

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 10, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, August 10, 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 Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of July 27, 2021, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE – No report provided.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom King, EMS, spoke about the Letter of Understanding for the Iron Man Race.

Rebecca Hubers, 911 Central Dispatch and Emergency Management, provided a written report and stated that she was at a Northern Michigan 911 meeting, and everyone is having staff issues. There will be no State of Michigan 911 fund shortages; about ½ the 911 calls last month were accidental dials; September 9 there will be an Advisory Board subcommittee meeting regarding space needs.

ACTION ITEMS

Railroad Point Lease: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to adopt the Lease #PRD-L-004-2021 between the State of Michigan and Benzie County effective October 15, 2021, for a Railroad Point boating access site, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Professional Contract for Services: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to enter into contract with Gosling Czubak to provide design and consulting services for the Railroad Point boat launch site, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Land Acquisition: Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt resolution 2021-020 Land Acquisition Resolution accepting the terms of the Agreement TF20-0140 between MNRTF and Benzie County, as presented, contingent on legal counsel review. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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County Admin Employment Contract: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the three-year employment contract with Katelyn Zeits as County Administrator, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FOPLC Grievance #358: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to appoint the County Administrator to serve as the Labor Subcommittee designee regarding step 3 of the FOPLC grievance #358. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

POAM Union LOU: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Benzie County and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) to adjust the pay scale for Special Deputy - Corrections, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Benzie County EMS & World Triathlon Corporation LOU: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to enter into a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Benzie EMS and World Triathlon Corporation for services on September 12, 2021, in conjunction with the 2021 Ironman Race, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on meetings with administrative staff; Veterans Affairs; Almira Township Historical Society Fund Raiser.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Miller attended and reported on Friends of Point Betsie and Frankfort Elberta Schools.

Comm Nye attended and reported on two Centra Wellness meetings; Benzie Leelanau Health Dept; Benzie Transportation interviews; Village of Benzonia; County Administrator contract; Land Bank; Village of Beulah.

Comm Markey attended and reported on Benzie Transportation interviews; Homestead Township; Centra Wellness and Village of Honor.

Comm Warsecke attended and reported on Inland Township and Benzie Central Schools.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on Benzie Leelanau Health Dept; Benzie County Road Commission; Betsie Valley Trail; Joyfield, Blaine and Village of Thompsonville.

10:17 a.m. Break

10:22 a.m. Reconvene

Marilyn Passmore, Charter Communications Government Affairs Director, updated the board regarding the broadband initiative that Charter has started in Benzie County.

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mitch Deisch thanked those involved in the interview and hiring process of Katie as new County Administrator; he was also thankful for this transition period.

Katie Zeits reported that the Designated Assessor contract has been filed with the State of Michigan and the state will recommend approval on August 17.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to approve items 1 - 6 of the July 27, 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

EMS: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to waive the board rules regarding committee appointments and move to appoint Steve Adams to the vacant seat on the Benzie EMS Advisory Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2023. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to reinstate the board rules. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Benzie Bus: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to appoint the following individuals to the Benzie Transportation Authority as follows: Jeannette Feeheley with a term to expire 4/30/2022; Chris Kitchen with a term to expire 4/30/2024; Dorene Strang with a term to expire 4/30/2024. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Notice of Intent to Prepare Update to the Almira Township Master Plan received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of May 24, 2021, received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of June 28, 2021, received.
- Betsie Valley Trailways Management Council minutes of June 1, 2021, received.
- Letter from Dillon Rosa received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for July 2021 received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for July 2021 received.

11:30 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, spoke regarding her duties with the Village of Beulah and enforcement of ordinances and regulations.

11:31 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 11:32 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of July 27, 2021, as presented.
3. Adopted the Lease #PRD-L-004-2021 between the State of Michigan and Benzie County effective October 15, 2021, for a Railroad Point boating access site, as presented.
4. Entered into contract with Gosling Czubak to provide design and consulting services for the Railroad Point boat launch site, authorizing the chair to sign.
5. Adopted resolution 2021-020 Land Acquisition Resolution accepting the terms of the Agreement TF20-0140 between MNRTF and Benzie County, as presented, contingent on legal counsel review.
6. Approved the three-year employment contract with Katelyn Zeits as County Administrator, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Appointed the County Administrator to serve as the Labor Subcommittee designee regarding step 3 of the FOPLC grievance #358.
8. Approved the Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Benzie County and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) to adjust the pay scale for Special Deputy - Corrections, authorizing the chair to sign.
9. Approved to enter into a Letter of Understanding (LOU) between Benzie EMS and World Triathlon Corporation for services on September 12, 2021, in conjunction with the 2021 Ironman Race, authorizing the chair to sign.
10. Approved items 1 - 6 of the July 27, 2021, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Approved to waive the board rules regarding committee appointments and move to appoint Steve Adams to the vacant seat on the Benzie EMS Advisory Board with a term to expire on December 31, 2023.
12. Reinstated the board rules.
13. Appointed the following individuals to the Benzie Transportation Authority as follows: Jeannette Feeheley with a term to expire 4/30/2022; Chris Kitchen with a term to expire 4/30/2024; Dorene Strang with a term to expire 4/30/2024.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
August 10, 2021

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our July 27th meeting.
- **8/2 Counsel of Governments –**
 - Discussion regarding ARPA funds and how participating counties may use them. Some counties are in the process of making decision while others are taking the same approach as Benzie County.
 - Networks Northwest has applied for a grant to assist MI Counties develop a needs study for broadband. The county would need to participate financially using a match of 20% to fund the study. This is still being developed by Networks Northwest.
 - Townships were given an extension to apply for ARPA funds. No specific deadline was established as of August 2nd.
- **8/2 Networks Northwest –** A presentation was held regarding financial performance of the agency, Regional Health Care Coalition, Ironman competition and opioid crisis.
 - Networks Northwest was awarded a \$1.2M grant to help with the opioid crisis through professional counseling.
- **8/5 Platte Township –** Township has applied for ARPA funds. Use of funds have not been decided. Paul Soma (Supervisor) will contact Katie Zeits to attend a future meeting. The “Joint Planning Commission” has selected SRP Designs to update their master plan.
- **8/5 Lake Township –** Township has applied for ARPA funds. Use of funds has not been decided. I have agreed to ask Katie Zeits to contact Anna Grobe (Supervisor) for a meet and greet.
- **8/9 Almira Township –** I will provide any relevant information at the BOC meeting.
- **Other –** I met with Benzie County Road Commission to discuss speed limit postings on M22 in Lake Township. The request is to lower the limit to 35MPH. I was joined by Matt Skeels (BCRC), Dan Wagoner (MDOT), Anna Grobe (Lake Township). This was as a result of a petition signed by 50+ property owners on that stretch of road. Thanks to Matt for inviting in MDOT on that discussion. Lake Township and the Sheriff's office have agreed to write letters of support.