

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 9, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 9, 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 Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Discussion regarding Headlee and all COTW agenda items following County Administrator's Report. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of October 26, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the closed session minutes of October 26, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from October 26, 2021 thru November 8, 2021 in the amount of \$387,406.04, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that they are working on tax bills to be printed next week; Airport audit has been completed; Habitat for Humanity is working on homes in Thompsonville.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

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

Tom King, EMS, reported that all is well; ambulances are having routine basic repairs; mandatory education class was held; Iron Man has paid for EMS services; they are considering the possibility to pave the drive and parking area at the Honor station – taking bids for next year.

Chair Roelofs says thank you to all Veterans employed by Benzie County. You are very much appreciated.

Sheriff Rosa stated that there are six people employed at the Sheriff Department that are Veterans; U/S Greg Hubers, Charles Draeger, Jeremy Bietner, Shana Skaggs, Kurt Parker and John Brazaski. Thank you all for your service.

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ACTION ITEMS

2% Grant Application ARES/RACES: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to authorize application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% Grant on behalf of ARES/RACES in the amount of \$7,660.77 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2% Grant Application BACN: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to authorize application of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% grant on behalf of BACN in the amount of \$15,000 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Purchase of Blinds: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to accept the proposal from Buster Blinds in the total amount of \$7,654.00 for blinds in Administration and the Treasurer's Office, with \$5,794 of funds available in the Capital Improvement Fund and \$1,860 in funds available in the Tax Foreclosure Fund and authorize the chair to sign all necessary documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Stairwell Tread: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to authorize 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 \$14,000, with funds available in the Capital Fund and authorize the chair to sign any necessary proposal documents, and that the action taken on October 26, 2021 be superseded. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Sheriff Rosa requests authorization to allow the union to purchase Det. Lamerson's duty weapon: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to retire Det. Lamerson's service weapon and allow the union to purchase and transfer the registration to Det. Lamerson for his retirement. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Cody Kastl, Purchase MERS: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase with MERS for Cody Kastl and authorize the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported that he attended Veterans Affairs and Area Agency on Aging. He also reported that at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, there will be a Memorial Services at the Veterans Memorial in Benzonia.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report and stated that MERIT will begin the Broadband study on November 15.

Comm Miller reported on Human Services Collaborative; finance meeting with the Health Dept; Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse; Frankfort Elberta Area Schools and City of Frankfort.

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Comm Nye reported on MAC Transportation; Village of Benzonia; Centra Wellness Executive meeting; Land Bank Authority; Village of Beulah; Health Dept meeting regarding finances; Benzonia Chamber Intergovernmental; Zoom meeting regarding Fireworks Regulations.

Comm Markey reported on the Local Planning Team; Homestead Township; Centra Wellness Community Services and Resources meeting; Northern Michigan Regional Entity Substance Use Disorder orientation meeting and regular meeting; Village of Honor.

Comm Warsecke reported that Inland townships will be holding their Chili Cook Off on February 12, 2022 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. and all funds raised will go to the fire department.

Comm Sauer reported on MAC Ag/Tourism; Road Commission; Maples; Zoom call regarding Enbridge; Village of Thompsonville; Joyfield; Blaine.

Comm Roelofs thanks everyone for the flowers for the celebration of his mom's life; and welcome to Kristine Boseley – HR/Finance.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Provided a written report and spoke regarding the Capital Budget – she will continue to provide you with a running total of expenses and balance; Mail room is being developed and we are moving forward – should be completed by the end of December; November 12, 9 am. – 10:00 a.m. MERIT network kick off webinar; ARPA received updated compliance data information yesterday; Kristine has started, and we are happy to have her.

Comm Jeannot inquired regarding a quarterly report showing budgeted amounts compared to actual at each report time.

Headlee: Comm Jeannot stated that 2 years ago we started talking about this; townships are supportive as well as interest groups. We need to put it back out there.

10:21 a.m. Break

10:28 a.m. Reconvene

COTW Agenda Items:

Planning Commission: Ms. Zeits stated that we did not violate anything by not have a planning commission to review township zoning ordinances; if the county wants a say in the township ordinances, then we need a planning commission.

Extensive discussions held regarding this topic.

Ms. Zeits will work with Cohl Stoker and Toskey on how to proceed with options and amending of the ordinance to reinstate the commission, adjust the ordinance, work with Networks Northwest regarding the Master Plan update in 2022.

Tom King, EMS, A32 Power Load: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to authorize EMS to purchase a power load system in the amount of \$23,777.00 plus \$1,600.00 for installation from Stryker as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Nays: None Motion carried.

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Minutes: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the October 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Nays: None Motion carried.

Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund: County Treasure Michelle Thompson and County Administrator Katie Zeits

Ms. Thompson provided a power point presentation showing the process of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. Discussions held regarding how funds get to the DTRF, how funds are earned, when are they used for expenses, what amount is paid out to the townships to settle taxes.

Ms. Zeits suggests that the DTRF Surplus Policy be worked on and brought back to this board together with the Restricted Fund Balance Policy.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE -- None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- DHHS Letter to courts regarding Chargeback rate for 2022.
- Benzie Transportation Authority Financial Report for September 2022.
- Email from Mark Bartell dated 11/1/2021 regarding Health Dept received.
- Missaukee County resolution in Support of Vaccine Awareness and Medical Autonomy received.
- Muskegon County resolution Supporting Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Casino in Muskegon County received.
- Branch County resolution to Support Amendments to the Open Meetings Act received.
- Dickenson County resolution Supporting American Rescue Plan State Match Programs received.
- Alger County resolution to Support Amendments to the Open Meetings Act received.
- Alger County resolution Opposing Senator Shirkey's Gearing Toward Integration Proposal and Supporting Pathways Community Mental Health Services Program received.

12:05 p.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 12:05 p.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried. b

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1. Approved the agenda as amended, adding Headlee Discussion and all COTW agenda items following County Administrator's Report.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of October 26, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of October 26, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills from October 26, 2021 thru November 8, 2021 in the amount of \$387,406.04, as presented.
5. Authorized application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% Grant on behalf of ARES/RACES in the amount of \$7,660.77 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Authorized application of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% grant on behalf of BACN in the amount of \$15,000 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Accepted the proposal from Buster Blinds in the total amount of \$7,654.00 for blinds in Administration and the Treasurer's Office, with \$5,794 of funds available in the Capital Improvement Fund and \$1,860 in funds available in the Tax Foreclosure Fund and authorize the chair to sign all necessary documents.
8. Authorized 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 \$14,000, with funds available in the Capital Fund and authorize the chair to sign any necessary proposal documents, and that the action taken on October 26, 2021 be superseded.
9. Approved to retire Det. Lamerson's service weapon and allow the union to purchase and transfer the registration to Det. Lamerson for his retirement.
10. Approved the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase with MERS for Cody Kastl and authorize the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents.
11. Authorized EMS to purchase a power load system in the amount of \$23,777.00 plus \$1,600.00 for installation from Stryker as presented.
12. Approved the October 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole Minutes as presented.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
November 9, 2021

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our October 26th meeting.
- **10/27 Benzie County Chamber –**
 - It was announced that Honor/Onkama Building supply sold to Doug and Mary Rodriguez.
 - I shared with the BCCC board the accurate details regarding the Maples and DHHS funding.
 - Discussed the broadband survey that will be completed by Merit.
- **11/3 EDC (Retention Committee) –**
 - Discussed the possibility of contracting with the Benzie Chamber for business out reach and development. No decision was made. A task list and job description will be developed. Next meeting is scheduled for November 15th at 1pm.
- **11/4 Lake Township –**
 - Discussion on broadband survey. Broadband committee needs to discuss with township about putting a survey notice in the upcoming tax statement.
- **11/5 MAC Finance and General Governance Committee –**
 - Discussion on need for counties to agree to PILTs (payment in lieu of taxes) as well as the townships when housing projects are proposed. This is being discussed among law makers also. Committee is recommending to the MAC for its support.
- **11/8 Almira Township –** I will discuss any relevant information at our BOC meeting.
- **Other –**
 - **November 4th**, at the request of several townships I joined a meeting to discuss a possible county wide fireworks ordinance. Commissioner Nye and Sauer also attended. No conclusions were arrived at. This group will continue to work on this and re-convene at a later date.
 - **November 8th**, I was asked to attend a Government Relations Committee with the Benzie County Chamber. Commissioner Nye was also invited to this meeting. The topics included community issues such as childcare, short-term housing, broadband and use of ARPA funds. In addition, there was a discussion regarding a county wide summit. Commissioner Nye and myself will de-brief the BOC on any relevant actions.

RECEIVED

NOV 08 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617