

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
October 26, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 26, 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: Commissioner Warsecke (arrived at 9:45)

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

Agenda:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Action Items H – HVAC for Jail. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of October 12, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

Sally Cook, Frankfort, spoke regarding the Health Dept and asks the board for restoration of the funds.

Dr. Michael Hurtz spoke regarding the Health Dept funding and masks.

Candy Petrick, Beulah, stated that she opposes the withholding of half of the health department funding and feels it is due to the mask mandate.

Melissa Hamp, retired pediatric physician, urges the board to reinstate the health department funding.

Robert Fitzke, Beulah, spoke regarding the health department funding.

Barb Skurdall, Beulah, showed her support for Lisa Peacock also questioned the decrease in the Maples bond millage.

Alvin McCullough, Inland Township, spoke regarding the Health Dept and Lisa Peacock and the threats being made to her and her family.

Karen Remington spoke regarding the Health Dept and funding; feels this is clearly about mask mandates inside a school building.

Martha Mollema, Frankfort, spoke regarding Health Dept funding and provided her written statement.

9:25 a.m. Public Input Closed

Jeff Tousley, Superintendent, Frankfort Elberta Area Schools, explained the bond proposal that will be on the November 2, 2021 election ballot; request is for 1.52 mills; he discussed the growth in the district and the much-needed repairs to the buildings – windows, roofs, floors, all new LED lighting, bus fleet, technology, addition to the high school to create a Middle School for 6, 7 and 8 graders, add a new ceramics lab, enhance the shop and trades areas as well.

FINANCE

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Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from October 12, 2021 thru October 25, 2021 in the amount of \$306,858.78, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Kelly Long, Chief Deputy Treasurer, reported that she will be out for six weeks medical leave in December; auditors will be back in December; DTRF Resolution in your packet.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, provided the Tax Allocation Report by municipality for 2021. This report is required and summarizes the millages to be levied.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to accept the Tax Allocation Report for 2021 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Rebecca Hubers, 911 Central Dispatch/Emergency Management Coordinator, provided the board with a written report which is in the packet.

Dawn Bousamra, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a report on behalf of Doug Durand
Kylie Habadank was introduced as the Director of Home Health Care; she reported that the new door is in now.

9:46 a.m. Comm Warsecke Arrived

Undersheriff Greg Hubers reported a new lawsuit has been filed – use of force; COVID outbreak – 5 employees out (4 positive, 1 presumptive – 3 with serious symptoms) all were vaccinated. Working on updating policies, Use of Force Policy will be first; performance appraisals are being conducted; 14 individuals in the jail.

Megan Garza, The Maples HR Director, updated the board that 72% of the employees are vaccinated; 68 residents, stopped this week taking admissions; some employees are at Benzie High School participating in the Expo for students.

Comm Jeannot asked that you relay a message back regarding the millage – the decisions we arrived at were with the DHHS board and to be used for capital needs; the plan was developed in cooperation with staff members and based on information that the Maples gave us.

Ms. Garza reported that they are having the same issues the Gathering Place is with not getting food. The items that she described are items for the operating budget, not for the capital plan.

10:11 a.m. Break

10:22 a.m. Reconvene

Dodie Putney, Benzie Leelanau Health Dept, stated that she appreciated you asking about the finances with the health dept and has provided reports; she is here to answer any of your questions. The budget is very program specific, and they offer 40 different programs. No local dollars go toward COVID expenses.

Chair Roelofs stated that information is out there that we cut half of the health department budget – we did not; we provided half in the budget and the other half is placed in contingency pending the information requested.

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Comm Nye, Comm Miller and Comm Sauer will be meeting with Dodie to learn more about the finances of the health department and report back to this board.

Comm Jeannot stated that it is important for the public to know that we do have a good working relationship with the health department.

10:43 a.m. Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter closed session to discuss collective bargaining per MCL 15.268(c). Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:08 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to authorize the chair to execute a successor agreement with the COAM command units consistent with civil counsel's recommendation and upon his approval as to form of the documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Service Weapons: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, that the Board of Commissioners confirms the purchase of 16 Sig Sauer firearms in the amount of \$7,184 from Acme Sports, Inc. and confirms the surplus of 17 Sig Sauer firearms and authorizes their individual sale in the amount of \$300 to employees, with funds available in the Equipment Replacement fund and further that the Board of Commissioners directs the Sheriff to work with the County Treasurer to account for the funds to perform this transaction. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

BS&A Timesheet Software: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to accept the proposal for Software and Services from BS&A Software dated October 6, 2021, in the not to exceed amount of \$18,520, with funds available in the Capital fund, with an annual fee to be charged after the first year in the amount of \$4,480, with funds available in the appropriate departmental funds and that the Board Chairman be authorized to sign the proposal. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

LOU for Corrections: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the Letter of Understanding with the Police Officers Association of Michigan to adjust the pay rate for Corrections Officer Andru McFadden and the Letter of Understanding with the Police Officers of Michigan to adjust the pay rate for Corrections Officer Matthew Day and authorizes the Board Chairman and County Administrator to sign the documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Drug Court Grant: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to accept the grant award in the amount of \$28,000 from the Michigan Drug Court Grant Program for services to be provided in Benzie County and authorizes the Board Chairman to sign the necessary documents to accept funding. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

MSU Agreement: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to approve the Agreement for Extension Services provided by MSU to Benzie County for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 in the amount of \$43,088, with funds available in the General Fund and authorizes the Board Chairman to sign the

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agreement. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Stairwell Tread: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the replacement of the east and west stairwell treads and risers in the Governmental Center, as recommended by the Maintenance Coordinator in the not to exceed amount of \$11,000, with funds available in the Capital fund and authorizes the Board Chairman to sign any necessary proposal documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Resolution 2021-024 DTRF: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve resolution number 2021-024, authorizing these funds to be placed in the General Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

HVAC for the Jail: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to waive the competitive bidding process and approve the HVAC Building Management Control System upgrade project in the Jail as described in Quote #2021-405 from Hurst Mechanical in the not to exceed amount of \$38,295 with funds available in the Capital budget and authorizes the necessary county signatures. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chairman Roelofs reported that he has attended several meetings here at the Government Center since our last board meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller reported that he has attended the Frankfort City Council meeting and Crystal Lake Township.

Comm Nye reported that she has attended Centra Wellness Board meeting; Benzonia Township meeting; HR interviews; Parks & Recreation; Centra Wellness Fall meeting.

Comm Markey has attended the Centra Wellness Board meeting; LEPC; Networks Northwest; Benzie Senior Resources.

Comm Warsecke reported that he attended the Conservation District meeting; Solid Waste; Benzie Central Schools; Inland Township; Colfax Township; Benzie Bus. Also stated that we should consider turning the jail into a juvenile detention center.

Comm Sauer attended the Weldon Township; Gilmore Township; Road Commission; LEPC; Blaine Township; MAC Workers Comp Board meeting; Village of Elberta and MAC Ag & Tourism.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Have hired HR/Deputy Finance Director; have been trying to get in touch with Frankfort regarding the SRO and have received some information from them – they will attend a meeting at a later date; will continue discussions regarding the ARPA funding; DTRF – have been discussing with the Treasurer and will have a more in-depth conversation at the board level; Chili Cook-Off was a

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success and enjoyed by everyone; ACO – she and Kyle Maurer are working on Animal Control Ordinance updates as well as an agreement with the Animal Welfare League.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Comm Sauer removes #4.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the October 12, 2021, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

#4: Discussions regarding purchase of vehicles; need to follow our policy; size needed to pull boats; best price we can get.

U/S Hubers indicated that Watson was governmental price as well.

Comm Jeannot stated that unless he can be convinced differently, he feels we need another road patrol car not a truck.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Sheriff to follow through with MI-Deal and order a Pickup and Durango at the lower cost at this discretion. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Nye Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Betsie River Zoning Board of Appeals: Comm Sauer reported that we need at least one more appointment to this board; he currently is the only one.

Comm Nye volunteers to serve. This committee needs to be added back on to the Board Committee appointments so that it doesn't get missed.

Planning Commission: Comm Sauer reported that we need to reinstate the Planning Commission; because we have a Planning Commission, this board cannot act in their absence.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to reinstate the Planning Commission. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: Markey, Miller, Nye and Warsecke Motion fails.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council minutes of September 7 and 9, 2021 received.
- Ogemaw County resolution Supporting Amendments to the Open Meetings Act received.
- MMRMA Letters of RAP grants (2) awards for the Sheriff Dept received.
- Muskegon County resolution supporting West Michigan Agriculture Technologies and Regional Food Systems Initiative received.

1:35 p.m. Public Input

Comm Jeannot issued condolences to Chairman Roelofs on the loss of his mother.

Public Input Closed

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Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 1:37 p.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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Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
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- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our October 12th meeting.
- **10/18 Northern MI Counties Association –**
 - 2% increase in state revenue sharing for the next fiscal year.
 - Potential of matching funds from the State to be used with ARPA money. A decision should be made by March 2022.
 - 4-year BOC terms may be voted on in the House week of March 25th.
- **10/21 Northern MI Community Action Agency –**
 - This was their annual meeting. I was re-elected to serve on the executive committee.
 - Monies are available for weatherization programs in Benzie County. I have asked the agency to contact Benzie Senior Resources and BACN as a way to market to our community.
- **10/22 Networks Northwest –**
 - This is a strategic planning session. I will update you on any relevant information that comes from this meeting.
- **Other –**
 - October 13th, I attended discussions regarding Benzie County Re-Districting. Changes were made to most Districts. I encourage each of you to look at the approved map. It is located on the County's website.

