

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**July 13, 2021**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 13, 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 Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended adding Parks & Rec Contract with Gosling Czubak 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 June 22, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the special session minutes of June 25, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the special session minutes of June 30, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve the special session minutes of July 1, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the special session minutes of July 7, 2021 as corrected. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from June 22, 2021 thru July 12, 2021 in the amount of \$517,460.13, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported on the groundbreaking for the Home Stretch project in Honor; she spoke regarding the DTRF & Fund Balance Policy that you will be considering later today, and caution you to not make any determination until the court case is completed, as it is in the timeline for filing an appeal.

## COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 5

July 13, 2021

### ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Kathy Dube, The Maples Administrator, provided a report to the board and those present – they have seen no resident COVID cases since February and one staff COVID case in early June; they still have a mask mandate; they are back to doing outings with the residents; 98% of the residents are vaccinated; the facility is at 85% capacity as of today; HVAC in the old building needs to be replaced; sink hole in the back parking lot needs repaired; roof on the old building needs to be replaced; want to build a new pavilion for the residents close to the new building.

### ACTION ITEMS

2021 CDBG Program Income Program Guidelines: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to adopt the 2021 Benzie County CDBG Program Income Program Guidelines as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

P/R Contract for Services: Reschedule for July 27, 2021 meeting; needs legal counsel review prior to coming back before the board.

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on Health Dept Board of Appeals; Rolling Thunder motorcycles that came through the county last weekend; 911; Culver's Restaurant holding a car show with proceeds going to the DAV.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached); also joined Shelley at the groundbreaking in Honor.

Comm Miller attended and reported on Human Services Collaborative; Frankfort Elberta School Board meeting.

Comm Nye attended and reported on Centra Wellness; Budget meetings; County Administrator Interviews; Health Department; Village of Beulah; ~~Betsie Valley Trail~~ Parks & Recreation; Village of Benzonia; Railroad Point Endowment Fund; new County Administrator negotiations.

Comm Markey attended and reported on Local Planning Team; Centra Wellness; Homestead Township; Dispatch Advisory Board; Northern Michigan Regional Entity Substance Abuse Board; Village of Honor.

Comm Warsecke stated that the committees he attended have been spoken about, has nothing further to add.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on Road Commission; Maples; Court Security; Betsie Valley Trail; Blaine Township; Joyfield Township; Village of Thompsonville.

9:56 a.m. Break

10:02 a.m. Reconvene

Yarrow Brown, Executive Director of Housing North, gave a presentation to the board regarding their program.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 3 of 5**

**July 13, 2021**

Jennifer Berkey, District 3 Director, MSU Extension, presented the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

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

- Friday July 16 at 11:00 – Susan Weslick will provide a presentation on Brownfield related issues
- There has been some interest in other Benzie County Brownfield properties.
- July 26 will be a meeting with EDC/BRA Chair Kowalski regarding the old Bud's in Honor property.
- Contract negotiations next Wednesday for three unions.

Katie Zeits reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> TV having been installed in this room; Thursday she, Rebecca, one other employee and IT Right will meet with the vendor for training on the new system; we are also doing a Zoom upgrade; MAC is meeting in person for their conference on Mackinac Island if anyone is interested, let her know.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve item 1 of the June 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

BVT: Letter received from Village of Elberta regarding Jen Kennedy to the BVT; this board reappointed her last month.

Benzie Bus: One applicant; this board has decided to wait for to see if additional applications come in to be able to hold one interview date.

Land Bank: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to acknowledge that Tom Longanbach is resigning from the Land Bank Authority effective upon replacement being identified. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Letter from State Tax Commission regarding Designated Assessor received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for June 2021 received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for June 2021 received.

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 268(c) for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the FOPLC Deputies union. Requesting that County Administrator Mitch Deisch, HR/Finance Manager Katie Zeits and Sheriff Rosa be included in the closed session discussion. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

## COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 5

July 13, 2021

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to ratify the tentative agreement with the Deputies bargaining unit dated May 24, 2021 and authorize the board chair to sign the new collective bargaining agreement as approved as to form by legal counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:19 am. Recess

11:42 a.m. Reconvene

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to convene a closed session to consult with counsel to review and discuss the ballot for voting to accept or reject the 5<sup>th</sup> amended joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Parma L.P. et al and its affiliated debtors in the case of In Re: Purdue Pharma L.P. et al Case No. 19-23649 pending in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York and other pending legal issues related to Benzie County's involvement as a litigant in In Re: Municipal Opioid Litigation. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

12:20 p.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Markey, to Accept the Fifth Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P and its Affiliated Debtors. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Chairman Roelofs informed the board that the 10:30 scheduled presentation is 15 minutes away – was up at Leelanau County and it ran over. The board stated that her presentation for Broadband should go to the Subcommittee first.

12:23 p.m. Public Input

Annie Browning reported about 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Beulah.

12:24 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

---

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

## INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended adding Parks & Rec Contract with Gosling Czubak to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of June 22, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved the special session minutes of June 25, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved the special session minutes of June 30, 2021 as presented.
5. Approved the special session minutes of July 1, 2021 as presented.
6. Approved the special session minutes of July 7, 2021 as corrected.
7. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$517,460.13, as presented.

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 5 of 5**

**July 13, 2021**

8. Adopted the 2021 Benzie County CDBG Program Income Program Guidelines as presented.
9. Approved item 1 of the June 22, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
10. Acknowledged that Tom Longanbach is resigning from the Land Bank Authority effective upon replacement being identified.
11. Entered into closed session pursuant to MCL 268(c) for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the FOPLC Deputies union.
12. Ratified the tentative agreement with the Deputies bargaining unit dated May 24, 2021 and authorize the board chair to sign the new collective bargaining agreement as approved as to form by legal counsel.
13. Convened a closed session to consult with counsel to review and discuss the ballot for voting to accept or reject the 5th amended joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P. et al and its affiliated debtors in the case of In Re: Purdue Pharma L.P. et al Case No. 19-23649 pending in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York and other pending legal issues related to Benzie County's involvement as a litigant in In Re: Municipal Opioid Litigation.
14. Accepted the Fifth Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P. and its Affiliated Debtors.

**Art Jeannot  
Commissioner Report  
July 13, 2021**

- Participated in 8 meetings on behalf of the County since our June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
- **6/24 Housing Committee** – Approved expenses and program guidelines. Program guidelines will be presented to the BOC for their approval at future meeting.
- **6/25 Administrator Interviews** – Attended by full BOC.
- **6/30 EDC** – Action was taken to recommend to the BOC to approve contracting for data collection regarding broadband and to fund the associated cost. This should be on the July 27<sup>th</sup> BOC agenda.
- **6/30 Administrator Interview** – Attended by full BOC.
- **7/1 Budget Meeting** – Attended by full BOC.
- **7/1 Lake Township** – Discussion about applying for ARPA funds and possible use. Also discussed blockage of water at mouth of Platte River due to rocks piling up.
- **7/6 Platte Township** – Approved Ironman resolution. Expressed concern about having the State of MI with final approval of gravel pits (SB 431) and short-term rentals (SB 446). Discussion about applying for ARPA funds and possible use.
- **7/12 Almira Township** – I will discuss any relevant information at our BOC meeting.
- **Other** –

**RECEIVED**

JUL 08 2021

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617