

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 14, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 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 Markey, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of August 24, 2021 as corrected. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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

9:05 a.m. Public Input

Linda Raiser spoke regarding the ACO.

Mike Hennessee spoke regarding the ACO.

Dillon Rosa spoke regarding the ACO.

9:15 a.m. Public Input Closed

PUBLIC HEARING FOR SETTING OF THE 2021-22 BUDGET

Katie Zeits, County Administrator, spoke briefly regarding the 2021-22 Budget which has been provided to the Board members.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to open the public hearing to set the 2021-22 Budget as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Input –None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to close the public hearing and set the 2021-22 budget on the County Clerk's Counter for public inspection for 10 days. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from August 25, 2021 thru September 14, 2021 in the amount of \$388,322.37, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to allow the county treasurer to interfund borrow up to \$1,000,000 to balance cash for the 2021-21 fiscal year. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management Coordinator and 911, reported that the Iron Man is complete; they had calls for service to both participants and public; still have two open positions in dispatch.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Coordinator, provided a written report to the board.

ACTION ITEMS

MERS Purchase Time: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the request of Jennifer Tang-Anderson to purchase additional 3 years of MERS time at no expense to the county, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Ragnar Relay contract with Sheriff: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to enter into Agreement with Ragnar Relay Service and the Benzie County Sheriff, as presented authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-021 DTRF to GF: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to adopt resolution 2021-021 authorizing transfer of Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Administration Fees to General Fund in the amount of \$90,000 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-022 DTRF to GF: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt resolution 2021-022 authorizing transfer of Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds to General Fund for Capital Improvements Projects in the amount of \$290,000 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Veteran's Affairs Grant Agreement: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and Benzie County in the amount of 62,999.00 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

County Administrator Authorization to make budget transfers: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to authorize the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2020/2021 budget for all funds. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-023 ORV/ATV Map Amendment: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adopt resolution 2021-023 recognizing Colfax Township changes and amending the Benzie County ORV/ATV Official map as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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NetLink Copier Lease: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to execute a lease agreement with TEAM Financial Group for a period of 60 months for copy machines in County Administration and Equalization, lease subject to approval as to its substance and form by legal counsel, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairman Roelofs reported on attending the special board meeting; three union negotiation meetings; Buildings & Grounds and Veterans Affairs.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Miller reported on attending the special board meeting; Buildings & Grounds; Iron Man; Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse; Frankfort Elberta School Board; Iron Man was a huge success.

Comm Nye reported that she attended the special board meeting ;union negotiations; Centra Wellness Executive and full board meetings; Benzonia Township; Village of Beulah and Village of Benzonia.

Comm Markey also attended the special board meeting; Benzie Central Schools special meeting; Homestead Township; Centra Wellness Board meeting; 911 Advisory subcommittee meeting; 911 Advisory Board as well; Northern Michigan Regional Entity (NMRE); Village of Honor.

Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the special meeting and Inland township.

Comm Sauer reported on the Maples; Joyfield Township, Blaine Township, Buildings/Grounds; MAC workers comp; Betsie Valley Trail special meeting for Iron Man; Village of Thompsonville; Road Commission.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

- Maples Subcommittee: Three commissioners appointed to serve this committee to have a joint meeting to discuss various topics: Sauer, Jeannot and Warsecke appointed
- ACO Millage Discussion: To be discussed following closed session to allow adequate time.
- Authorization to serve as Labor Subcommittee for Step 3 Grievances: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to authorize the County Administrator to serve as labor subcommittee to handle Step 3 of this specific grievance regarding termination of a corrections officer as requested. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:08 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Reconvene

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into closed session under MCL 15.268(c) for FOLPC General Unit contract negotiations with attorney Matt Nordfjord. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:30 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to ratify the Tentative Agreement with FOPLC General Unit as presented and authorize the chair to sign the collective bargaining agreement following approval as to form by legal counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Animal Control Discussions: Katie Zeits, County Administrator, recaps the matter. At this time \$132,000 +/- is needed to fund the department fully; the AWL has offered to donate a sum of money to fund salaries; we need to have an Agreement in place with the AWL to memorialize the relationship and those expectations before accepting those funds; an effort was made to save some money by letting go of one part-time employee so we will see some savings here; could run with two full time employees and have the shelter open 7 days per week one employee would work Monday-Friday the other Wednesday-Sunday and be open 8 hours per day.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, desire for moving forward – obviously we want what is best for the department; the millage does not fully cover the operations and the balance comes from fund balance and donations throughout the year. Currently open Monday, Wednesday, Friday.

Comm Markey asks what the AWL normally does for ACO? Norma Eason, AWL, quoted up to \$120,000 to give to ACO to keep it open as it was, with part time to be rehired – that is the only way it will work – not a loan, it is a gift and will not take away what they normally would give to the ACO.

Comm Jeannot is challenged with the community coming up with the dollars that is a county responsibility. Need to look internally before we accept the contribution.

Ms. Zeits stated there is the borrowing from DTRF and there is also the fund balance.

Comm Sauer asked if we could reevaluate the millage for a short time? He also stated that he appreciates the AWL offer but is reluctant to accept.

Comm Jeannot is more in favor of borrowing from DTRF and repayment being a percentage of the surplus so you always have the ability to pay something.

Ms. Zeits stated that she understands from this discussion is that we are going to borrow the money from DTRF and fully fund the ACO; we need to discuss how do we address the shelter only being open 3 days per week.

Comm Nye agrees that we need to memorialize the agreement with AWL also thinks that the reorganization is something that needs consideration especially if it allows the community greater access to the shelter.

Ms. Zeits stated that she will update the budget page to show the funds from DTRF and keep the budget as is; we will have more discussion about ACO and work on some type of agreement with AWL – we need that document. If you want to see restructuring and the building being open more than 3 days – Comm Jeannot suggests you meet with the ACO Advisory board. Reorganization is a management right.

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve items 1-5 of the August 24, 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

SWAC: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to suspend the rules for appointments to boards and appoint Samantha Wolfe to fill the vacancy on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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

EDC/BRA Resignation: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to accept the resignation of Courtney Gillison from the EDC/BRA with regrets. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Board of Canvassers: Maureen Jeannot and Jan Miller elected by the Board of Commissioners to serve 4 years on the Board of Canvassers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Health Dept Discussion: Comm Warsecke stated that perhaps we could take some of the funds for BLHD for ACO; who pays for the attorney that Lisa Peacock takes to all of the meetings with her.

Comm Sauer would prefer to wait until after the Health Dept meeting on September 22 in Leelanau County at 2:00 p.m. to take any action; would like to see that play out first to see if there is any action or guidance there.

Chair Roelofs says right or wrong there is a board of health for a reasons; the decision was made by the Health Officer on her own because there was no time for a meeting; that board should have had their say in this.

Comm Warsecke agrees with Comm Sauer to wait until after the board meeting.

Comm Miller stated that a majority of the cases in the hospital are testing positive, but they are there for other reasons or other surgeries, not due to COVID.

Comm Nye says we have a right to answers; when will it be looked at again, when will the mandate be lifted.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority Financial Statements for June and July 2021 received.
- Grand Traverse County resolution in Support of Vaccine Awareness and Medical Autonomy received.
- State Tax Commission letter regarding approval of Designated Assessor received.
- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council minutes of July 6, 2021 received.
- Little Platte Lake elevation report for August 2021 received.
- Crystal Lake elevation report for August 2021 received.
- Letter in support of Lisa Peacock received from Sue Jennings.

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- Letter in support of the Health Dept received from Ralph Hall.
- Email received from Rev. Steven B Thompson regarding Zoom.
- Email in support of the Health Dept received from Barbara Smith.
- Roscommon County resolution Opposing Proposed Legislative Changes to the Current Mental Health Systems received.

11:17 a.m. Public Input

Linda Raiser, spoke regarding ACO volunteers – there are currently two volunteers.

Jordan Wallaker stated that restructuring to two full-time officers isn't an efficient way to operate; need ACO millage increase.

Mike Hennesee, open the shelter more – absolutely right; look at how it is operated, one person running the office doesn't work; they lock the door so people don't come in when they are in the back cleaning.

Norma Eason, we built the building and have been there since 1975; we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Nikki Brown, VP Benzie School Board, here for herself; thank you each of you to keep the conversation going; when can we remove the mandates.

Rebecca Knapp, on the of the part-time employees at ACO; work every weekend and each holiday so that the officers can be with their families and do their own things.

Dillon Rosa, stated that restructuring schedule will not work, this is not right; you can't do this with one person; it is asinine to not accept a donation; we need our receptionist back.

11:33 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 11:34 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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 August 24, 2021 as corrected.
3. Approved the special session minutes of September 1, 2021 as presented.
4. Public hearing held for setting of the 2021-2022 Budget – no public comment; DRAFT budget will sit on the County Clerk's counter for 10 days for public inspection.
5. Approved payment of the bills from August 25, 2021 thru September 14, 2021 in the amount of \$388,322.37, as presented.
6. Authorized the county treasurer to interfund borrow up to \$1,000,000 to balance cash for the 2021-21 fiscal year.
7. Approved the request of Jennifer Tang-Anderson to purchase additional 3 years of MERS time at no expense to the county, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Authorized to enter into Agreement with Ragnar Relay Service and the Benzie County Sheriff, as presented authorizing the chair to sign.

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9. Adopted resolution 2021-021 authorizing transfer of Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Administration Fees to General Fund in the amount of \$90,000 as presented.
10. Adopted resolution 2021-022 authorizing transfer of Delinquent Tax Revolving Funds to General Fund for Capital Improvements Projects in the amount of \$290,000 as presented.
11. Approved the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and Benzie County in the amount of 62,999.00 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
12. Authorized the County Administrator to make budget transfers between departments to balance the 2020/2021 budget for all funds.
13. Adopted resolution 2021-023 recognizing Colfax Township changes and amending the Benzie County ORV/ATV Official map as presented.
14. Approved to execute a lease agreement with TEAM Financial Group for a period of 60 months for copy machines in County Administration and Equalization, lease subject to approval as to its substance and form by legal counsel, authorizing the chair to sign.
15. Authorized the County Administrator to serve as labor subcommittee to handle Step 3 of this specific grievance regarding termination of a corrections officer as requested.
16. Entered into closed session under MCL 15.268(c) for FOLPC General Unit contract negotiations with attorney Matt Nordfjord.
17. Authorized to ratify the Tentative Agreement with FOPLC General Unit as presented and authorize the chair to sign the collective bargaining agreement following approval as to form by legal counsel.
18. Approved items 1-5 of the August 24, 2021, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
19. Suspended the rules for appointments to boards and appointed Samantha Wolfe to fill the vacancy on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
20. Reinstated the board rules.
21. Accepted the resignation of Courtney Gillison from the EDC/BRA with regrets.
22. Maureen Jeannot and Jan Miller elected by the Board of Commissioners to serve 4 years on the Board of Canvassers.

**Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
September 14, 2021**

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our August 24th meeting.
- **9/1 BOC Special Meeting** – Attended by all Commissioners.
- **9/2 Platte Township** – No issues to report on.
- **9/2 Lake Township** –
 - Matt Skeel made a presentation to update the Board on Benzie County Road Commission activity.
 - An update on the Ironman Competition was given.
- **9/13 Almira Township** – I will provide any relevant information at the meeting.
- **Other** –
 - **9/1** – I attended the County Apportionment meeting. This task is scheduled to be completed by October 11th. Meetings are scheduled every Wednesday beginning September 15th at 5:30pm to complete this task on time. More detail can be found at the County website.
 - **9/3** – I attended the special Benzie Central School Board meeting remotely.
 - **9/9** – Attended remotely the Leelanau BOC special meeting.

RECEIVED

SEP 10 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617