

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 28, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 28, 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 and Warsecke
Excused: Commissioner Sauer

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 Maples to Elected Officials and Department Head Reports, also to Action Items A-1 Maples. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of September 14, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to approve the closed session minutes of September 14, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from September 15, 2021 thru September 27, 2021 in the amount of \$348,190.95, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and reported that they have adopted their FY 2021-22 Budget; they still are having staffing concerns.

Tom King, EMS, reported on vehicles, education, COVID-19; new ambulance delivery date set for June 2022; Ironman was successful; researching to determine if we should have three units on for 24 hours per day. Building – still looking at options.

Rebecca Hubers, 911 Central Dispatch and Emergency Management, provided a written report.

Megan Garza, Maples HR, spoke regarding the influx of applications they have received over the last three weeks; their COVID expenses to date \$996,400; received a 5 Star rating; 90% of the residents recommend the Maples facility to family and friends; 70.6% of the employees are fully vaccinated; all but two residents are vaccinated.

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Karen Felty, Maples Finance Director, spoke regarding potential changes to the millage; the old building needs a lot of work, in excess of \$1 million; requests that you continue the conversation and not make a decision today.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, provides the board with information regarding the fund balance in the Building Dept and whether there are sufficient funds to pay the additional billing from the Health Dept for the scanning project.

No action taken.

ACTION ITEMS

Maples Finances: Michelle Thompson explains the spreadsheet she has prepared show amounts assessed with millage remaining the same and millage rate being reduced; suggests that we start now with reduction of the millage to .4500.

Comm Jeannot stated that the goal was to give back to the taxpayer part of the refinancing of the debt. Only 7 years remaining on this debt.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to accept the recommendation of the subcommittee for Capital Improvements at the old building at the Maples. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Government Center Cleaning Contract: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to enter into a three-year contract with Signature Services, Benzonia LLC in the monthly amount of \$4,100.00 for cleaning services as described in the bid dated September 20, 2021, such contract 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 and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Appropriations Act for 2021/2022 Budget:

Comm Warsecke shares his concerns with the health department funding; not comfortable giving them those dollars; perhaps we should use the funds for ACO rather than borrowing for them.

Comm Jeannot is not prepared to withholding funding for the health department long-term for retribution or punishment.

Comm Nye feels we need more information; do not support the increase, do support putting the funding into contingency.

Health Dept requested 3.2% increase in their allocation from us, and they are providing 3.3% wage increases to the health dept employees.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to put into contingency \$125,000 to the Health Department until we get answers. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the 2021/2022 General Appropriation Act and Budget as corrected, Maples Millage reduction and total mills for the county, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

10:24 a.m. Recess

10:30 a.m. Reconvene

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Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into closed session as authorized under MCL 15.268(c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy regarding negotiation of three collective bargaining agreements, with Attorney Matt Nordfjord. Closed session to include County Administrator Katie Zeits and County Clerk Dawn Olney. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

11:17 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to ratify the package proposals ratified by the unions for the EMS Unit; Corrections Unit; 911 Unit and authorize the Board Chair to sign the successor collective bargaining agreements upon approval as to form by the County's attorney. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to pre-ratify a package proposal with the COAM Units generally consistent with the proposals made by the County in 2021 and the re-opener for 2020, contingent upon the COAM units ratifying the package on or before the payroll ending October 16, 2021. If this occurs, the Board Chair is authorized to sign the successor collective bargaining agreements upon approval as to form by the County's attorney. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Appendix A

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to exclude premium pay stipend for the Register of Deeds for passport processing. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the Appendix A – Elected Official Salaries for 2022 with change in Register of Deeds salary. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Appendix B: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adopt the Appendix B – Appointed Officials Salaries 2021/2022 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Appendix C: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt the Appendix C Per Diem and Mileage for 2021/2022 as corrected, removing Road Commission from list and correcting date for Per Diem rate increase. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Employee Roster: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to adopt the Employee Roster for 2021/2022 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

L-4029: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the L-4029 Tax Rates for 2022 with correction to the MCF Bond being reduced to .4500. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

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COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported that he attended the EMS meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and reported that the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse will be receiving \$5.1 million dollars for improvements thanks to Senator VanderWall.

Comm Miller reported that he attended the City of Frankfort; Crystal Lake Township; ACO/AWL; Airport Authority was cancelled; attended the Maples Subcommittee meeting for Comm Warsecke.

Comm Nye reported that she attended the Centra Wellness Planning & Finance meeting; EDC; Health Department; Parks & Recreation and ACO.

Comm Markey attended Centra Wellness townhall meeting; Benzie Senior Resources; LEPC; ACO/AWL; LPT; Centra Wellness All Staff Day.

Comm Warsecke thanked Comm Miller for attending the Maples Subcommittee meeting in his place.

Comm Sauer was not in attendance and did provide a written report (attached).

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katelyn Zeits

Ms. Zeits provided a written report and reported that she has been working with Animal Control for possible restructuring, formalize agreement with the Animal Welfare League; review of the Animal Control Ordinance; Broadband Data Collection Survey; EDC/BRA; she has received four applications for the open position in the Administrator Office. Benzie County has received in excess of \$56,281 refund from Michigan County Workers Compensation – we should consider budgeting for it. DRAFT Projected Capital Improvements 5-year Plan – would like to prioritize these items before we start spending any money on these items.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No meeting on September 14, 2021.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Tuscola County resolution to Exempt Certain Counties from Recently Updated Open Meetings Act (OMA) received.
- Parks & Recreation minutes of July 26, 2021 received.
- BACN groundbreaking announcement received.
- Written Public Input provided by Anne Noah at 8:20 a.m. Sept 28, 2021.

12:27 p.m. Public Input

Karen Felty, Maples Finance Director, spoke regarding the Workers Comp refund.

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Dodie Putney, Benzie Leelanau Health Dept, says thank you for serving as county commissioners – this was the first year we have had real discussions with finances. October 1 the Health Dept will be celebrating 25 years.

Annie Browning, Benzonia, appreciated the presentations from Dept Heads and Elected Officials; she will be on the agenda at the next meeting to talk about Domestic Violence.

12:32 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 12:32 p.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Sauer Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding Maples to Elected Officials and Department Head Reports, also to Action Items A-1 Maples.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of September 14, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of September 14, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$348,190.95, as presented.
5. Accepted the recommendation of the subcommittee for Capital Improvements at the old building at the Maples.
6. Approved to enter into a three-year contract with Signature Services, Benzonia LLC in the monthly amount of \$4,100.00 for cleaning services.
7. Approved to put into contingency \$125,000 to the Health Department until we get answers.
8. Adopted the 2021/2022 General Appropriation Act and Budget as corrected, Maples Millage reduction and total mills for the county, authorizing the chair to sign.
9. Entered into closed session as authorized under MCL 15.268(c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy regarding negotiation of three collective bargaining agreements, with Attorney Matt Nordfjord.
10. Ratified the package proposals ratified by the unions for the EMS Unit; Corrections Unit; 911 Unit and authorize the Board Chair to sign.
11. Approved to pre-ratify a package proposal with the COAM Units generally consistent with the proposals made by the County in 2021 and the re-opener for 2020, contingent upon the COAM units ratifying the package on or before the payroll ending October 16, 2021.
12. Approved to exclude premium pay stipend for the Register of Deeds for passport processing.
13. Adopted the Appendix A – Elected Official Salaries for 2022 with change in Register of Deeds salary.
14. Adopted the Appendix B – Appointed Officials Salaries 2021/2022 as presented.
15. Adopted the Appendix C Per Diem and Mileage for 2021/2022 as corrected, removing Road Commission from list and correcting date for Per Diem rate increase.
16. Adopted the Employee Roster for 2021/2022 as presented.
17. Adopted the L-4029 Tax Rates for 2022 with correction to the MCF Bond being reduced to .4500.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
September 28, 2021

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our September 14th meeting.
- **9/16 Northern MI Community Action Agency**– Weatherization Project is getting greater emphasis as we move into the cooler temperatures. Benzie Housing Committee participates in this program.
- **9/17 EDC/BRA** – Commissioner Nye and myself attended this meeting.
 - Benzie County EDC has received an additional grant from DTE in the amount of \$2k to provide assistance to local businesses or services. These funds are restricted to COVID related issues. Previously we leveraged our funds with Venture North to get a bigger benefit for Benzie County. We are currently reviewing the success of that last grant before we engage Venture North with this latest funding.
 - Discussed the Merit contract for broadband surveying. Currently they are scheduled to start data collection November 15th. This task is expected to take up to 12 weeks. Merit expects to survey up to 12k households with about a 4% return. Diversity of households is critical. A variety of methods are being considered to reach the public. This includes equipping County Commissioners with talking points to be discussed with their respective districts.
 - Susan Wenzlick gave a presentation on how to leverage brownfield properties as a tool for economic development. This would include partnering with the Landbank. There are 1-2 initiatives in the exploratory stages that may become reality at a later date.
- **9/22 Benzie County Chamber of Commerce** –
 - The chamber will be discussing their strategic plan before year end. They still need to address what the chamber will look like post-Convention and Visitors Bureau.
 - A 4th recreational marijuana dispensary will be opening in Benzie County. It will be located next to A Papano's in Beulah.
- **9/24 Maples Board** – A meeting with the full Maples Board (DHHS) is scheduled for Friday, September 24th. Commissioners Warsecke, Sauer and I have been appointed to represent the Benzie County Board of Commissioners. This will be subject to the Open Meetings Act. A complete recap of the meeting will be provided.
- **Other** –
 - I joined the September 22nd meeting by phone. Commissioners Sauer and Nye will be reporting on this in their capacity as appointed board members.
 - Senator VanderWall secured \$5.1M dollars for Pointe Betsie Lighthouse improvements.

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SEP 22 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617

9-15 Central Wellness Townhall Meeting

State Representatives Jack O'Malley and Mary Whiteford discussed Behavioral Health Redesign.

9-16 Village of Elberta. Proceeding with rate increases for water and sewer to cover loan or grant requirements from EAGLE or USDA.


9-20 School Safety Committee. Masks seem to be no problem, shortage of bus drivers both local and for TBA. Review of truancy policy. Lock down drills and boot key to remove door boots needed.

9-20 LEPC Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Networks Northwest to facilitate with grant 2 year process.

9-22 Health Board Meeting. Passionate discussion on Masks from parents. Some facts from Dr. Meyerson on reason for Health Order was given. Discussed process and once again reminded who has the authority. Lisa Peacock not present for meeting. Asked about intergovernmental agreement was told by attorney this document has no teeth, would like our legal to review and maybe revise. Also reminded that cutbacks in funding or authority will be met with legal action. Requested more involvement from Health Board not sure about response will know more later. The state budget has wording that will take the mask mandate away from the Health Department, could be signed or line item vetoed by governor.

9-23 Road Commission Budget approved for 2021-2022. Increase in permits for Charter to install fiber in road rite away lots of action all over county. New Employee Rodent control specialist (cat) taken care of by employees huge problem with mice.

9-23 Maples Increase in applications for employment almost fully staffed in housekeeping, kitchen help, and CENA's. Still short in nursing staff. DHHS mask mandate in effect and only 20% of staff in the office (3 employees) Census 86% today and 83% year to date.


District 7

RECEIVED

SEP 24 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617