

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 27, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 in the Frank Walterhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Roelofs.

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

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

Agenda:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of April 13, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from April 13, 2021, 2021 thru April 26, 2021 in the amount of \$324,013.81, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, Benzie County Treasurer, stated her office is working on foreclosed properties and escheating checks.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, thanked the Board of Commissioners for the safety glass that was installed. Want to acknowledge Rebecca Hubers and Rick Morris for the hard work they put into this.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resource, provided a written report and gave updates.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Manager, provided a written report and gave updates.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Recycling Coordinator, provided a written report and gave updates.

ACTION ITEMS

Sheriff Patrol Agreements:

Crystal Beach Cottagers: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into contract with Crystal Beach Cottager's Association for 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 4

April 27, 2021

Lake Township: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to enter into contract with Lake Township for 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Village of Beulah: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to enter into contract with the Village of Beulah 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

2% Grant Application – CERT: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Emergency Manager to apply to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a 2% Grant on behalf of the CERT team as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

EMS Billing Contract: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to enter into a contract with Fire Recovery EMS for EMS billing as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Resolution #2021-016 – Marihuana Funds: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to adopt resolution 2021-016 authorizing the use of recreational marihuana funds to be dedicated to address Benzie County's unfunded pension liability as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

Mitch Deisch is to provide the Board of Commissioner with the number of active and retired Benzie County employees, who are under the MER's Defined Benefit plan.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Sauer attended the Gilmore Township meeting, Village of Elberta meeting, Public Defenders Committee meeting, Road Commission meeting and Maple's meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended the Colfax Township meeting and Benzie Bus meeting this afternoon.

Comm Markey attended the meeting with Dan Smith regarding jail inmate phone system RFP's, LAPC meeting, Benzie Senior Resource meeting, LPT meeting, and City of Frankfort meeting.

Comm Nye attended the Benzonia Township meeting, Regional Public Defenders meeting, Grow Benzie Governmental forum, MACC Transportation meeting and Parks and Recreation meeting.

Comm Miller attended the Crystal Lake Township meeting, City of Frankfort meeting, Friends of the Point Betsie Lighthouse meeting, and Airport Authority meeting.

Chairman Roelofs attended the EMS meeting, helped sweep streets for the Village of Lake Ann, and preparing for Memorial Day activities and helping a father place a brick for his son.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

10:08 a.m. Karen Felty, gave Maples updated with visual presentation.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 4

April 27, 2021

10:38 a.m. Renee Olah – Executive Director of Drop-In Center was not present.

10:40 a.m. Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer, to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 115.268(h), to discuss material exempt from disclosure, more particularly a written legal opinion from the County's attorney, which is exempt pursuant to MCL 15.243(1)(g) and pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss grievance settlement. The Board of Commissioners are inviting Undersheriff Greg Hubers, County Administrator Mitch Deisch, and Chief Deputy County Clerk Tammy Bowers, to participate in the session. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried

11:44 a.m. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey to accept the attorney's recommendation and authorize chairman to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mitch Deisch provided written report and gave updates.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1 thru 6 of the April 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Jury Board: Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Janice Mick to the Benzie County Jury Board of a 6-year term to expire on April 30, 2027. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS -None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Cheboygan County resolution supporting of Legislation to adopt 4-year terms for County Commissioner received.
- Iron County resolution supporting Release of Federal COVID Funds received.
- Iron County resolution supporting Delta County's Resolution of Management of Wolves in Michigan received.

11:58 a.m. Public Input - None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Jeannot Motion carried

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 4

April 27, 2021

INDEX

1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of April 13, 2021 as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from April 13, 2021, 2021 thru April 26, 2021 in the amount of \$324,013.81, as presented.
4. Enter into contract with Crystal Beach Cottager's Association for 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Enter into contract with Lake Township for 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Enter into contract with the Village of Beulah 2021 Summer Road Patrol as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Authorize the Emergency Manager to apply to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for a 2% Grant on behalf of the CERT team as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Enter into a contract with Fire Recovery EMS for EMS billing as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
9. Adopt resolution 2021-016 authorizing the use of recreational marihuana funds to be dedicated to address Benzie County's unfunded pension liability as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
10. Go into closed session pursuant to MCL 115.268(h), to discuss material exempt from disclosure, more particularly a written legal opinion from the County's attorney, which is exempt pursuant to MCL 15.243(1)(g) and pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) to discuss grievance settlement. The Board of Commissioners are inviting Undersheriff Greg Hubers, County Administrator Mitch Deisch, and Chief Deputy County Clerk Tammy Bowers, to participate in the session.
11. Accept the attorney's recommendation and authorize chairman to sign.
12. Approve items 1 thru 6, of the April 13, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
13. Reappoint Janice Mick to the Benzie County Jury Board of a 6-year term to expire on April 30, 2027.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
April 27, 2021

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our April 13th meeting.
- **4/15 NMCAA** – There was discussion regarding the statistics for Asset Limited Income Constraint Employed (ALICE) in Benzie County. 38% of the County is identified as an ALICE statistic with 9% being identified as living in poverty, that compares to 38% and 13% respectively for the State of Michigan average. It is anticipated that NMCAA will approach each county they serve for financial assistance from the American Recovery Fund.
I have been approached to consider accepting a seat on the State Board for this organization.
- **4/16 EDC/BRA** – There was a discussion about a proposed budget for the Business Retention Subcommittee. No action taken. The EDC appointed Betsy Evans as our representative for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The EDC has not had representation on this committee in the past. It is funded by Networks Northwest. Ed Kowalski was appointed to represent the EDC on the Benzie County Regional Resiliency Committee. This is a project of Grow Benzie. The grant of \$1k from DTE will be transferred to the Regional Resiliency Fund so that the money can be combined with other money that will benefit qualified Benzie County businesses. I discussed this DTE grant in earlier reports.
- **4/19 BCCC**– The discussion continues on the re-organization of the county chamber. This includes the disposition of the building.
- **Other** – I have arranged meetings for Paula Figura, Chair of the Broadband Subcommittee with Congressman Bergman's office and State Senator VanderWall. The purpose is to brief them on the committee's activities in the event we need their assistance for funding of this initiative.

RECEIVED

APR 19 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

Committee of the Whole

Page 3 of 3

April 13, 2021

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

1. Set the salary range for the next County Administrator between \$77,000.00 and \$88,000.00.
2. Replace the washing machine at the jail, not to exceed \$13,529.00.
3. Approve Budget Amendment request for Betsie Valley Trail in the amount of \$210,000.00.
4. Compensate Rebecca Hubers, \$160.00 per week, for additional IT duties, retroactive back to March 12, 2021, out of a separate line item.
5. Adopt a resolution to use funds received from the recreational marijuana sale to go towards Benzie County's unfunded liability with Municipal Employee Retirement (MER).
6. Approve Budget Amendment request for Circuit Court in the amount of \$874.10.