

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**June 22, 2021**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, in the Frank Walterhouse Board Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Rhonda Nye.

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

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

**Agenda:**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Remonumentation Contract under Action Items and Betsie Valley Trail Appointment under Committee Appointments. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None  
Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of June 8, 2021, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs  
Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the special session minutes of June 11, 2021, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs  
Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the special session minutes of June 15, 2021, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs  
Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, will speak later about disability discrimination.

9:04 a.m. Public Input Closed

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from June 8, 2021, thru June 21, 2021, in the amount of \$431,495.00, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

Budget Amendment: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to amend the 2020-21 budget for Fund 230 Betsie Valley Trail as follows:

Increase:

230-754-539.00	State Grants	\$150,000.00
231-754-585.00	Local Match	\$ 50,000.00

Increase:

230-754-800.00	Contracted Services – Design/Engineering	\$ 10,000.00
230-754-801.00	Contracted Services – Construction	\$190,000.00

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

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Tom King, EMS Director, reported that in May they had 156 requests for service and 148 were Benzie County calls; had to have complete brakes done on one of the vehicles together with new tires, other than that all trucks are in good working condition; Fire Recovery took over the ambulance billing on June 1.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and reported to the board the need for staff for home health care; the Gathering Place will reopen on July 6 with activities limited to one in the morning and one in the afternoon; foot care clinic is tomorrow; they are over 200 Home Delivered Meals per day.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management and 911 Director, publicly recognizes the generous donations from the community members/business owners that contributed to Benzie County Services when resources were needed by way of gloves and masks during the pandemic.  
911 is short staffed, received a resignation notice from a dispatcher; the afternoon shift is overwhelmed; 3 openings in all. Regionalization of 911 was briefly discussed.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Remonumentation Contract: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to enter into a Remonumentation Contract with Crystal Surveying LLC as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

MIOSHA Rules: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to recognize the newly developed MIOSHA rules dated June 20, 2021, that repeals all restrictions that were in place under the Benzie County COVID-19 Plan, Prepare and Respond Plan. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Comm Sauer attended the following meetings: Gilmore Township; Road Commission; Village of Thompsonville, Village of Elberta, School Safety Meeting; LEPC.

Comm Miller attended the following meetings: HR meeting; Frankfort Elberta Area Schools; Buildings & Grounds; City of Frankfort; Crystal Lake Township; Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse.

10:00 a.m. Jeri VanAntwerp and Gwen VanDorp – BACN

Ms. VanAntwerp gave a report to the board and Ms. VanDorp reported to the board about their Building Plan – they have raised \$3.1 of the \$3.5 million needed; construction will begin September 2021 through June 2022; July 26 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. they will hold a Public Kickoff at BACN.

10:13 a.m. Break

10:19 a.m. Reconvene

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS (continued)**

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Comm Markey attended the following meetings: HR; Centra Wellness Board Meeting; Village of Honor; Benzie Senior Resources; LEPC.

Comm Nye attended Benzonia Township; HR; Village of Beulah; Centra Wellness Board Meeting; Special BOC meetings for County Administrator Interviews and Tax Rate; union negotiations.

Comm Warsecke attended Colfax Township; Conservation District; Inland Township; BTA.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

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

The Strategic Plan has been completed and will be placed on the website; Budget meetings are scheduled for July 1 and 7 at 9:00 a.m.; EDC/BRA Special Meeting will be held June 30 regarding the Broadband survey RFP; County Administrator interviews will continue on Friday, June 25 with another applicant; Katie is working with 44North on getting health insurance rates for the budget.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** – No meeting on June 8, 2021

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

BVT: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to acknowledge the appointment of Jen Kennedy as the Village of Elberta appointment to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council for a term expiring August 1, 2022. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Crawford County resolution Supporting 4-Year Terms for Commissioners received.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept minutes of May 26, 2021 received.
- Roscommon County resolution Opposing Secretary of State “By Appointment Only” received.
- Oceana County resolution Opposing COVID-19 Vaccine Passports received.
- Lenawee County resolution Opposing to Gearing Towards Integration Proposal received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority May 2021 Financial Report received.

10:49 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Twp, stated that the presenters today were great.

10:50 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 10:51 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Roelofs Motion carried.

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1. Approved the agenda as amended.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of June 8, 2021, as presented.
3. Approved the special session minutes of June 11, 2021, as presented.
4. Approved the special session minutes of June 15, 2021, as presented.
5. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$431,495.00, as presented.
6. Amended the 2020-21 budget for Fund 230 Betsie Valley Trail in the amount of \$200,000.00 as presented.
7. Approved to enter into a Remonumentation Contract with Crystal Surveying LLC as presented.
8. Approved to recognize the newly developed MIOSHA rules dated June 20, 2021, that repeals all restrictions that were in place under the Benzie County COVID-19 Plan, Prepare and Respond Plan.
9. Acknowledged the appointment of Jen Kennedy as the Village of Elberta appointment to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council for a term expiring August 1, 2022.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**June 22, 2021**

- Participated in 6 meetings on behalf of the County since our June 8th meeting.
- **6/11 County Administrator Interviews** – Attended by all Commissioners.
- **6/14 Almira Township** – EGLE reported on continuing issues regarding soil contamination in parts of Lake Ann Village. It is believed that the issues cannot be resolved without the demolition of the Party Store. EGLE will continue to monitor the sites.
- **6/15 Special Meeting** – Attended by full BOC.
- **6/16 Benzie County Chamber** – The Chamber has re-implemented their after-hours event. It is now referred to as “Off the Clock”. They are working with Networks Northwest to provide programming in Benzie County for a variety of work force development initiatives. I have requested that the Chamber Board work with the agency to identify applicants for the Workforce Development Board. At some point the recommendations will come to the BOC for final support.
- **6/17 Northern MI Community Action Agency** – The program funding for “Weatherization” has been upgraded to include multi-family rentals. The agency has recently hired several staff; however, they continue to have openings for up to 25 additional positions.
- **6/21 Northern MI Counties Association** – Discussion was about board rules and governance. My take away is that Benzie County does a good job organizing itself, following the rules and respecting the positions and dialogue of other board members. This committee will begin meeting in person starting with our July meeting.
- **Other** – I have been in contact with a variety of sources to seek funding for broadband expansion. I anticipate the EDC will bring a request to the BOC for funding also. A position paper is being developed before the request is made. We can anticipate a request up to \$45k to perform a needs survey. We cannot move forward with grant request until this task is completed.

I have taken a number of calls from the public regarding our process on selecting a new Administrator. I have invited them to join us at our Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

RECEIVED

JUN 21 2021

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617