

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 13, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 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 Markey, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of March 23, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from March 25, 2021 thru April 09, 2021 in the amount of \$1,331,284.20, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:

Jared Henry, Chief Public Defender Benzie Manistee County, gave an update regarding the number of cases handled by their office as of yesterday. Explained the history regarding the formation of the Public Defender's Office. Entering the 4th Grant application to the MIDC. Looking to hire an individual to be the Conflict Attorney Administrator.

Michelle Klein, Benzie Leelanau Health Department, presented an update regarding COVID, infection rate and vaccine data.

Tom King, EMS Director, gave update on the RFP for EMS billing. They have received 3 bids; his recommendation is to go with Fire Recovery. Will submit the proposed contract to Mitch for the county's attorney to review, so it can be placed as an Action Item at the April 27, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Manager/911 Central Dispatch submitted a written report. She is being contacted by different entity regarding local States of Emergency as to Open Meeting Act and holding meeting remotely. She is requesting that the Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution that would allow them to do this.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt Resolution 2021-015, to authorize the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Benzie, for the specific purpose of Open Meeting Acts and the language therein. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Nye and Sauer Motion carried.

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10:18 a.m. Break

10:25 a.m. Reconvene

Arron Stevens, Maner Costerisan, present the fiscal year 2020 Audit. Discussion held.

Kyle Rosa, Sheriff gave an update on the increase of drugs, domestic violence, and mental health issues in Benzie County. Seeing more Heroin, Crystal Meth and Fentanyl. There are issues with staffing in Corrections. Received a Certificate of Achievement which states the Benzie County Sheriff's Office is 100% compliance with in-service training in Corrections. Working with the Health Department to get COVID vaccine to the inmates that want it.

ACTION ITEMS

BVT Bid Approval & Contract: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve AJs Excavating bid and award of contract for the Betsie Valley Trail reconstruction in the amount of \$158,695.98, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACO 2% Grant Application: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to authorize the Animal Control to apply to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a 2% Grant as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Equalization Report & L-4024: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to adopt the L-4024 as presented, authorizing the Chair and Clerk to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairman Roelofs attended the Parks & Recreation interview, 911 meeting, Northern Michigan Area Agency on Aging meeting, and Veterans Affairs meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller attended the Benzie Human Service Collaborative Board meeting, Friend of the Point Betsie Lighthouse special meeting and Frankfort School Board meeting.

Comm Nye attended Parks & Recreation interview, Health Department meeting, MAC Transportation meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, Land Bank meeting, Village of Beulah meeting, and Central Wellness meetings.

Comm Markey attended the Parks & Recreation interview, RFP review for EMS, Central Wellness meetings, Dispatch space needs meeting, Animal Control Advisory meeting, Homestead Township meeting, and Village of Honor meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended the Solid Waste meeting, Inland Township meeting, and Benzie Central School Board meeting.

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Comm Sauer attended the Health Department meeting, DHHS meeting, Road Commission meeting, Betsie Valley Trail meeting, Worker's Compensation meeting, Visitor Center meeting, Joyfield Township meeting and Village of Thompsonville meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided written report. Need to look at re-instating the Planning Commission to update the Master Plan. Network Northwest was hired to help the last time. Will reach out to Mr. Carsen, Network Northwest, and then get with Comm. Nye. Strategic Plan Update will be presented at the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 27, 2021, then for approval at the May 11, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Interviews were conducted April 9, 2021 for the Human Resource/Finance Manager position. Recommending offering this position to the selected candidate at a starting salary of \$62,000.00.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke to approve the starting salary to the Human Resource/Finance Manager of \$62,000.00. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Consent Calendar

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Parks & Rec: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to appoint Shaun Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a partial term to expire December 31, 2021. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Hillsdale County resolution regarding not enforcement unconstitutional mandates received.
- Cheboygan County resolution opposing unilaterally issued orders by Gov Whitmer in response to COVID-19 received.
- Cheboygan County resolution supporting SB 1-2021 regarding public health orders received.
- Genesee County resolution in support of 4-year terms for County Commissioners received.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept minutes of March 24, 2021 received.
- Berrien County resolution regarding COVID relief dollars received.

12:55 p.m. Public Input –

Annie Browning, Village of Beulah, stated she is glad to hear the State of Emergency has been passed. Two real passions are defending abuse of women and disability discrimination.

12:56 p.m. – Public Input closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 12:57 p.m. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of March 23, 2021 as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from March 25, 2021 thru April 09, 2021 in the amount of \$1,331,284.20, as presented.
4. Adopt Resolution 2021-015, to authorize the Declaration of the State of Emergency for the County of Benzie, for the specific purpose of Open Meeting Acts and the language therein.
5. Approve AJs Excavating bid and award of contract for the Betsie Valley Trail reconstruction in the amount of \$158,695.98, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Authorize the Animal Control to apply to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a 2% Grant as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Adopt the L-4024 as presented, authorizing the Chair and Clerk to sign.
8. Approve the starting salary to the Human Resource/Finance Manager of \$62,000.00.
9. Appoint Shaun Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a partial term to expire December 31, 2021.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
April 13, 2021

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our March 23rd meeting.
- **4/1 Lake Township** – It was reported that at the end of their fiscal year they have approximately \$854k in the general fund balance. Ironman's request to use part of the township for its event was approved. Road patrol agreement with the Sheriff's office was approved to include a possible extension to cover the Ironman event.
- **4/2 MAC Finance and General Governance** – Association is in support of the following: inflationary increases in county revenue sharing, county veto power over new state land acquisitions if the county has more than 40% of their land owned by the state and /or federal government, full recovery from the state or federal government for county costs related to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, laws and policies that allow units of government, without a vote of the people, to restore the operating millage to the previous year's rate in years in which the property revenue increase was less than the rate of inflation. In addition, the revision of road commissioner terms of office to 4 years and convert all elected road commissioner positions to appointed positions. There were others discussed, this is what I believe to be the highlights.
- **4/5 Networks Northwest COG** – The discussion centered around 3 subjects. The "American Rescue Plan", Broadband for rural communities and continuation of zoom meetings after restrictions are lifted. A number of thoughts were discussed regarding the use of funds for the American Rescue Plan and most of them were about infrastructure improvements. It's my opinion that infrastructure will need to be more clearly defined and that plans to use the funding need to be put on hold until the rules for overall use are more clearly defined. Some good thoughts came out of the broadband discussion. Leelanau County has contracted with a company identified as DCS to perform a needs study. I spoke with Mitch about this and he will be in contact with the Leelanau County Administrator (Chet) to get additional details. The use of zoom or other remote access for the public during open meetings was met with mixed opinions.
- **4/5 Networks Northwest** – Due to non-compliance to the open meetings act, no items needing action were brought forward.
- **4/6 Platte Township** – The Ironman competition has been approved by the Township. Township would like to work with BC Solid Waste to coordinate a hazardous waste day for township citizens.
- **4/9 EDC Business Retention** – Committee discussed a budget to be presented to the EDC board. A recommendation on organizational structure will be considered after the Benzie Chamber and BOC have completed their new hires.
- **4/12 Almira Township** – Future township meetings will be held at the Townhall in Lake Ann until further notice. 2 people resigned as fire and EMT personnel. New fire chief is expected to start April 26th.
- **Other** – I have been educating myself on the County's upcoming re-districting task. This will likely be delayed due to the 2020 US Census being delayed. As information only, the committee is made up 5 individuals, County Clerk, Treasurer, Prosecutor, Chair of the local Democratic Party and the Chair of the local Republican Party. Political party chairs will need to find a designee if they find themselves ineligible to serve.