

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 12, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 21, 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 Sauer
Excused: Warsecke

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

Agenda:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the agenda as amended, adding B-Amend Public Input Policy, C-Sheriff Rosa Email and D-FOIA Appeal to Action Items; and SRO discussion to New Business. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of September 28, 2021 as amended. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the closed session minutes of September 28, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from September 28, 2021 thru October 11, 2021 in the amount of \$495,683.95, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke
Motion carried.

County Treasurer Michelle Thompson reported that the auditors were here last week doing preliminary work and will return in December.

PUBLIC HEARING – ECLIPSE COMMUNICATIONS CLOSE OUT CDBG LOAN FUNDS

Laura Galbraith, Venture North President, here for a Public Hearing on the Close Out of CDBG Loan Funds for Eclipse Communications, successfully completed their project; \$70,000 loan; have completed all portions of the loan and have met compliance; two additional full-time positions; funds were used to purchase additional equipment for business expansion.
\$156,000 is left in the Benzie County CDBG loan fund; actively looking for Benzie County business looking for additional capital.

Open Public Hearing
No comments from the 7 individuals present.
Closed Public Hearing

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Motion by Miller, seconded by Markey, to close out the CDBG Loan with reference to Eclipse Communications and Venture North. Roll Call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Judge Mead reported that he was able to hold his first jury trial in 2 years; for jury selection the commissioners' room was used for selection and it worked out well – thank you, appreciate the ability to use this room.

Karen Felty, Finance Director at the Maples, provided an August statistics report; they have received a MMRMA grant for security cameras; they are at 83% occupancy.

ACTION ITEMS

EMPG Work Agreement for FY 2022: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the 2022 EMPG Work Agreement and the FY 2021 Grant Agreement (reimbursement) with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Public Input Policy: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to amend the Public Input Policy by adding the sentence: The Board will not be accepting public comment via zoom/online. Roll Call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Sheriff Rosa Email: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to direct Administration to contact legal counsel and potentially the auditors to determine what the consequence of this transaction is and what the opportunities are to make this a lawful transaction. The transaction is the unapproved sale by the Sheriff of county property (firearms). Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

FOIA Appeal: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to accept the FOIA appeal from Eric VanDussen and process accordingly, authorizing the Chair to sign the response. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported that there will be a Veterans Service at Memorial Park at 1 p.m. on November 11; met with Rep O'Malley regarding various items.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Miller attended the Frankfort Elberta School Board meeting.

Comm Nye attended the Centra Wellness Executive Meeting; Village of Benzonia.

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Comm Markey has been meeting with the county administrator looking at amendments to the EMS Bylaws; attended Homestead Township meeting; Centra Wellness Community Services & Relations Committee meeting; Village of Honor.

Comm Sauer reported that he attended the MAC Conference; Betsie Valley Trail; Ironman After Event Review; Joyfield Twp; Village of Thompsonville; attended a lock down at Betsie Valley School.

Comm Nye reported that Thursday, October 14 at 4:00 p.m. at Mills Community House, will be a presentation from the Nugent Family regarding family farming and the history of it in Benzie County.

10:03 a.m. Annie Browning, Beulah – gave a presentation regarding Domestic Violence

10:28 a.m. Chuck Clarke, Point Betsie Lighthouse – Shoreline Protection Bid for Engineering Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to authorize the County Clerk and Board Chair be authorized to execute an agreement with Barr Engineering Company for the completion of the final engineering and specification plans for the Shoreline Protection System project at Point Betsie in the amount of \$228,310, with general oversight and administration to be performed by Barr Engineering Company in an additional not-to-exceed amount of \$134,860, with funds to be provided by reimbursement to Benzie County in their entirety by the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, Inc. and further that the County Administrator be authorized to sign change orders for this project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katlyn Zeits

- Met with Mitch Deisch, Paula Figura and Merit to finalize documents for the broadband feasibility study.
- HR/Finance interviews tomorrow afternoon with three applicants.
- We are finalizing the final two collective bargaining agreements.
- BS&A Timesheet program – she has asked BS&A to reduce the cost.
- Friday we will be having a Chili Cookoff.
- Zoom has been upgraded for webinar service also with the ability to stream on YouTube.
- Working with Shelley Thompson & BS&A on end-of-the year reports.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Parks & Rec: Postpone at this time; positions do not open until end of the year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

SRO Discussions: Comm Sauer asked about the contract that Benzie County has with City of Frankfort for the SRO; the contract specifically states that we would get a financial update every six months – we have never received one; feels that SRO could be hired through our Sheriff Dept; Ms. Zeits has reached out to Josh Mills and she has not received a call back from him.

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PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Leelanau Health Dept minutes of September 22, 2021 received.
- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council minutes of August 3, 2021 received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation report for September 2021 received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report for September 2021 received.
- Ingham County resolution supporting Current Emergency Orders as Determined by Ingham County Health Officer Pursuant to State of Michigan Public Health Code, PA 368 of 1978, Section 2453 received.
- Email received from Ralph Hall regarding BOC action against the Health Dept.
- Kalkaska County resolution Opposing Mandatory Vaccinations and Mandatory Masks received.
- Delta County resolution Opposing Senator Shirley's Gearing Toward Integration Proposal and Supporting Pathways Community Mental Health Services Program received.

11:03 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Miller, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:04 a.m. Ayes: Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of September 28, 2021 as amended.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of September 28, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$495,683.95, as presented.
5. Public Hearing held for Eclipse Communications Close Out CDBG Loan Funds.
6. Approved to close out the CDBG Loan with reference to Eclipse Communications and Venture North.
7. Authorized the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the 2022 EMPG Work Agreement and the FY 2021 Grant Agreement (reimbursement) with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, as presented.
8. Amended the Public Input Policy.
9. Directed Administration to contact legal counsel and potentially the auditors to determine what the consequence of this transaction is and what the opportunities are to make this a lawful transaction. The transaction is the unapproved sale by the Sheriff of county property (firearms).
10. Accepted the FOIA appeal from Eric VanDussen and process accordingly, authorizing the Chair to sign the response.
11. Authorized the County Clerk and Board Chair be authorized to execute an agreement with Barr Engineering Company for the completion of the final engineering and specification plans

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for the Shoreline Protection System project at Point Betsie in the amount of \$228,310, with general oversight and administration to be performed by Barr Engineering Company in an additional not-to-exceed amount of \$134,860, with funds to be provided by reimbursement to Benzie County in their entirety by the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, Inc. and further that the County Administrator be authorized to sign change orders for this project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
October 12, 2021

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our September 28th meeting.
- **10/5 Platte Township Quarterly Meeting –**
 - Discussed use of ARPA funds and a possible contribution to the broad band study.
 - From their point of view the Ironman event went well.
- **10/7 MI Association of Counties Finance and General Governance Committee –**
 - Discussed masking mandate. It was suggested that this mandate was ruled unenforceable by a Michigan court.
 - A senate bill was introduced to have health department officers more accountable to health department boards.
 - Rules for use of ARPA funds are expected to be available by yearend.
 - Bill to extend county commissioner terms to 4 years still pending.
- **10/7 Lake Township –**
 - Limited complaints regarding Ironman.
 - Number of building permits are expected to exceed 2020.
- **10/8 Benzie County Chamber –** This was a special meeting to discuss the long-term plan for the Chamber. There was a discussion to partner with the Benzie EDC to manage business retention efforts for the county.
- **10/11 Almira Township –** I will share any relevant information at the BOC meeting.
- **Other –**
 - October 4th, I attended the ground breaking ceremony for BACN.
 - Attended ongoing discussions regarding Benzie County Re-Districting. Maps should be completed by October 11th. It appears there will be some changes to districts.

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RECEIVED

OCT 08 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617