. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of March 9, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve the closed session minutes of March 9, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$287,125.07, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Sheriff Rosa reported that both School Resource Officers (SRO) are doing a fantastic job for us; he thanks them for what they do.

Tiffany Wright, SRO – Frankfort Elberta Area Schools, provided the board with an update on the past year: it is good to have the kids back in school; they are doing more activities outside – the Coast Guard is doing water safety, MSP has been helpful education as well, she has been working with Deputy Miller working on the Emergency Management Plan for a unison plan; they have done a couple of lock-down drills; has been getting into the classrooms too; the biggest trend that she is seeing is mental health with our youth – dealing with home, school, friends; does still have some vaping still; there is an issue with homelessness in Frankfort, about 71 kids are considered homeless; the National Honor Society has started a Student Pantry to provide kids with food for the evenings and weekends, they are also showing kids how to prepare food. Her goal is to get out more with the kids into the community and to get the students and staff familiar with the lock-down plan.

Geoff Miller, SRO – Benzie County Central Schools, said things are rolling very good in the post-COVID life; he has been in the classrooms more since Christmas break; teaching internet safety with

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the Chrome Books the students have been provided; have been investigating a lot of complaints, it is starting to get back to the way it was, and has been challenging; he is being met with positive students. Just redid the Emergency Response Guide – the goal is to have all buildings the same; Reunification Plan for each building has been prepared; lockdowns are timed and are under 15 seconds at each building. Truancy – between online and face to face we have merged our Online Policy with our Truancy Policy; things have been really good.

Sheriff Rosa reported that the Sergeant position has been filled with Cody Kastle; quarterly TNT meeting was held last week and would like to meet with each of you individually for an update; we are seeing an uptick with meth and heroin, we have been seeing some overdoses, and one death in the last two months; hope that we are not going backward; effective April 1 there has been some legislation passed regarding jail reform and bond issues – it will change the way we do business.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Manager/911 Central Dispatch, stated that she has seen a lot of growth with your SROs in the last year; Geoff Miller has run full speed working on the Emergency Plans and the Reunification; he is a great communicator and has been doing a great job; Tiffany Wright is more than a just an SRO – she is a community leader, a giant asset to the City; they are both completely funded by the SRO millage and would be a huge loss if the millage went away. We held the state-wide Rising Waters exercise and opened the EOC for that; we have openings in Central Dispatch.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and stated that they have been busy scheduling age 60 and over residents for vaccine clinics; we have done hundreds of schedules; mental health issues we listen to how they have struggled over the last year and make sure their needs are being met. Walk A Thon will be held August 7; Received a Cherryland Cares Grant to replace a vehicle; Lawn Chore program has started; their numbers continue to rise.

### ACTION ITEMS

911 Surcharge: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to maintain the current \$3.00 surcharge per device from July 2021 through June 2022, authorizing the County Clerk or County Coordinator to complete and sign the Public Act 379 of 2008 Local 911 Collection and Remittance contact information for the July 2021 – June 2022 collection period. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2% Grant Application: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to authorize the 2% grant application to the Grand Traverse Band for ARES/RACES radio equipment in the amount of \$7,660.77, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

MiSAIL Imagery and Lidar Program: Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to allow the Equalization Department to enter the MiSAIL partner agreement with the State of Michigan and allow the funding of \$14,814.03 for 2021 6-inch resolution imagery to be shared between the two departments (Equalization and Central Dispatch). Roll call. Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-010 – Lindy Road Critical Bridge: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt Resolution 2021-010 in Support of Lindy Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as

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presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-011 – Nostwick Road Critical Bridge: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt Resolution 2021-011 in Support of Nostwick Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-012 – Reynolds Road Critical Bridge: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt Resolution 2021-012 in Support of Reynolds Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-013 – Fish Hatchery MNRTF Grant: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to adopt Resolution 2021-013 in Support of the Platte River State Fish Hatchery Accessibility, Interpretive, and Solar Improvements application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-014 Joint Resolution with Gilmore Twp: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to adopt resolution 2021-014 Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Gilmore Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chairman Roelofs reported that he attended the 911 meeting and the help that is needed in the dispatch center; he, Comm Nye and Treasurer Thompson met with Mitch Deisch about how things are going over the next couple months to make a smooth transition.

Mitch spoke about a policy being worked on for employees having the ability to donate unused time off to a bank that would assist employees that need additional time and have none of their own. As of now, 154 hours of time has been donated.

Comm Jeannot provided written report (attached).

Comm Miller reported that Crystal Lake Twp meeting was business as usual. City of Frankfort has received a Pier Safety Grant and will be installing the item in May; construction is planned for a new water/sewer project; workforce housing project will begin soon; Coast Guard is only available in Frankfort from Memorial Day – Labor Day.

Comm Nye reported on the Benzonia Twp meeting – one resident on Love Road would not sign the waiver to allow the peak of the hill to be reduced; the litigation with Mary Haan was discussed, a resolution to end the litigation was tabled; Centra Wellness met and talked about behavior home health which continues to be a savings for state. Attended the EDC. Parks & Rec met last night – the Eurasian Milfoil treatment will move forward with treatment this year; new sign at Zada Price Park was vandalized, a police report was filed; Ice Rink was discussed – there were skates that were

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donated last year – 84 pairs were loaned out; continue discussions regarding a P/R Manager; a subcommittee was appointed for focus on the Parks & Rec Plan.

Comm Markey attended the LEPC where they reviewed the Platte River Fish Hatchery Hazardous Materials.

Comm Warsecke reported that Colfax Twp had their first in-person meeting with their new board where they did their budget review. Conservation District – holding their on-line seedling sale and discussed the issues with the Road Commission cutting trees along the road.

Comm Sauer reported that he did sign up for the MSUE County Café; MAC Ag/Tourism; Road Commission material bids, tree cutting, patching potholes, prototype truck; need to keep the roads opened up and with tree cover, it is not good for the asphalt; the Local Road committee decided that since they cannot do the Love Road project, they will do Fowler, Green Briar, Moss Road, Worden Road and Pond Road. MSUE discussed the stimulus dollars and claim the debt is stable. MAC discussed the possibility of 4-year commissioner terms. Inquired of the future of these meetings.

Mitch Deisch, County Administrator, stated that the State of Emergency resolution was not passed by this board, so effective April 1, 2021, we go back to in-person meetings – dual zoom and in-person. Commissioners will be present with only two exemptions: military or medical. Absent a State of Emergency resolution being passed today, you will not have the option to continue remote.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch**

Provided a written report (attached) and spoke regarding the School Resource Officers being present today and appreciated their update; remember that the SRO millage expires in December 2021.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None**

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Parks/Rec interview to be scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021 with Roelofs, Nye, Markey, Hoogterp and Deisch.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Berrien County resolution supporting SB 207 to extend virtual meeting to June 30, 2021.
- Tuscola County resolution regarding Virtual Participation in Board meetings.
- Letter from Joyfield Township regarding DRAFT Master Plan.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept agenda for March 24, 2021 meeting.

11:10 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning reported that she is working with the Victim Advocate to support victims of domestic violence, we are brainstorming now. She is also putting together information regarding disability discrimination.

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Sherry Taylor, Homestead Twp, she was at the road commission meeting regarding the road, eminent domain is not an option, as this method does not apply here; they had also received complaints regarding the tree cutting and are working on it.

Barb Skurdall asked if the zoom meetings will end? No, zoom access will continue for the public.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that the 2021 tax delinquency rate is 3.99% down from 2020 for Benzie County. Asks everyone to reach out to our legislators regarding a new federal law proposal HR 816 and would be vital for creating potential housing opportunities.

11:16 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 11:17 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer 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.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of March 9, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of March 9, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$287,125.07, as presented.
5. Approved to maintain the current \$3.00 surcharge per device from July 2021 through June 2022, authorizing the County Clerk or County Coordinator to complete and sign the Public Act 379 of 2008 Local 911 Collection and Remittance contact information for the July 2021 – June 2022 collection period.
6. Authorized the 2% grant application to the Grand Traverse Band for ARES/RACES radio equipment in the amount of \$7,660.77, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Authorized the Equalization Department to enter the MiSAIL partner agreement with the State of Michigan and allow the funding of \$14,814.03 for 2021 6-inch resolution imagery to be shared between the two departments (Equalization and Central Dispatch).
8. Adopted Resolution 2021-010 in Support of Lindy Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
9. Adopted Resolution 2021-011 in Support of Nostwick Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
10. Adopted Resolution 2021-012 in Support of Reynolds Road Bridge Application for Critical Bridge Funds as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
11. Adopted Resolution 2021-013 in Support of the Platte River State Fish Hatchery Accessibility, Interpretive, and Solar Improvements application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
12. Adopted resolution 2021-014 Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Gilmore Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.



**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**March 23, 2021**

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **3/15 NMCA** – Discussed the possibility of continuing with remote access and still being in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. MI Association of Counties will provide guidelines on the use of stimulus money from US Treasury. State legislator will re-introduce bill to extend county commissioner terms to 4 years beginning with next election cycle. Several ideas were discussed on how counties can collaborate with each other.
- **3/18 NMCAA** – Standard meeting. 2021 403(b) (use of program funds) and IRS Form 990 audits (employee retirement contributions) accepted.
- **3/19 EDC/BRA** – A vote was held to accept a grant from DTE in the amount of \$1k. We were advised that this action could be taken at the EDC level and did not require BOC approval. The funds have restrictions on them. In summary, to provide assistance to ameliorate (improve) the effects of the COVID-19 crisis targeting small business needs, charitable class activities or stay within the Grantee's organization. Use of the funds will be decided at a later date. The monies need to be spent by November 30, 2021. A discussion was held regarding current direction of the Broadband Subcommittee. It was generally agreed that we will need to contract for a community study to be able to compete for future funding. In addition, the committee wanted additional information on Star Link to better understand how this may contribute as a solution for Benzie County.
- **Other –**
  - I have had a limited number of contacts from constituents regarding the BOC position on fairness of elections and annual clean up days in townships being canceled. In addition, I had a contact to consider a resolution (COVID-19) for "Vaccine Bill of Rights".
  - I followed up with Senator VanderWall's office to re-connect him with Friends of Pointe Betsie and the break wall repair issue.