

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 25, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 25, 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 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 Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Budget Amendment to Action Items. 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 May 11, 2021 as amended, adding line number to Budget Amendment motion on page 2. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, let the board know that she is very busy with the Village of Beulah council activities and tourism.

9:04 a.m. Public Input Closed

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from May 12, 2021 thru May 24, 2021 in the amount of \$284,055.16, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Budget Amendment: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to amend the 2020-2021 Budget as presented in the amount of \$16,500.00:

Increase:

101-851-828.10	Ins and Bonds, Liability and Building	\$16,500.00
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Increase:

101-000-691.00	Fund Balance	\$16,500.00
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Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom King, EMS Director, reported that the ambulances are all running well; COVID is what it is; MMR is set to move forward with billing June 1; EMS Advisory Board is reviewing the Bylaws; have had some staffing changes and looking to hire another part-time EMT and Paramedic.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management Coordinator and 911 Director, provided the board with a report regarding COVID funding; she spoke regarding 911 fee divisions.

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Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, informed the board regarding legislation out there that would really hurt the revenues her office provides to the county; HB 4729 – HB 4732; she asks the board to reach out to our representatives and discourage the passage.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator, provided the board with a written report; he also informed the board of the award of a Scrap Tire Grant for \$6,020; he has added a third tire collection to the schedule for this summer to be held in Thompsonville; grant has not been received yet, will be put on the June 8 agenda and get prior counsel approval before bringing it to the board.

Sheriff Rosa reported that they will be opening up programs that have been delayed due to COVID 19 on June 1; face-to-face meetings will require the wearing of masks; those coming into the building will be fully vaccinated; Seasonal Marine patrol began last weekend.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, stated that they have received \$5,000 from Meals on Wheels America for produce bags; they will be updating their COVID plan with the Health Department; received new counter serving tables at the Gathering Place to have plated meals; have received 300 Project Senior Fresh booklets this year.

10:06 a.m. Chip Johnston, Executive Director with Centra Wellness, provided the board with an annual report and Senator Shirky's Proposed Behavioral Health Plan.

COVID-19 Update: Rebecca Hubers – requests direction from the Board as to face coverings; employers' rules are to follow MIOSHA rules. Discussion from board members.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to direct staff to update the COVID-19 Plan and post the Government Center to comply with the MIOSHDA requirements, current and future. Masks are not required for those who meet the MDHHS guidelines. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Amendment: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to amend the 2020-2021 Budget in the amount of \$16,300 as follows:

Increase:

101-851-828.10	Administrator's Contracted Services	\$16,300
	Hiring Solutions Recruitment Service	

Increase:

101-000-691.00	Fund Balance	\$16,300
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Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Scrap Tire Grant: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to accept the Scrap Tire Grant in the amount of \$6,020.00 and authorize the chair to sign when received, following legal counsel review. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-017 BA Resolution: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt Resolution 2021-017 Resolution of Appreciation for the Hard Work and Dedication by the Building Authority as revised.

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Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:01 a.m. Break

11:08 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairman Roelofs reported that he attended the union negotiations.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller reported on Crystal Lake Township, City of Frankfort, Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse and the Northwest Michigan Regional Task Force.

Comm Nye reported on Benzonia Township, Centra Wellness Board Meeting, Stakeholders of the Outlet Property meeting, Benzonia Village, EDC, Union Negotiations and Parks and Rec.

Comm Markey reported on Benzie Transportation Authority, Centra Wellness Board Meeting and Benzie Senior Resources.

11:25 a.m. Comm Nye excused.

Comm Warsecke reported on the Benzie Transportation Authority special meeting.

Comm Sauer reported on Point Betsie Lighthouse, Weldon Township, Benzie County Road Commission, Village of Elberta and MAC Ag/Tourism.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

- Working on Department Head Evaluations.
- Receive \$1,000 from St. Clair County for businesses negatively impacted by COVID.
- Received new FOIA booklets from Cohl, Stoker & Toskey
- Union Negotiations – have a tentative agreement and will schedule closed session for June 8 or 22.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve items 1-4 of the May 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Benzie Transportation Authority Resignation: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the resignation of Jennifer Kolinske from the Benzie Transportation Authority effective immediately. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

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Betsie Valley Trail Management Council: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to reappoint Paul Bare (expire 4/15/2023), Greg Nowell (expire 4/15/2022) and John Wheeler (expire 4/15/2022) as CLPRA representatives to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council at their request. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Fran Griffin to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council as the Village of Thompsonville representative, with a term to expire April 15, 2023. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

Land Bank Authority: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to reappoint Mark Roper, Vince Edwards and Susan Wenzlick to the Land Bank Authority for a 3-year terms to expire on April 5, 2024. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Livingston County resolution Authorizing Issuance of FOIA Requests on COVID-19 Emergency Rules received.
- Alpena County resolution regarding County Revenue Sharing Fund received.
- Dickinson County resolution regarding State Revenue Sharing Payments received.
- Menominee County resolution regarding State Revenue Sharing Payments received.
- Muskegon County resolution regarding Vaccine Passports received.

11:47 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 11:48 a.m. Ayes: Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Nye Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding Budget Amendment to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of May 11, 2021 as amended.
3. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$284,055.16, as presented.
4. Amended the 2020-2021 Budget as presented in the amount of \$16,500.00.
5. Directed staff to update the COVID-19 Plan and post the Government Center to comply with the MIOHDA requirements, current and future. Masks are not required for those who meet the MDHHS guidelines.
6. Amended the 2020-2021 Budget as presented in the amount of \$16,300.

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7. Accepted the Scrap Tire Grant in the amount of \$6,020.00 and authorize the chair to sign when received, following legal counsel review.
8. Adopted Resolution 2021-017 Resolution of Appreciation for the Hard Work and Dedication by the Building Authority as revised.
9. Approved items 1-4 of the May 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
10. Accepted the resignation of Jennifer Kolinske from the Benzie Transportation Authority effective immediately.
11. Reappointed Paul Bare (expire 4/15/2023), Greg Nowell (expire 4/15/2022) and John Wheeler (expire 4/15/2022) as CLPRA representatives to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council at their request.
12. Reappointed Fran Griffin to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council as the Village of Thompsonville representative, with a term to expire April 15, 2023.
13. Reappointed Mark Roper, Vince Edwards and Susan Wenzlick to the Land Bank Authority for a 3-year terms to expire on April 5, 2024.

Committee of the Whole

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

1. To have the Buildings and Grounds Committee to modernize the Meeting Room Use Policy.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
May 25, 2021

- Participated in 6 meetings on behalf of the County since our May 11th meeting.
- **5/14 NMCAA Executive Committee** – Reviewed RFPs for selection of an audit firm.
- **5/17 NMCA** – The majority of the meeting was spent discussing the process and use of the American Rescue Plan Act monies. It was generally agreed to develop a plan or strategy before allocating any money. There is a need to be sure rules are in place and not subject to change before moving forward. It was suggested that the rules include money does not have to be spent by December 31, 2024. Projects simply need to be identified. More information will be forth coming.
- **5/19 BCCC** – Discussion regarding organizational strategies. No decisions have been made. Action was approved to support Northern Michigan Alliance position regarding “Inclusive Communities”.
- **5/20 Platte Township** – There is concern about the passage of a pending bill in the State Senate regarding gravel pits. The current language suggests taking the approval authority away from the local municipality and placing it with the State of Michigan.
- **5/20 NMCAA** – Mostly administrative activity. I did learn the Senator VanderWall was awarded “Legislator of the Year” by Michigan Community Action at their 2021 legislative day award ceremony.
- **5/21 EDC/BRA** – The discussions centered around needed monies from the county general fund or other available resources for activities such as broadband and sewer enhancements among select communities. Other initiatives were also discussed. No request will be presented to the BOC until after a complete understanding of what the need is and document how it will benefit the county. An RFP was solicited from 30 groups for data collection regarding internet needs. Only one company responded.
- **Other** – On May 12th Paula Figura (broad band committee chair) and I met with a member of Congressman Bergman’s staff to discuss need and progress of the committee. These meetings are to keep our elected officials current on our goals in the event we need their support.

Commissioner Nye and I meet with Michelle Thompson and Katie Zeits on May 21st to learn more about the budgeting process. Our area of interest was revenue, use of general fund surplus and approval of mileage rates. I believe a workshop on this subject would benefit all of us before we, as commissioners, start the budgeting process.

RECEIVED

MAY 24 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617