

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 23, 2021**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 23, 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 Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amended adding EDC resignation. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None  
Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None  
Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$206,034.22, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and spoke about snow removal program now has 78 signed up; working in collaboration with Benzie Bus to start a program called Healthy Ride Program to get seniors to medical appointments – BSR to pick up the cost for seniors.

Sheriff Rosa thank you for your support with use of the CARES act funds for employees – we strive for longevity and our employees are important.

Kyle Maurer, ACO, spoke regarding grant and new IT program for records on each animal – fees are based on the number of adoptions per month; no pressure in the well, going to speak with the village staff to see about connecting with the village water.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written activity report for November 2021.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste/Recycling, provided a written report.

**ACTION ITEMS**

2021 EMPG ARPA Grant Agreement: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf

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of Benzie County the 2021 EMPG ARPA Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division in the amount of \$7,963.00 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

CERT 2% Grant Application: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to authorize the 2% Grant Application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on behalf of the Community Emergency Response Team in the amount of \$6,187.02 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Letter of Understanding – Megan Bock: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the Letter of Understanding for a passport processing stipend with the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOPLC) to pay Megan Bock \$1.00 per hour for hours worked as presented, authorizing the Chair and County Administrator to sign the document. Roll call. Ayes: Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot Motion carried.

CARES Act – Re-Allocation of Leave Credits: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to authorize the return of leave hours to employees or pay, if applicable, to employees who have met one of the following conditions within the timeframe of July 1, 2021 through November 22, 2021: 1) Tested positive for Covid 19 or it's variants, or 2) have been advised to quarantine by their respective department head; and Further, that the Benzie County Board of Commissioners authorize the Benzie County Administrator in conjunction with the respective Department Head or Elected Official to approve pay to employees meeting the following conditions within the timeframe of November 23, 2021 through January 11, 2022: 1) Tested positive for Covid 19 or it's variants, or 2) are required to quarantine by the respective department head. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACO – Two Seven Oh Inc Grant: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to authorize Animal Control to apply to Two Seven Oh Inc for an in-kind grant in the amount of \$4,557.00 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 EMS.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report and spoke regarding the health department.

Comm Miller reported on City of Frankfort council meeting; Crystal Lake Township; Annual Toys for Tots Drive next week at Papano's in Beulah – new unwrapped toy, all donated in Benzie County will stay in Benzie County.

Comm Nye reported on Centra Wellness board meeting; Benzonia Township; Railroad Point Committee; Benzie Leelanau Health Dept; EDC; met with her two villages and township to work on collaboration and the use of ARPA funds; Veteran's Day event.

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Comm Markey reported on Centra Wellness board meeting; broadband collection webinar.

Comm Warsecke – no report; former Colfax Twp Supervisor passed away yesterday due to COVID.

Comm Sauer reported on Road Commission; Maples meeting; School Safety meeting; Health Department; Village of Elberta.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits**

Provided a written report and spoke regarding Capital Budget; Planning Commission; Technology Replacement; Human Resources; Broadband; County Policies; City of Frankfort; MIOSHA requests that the county put policies in place for masks and social distancing.

10:18 a.m. Break

10:27 a.m. Reconvene

Enter Closed Session: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Warsecke, to enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorneys regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the Opioid pending litigation, Attorneys Tim Smith and Paul Novak will join via conference call, included in closed session would be County Administrator Katie Zeits and County Clerk Dawn Olney. Roll all. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:10 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None**

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

EDC: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the resignation of Roger Griner from the EDC with regrets. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS -- None**

### **NEW BUSINESS – None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Dickinson County resolution Supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs received.
- Jackson County resolution opposing mandatory vaccinations, mandatory wearing of masks, vaccination passports, mandatory Covid testing received.
- Marquette County resolution Supporting the American Rescue Plan State Match Programs received.
- Menominee County resolution Supporting American Rescue Plan State Match Programs received.
- Oceana County resolution regarding Changes to the OMA received.

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11:13 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Beulah, comments on the collaboration of Benzie Senior Resources with Benzie Bus; Animal Control need for well or water service.

11:15 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 11:16 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

### INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended adding EDC resignation.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of November 9, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$206,034.22, as presented.
4. Authorized the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the 2021 EMPG ARPA Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police – Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division in the amount of \$7,963.00 as presented.
5. Authorized the 2% Grant Application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on behalf of the Community Emergency Response Team in the amount of \$6,187.02 as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Approved the Letter of Understanding for a passport processing stipend with the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council (FOPLC) to pay Megan Bock \$1.00 per hour for hours worked as presented, authorizing the Chair and County Administrator to sign the document.
7. Authorized the return of leave hours to employees or pay, if applicable, to employees who have met one of the following conditions within the timeframe of July 1, 2021 through November 22, 2021: 1) Tested positive for Covid 19 or it's variants, or 2) have been advised to quarantine by their respective department head; and  
Further, that the Benzie County Board of Commissioners authorize the Benzie County Administrator in conjunction with the respective Department Head or Elected Official to approve pay to employees meeting the following conditions within the timeframe of November 23, 2021 through January 11, 2022: 1) Tested positive for Covid 19 or it's variants, or 2) are required to quarantine by the respective department head. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.
8. Authorized Animal Control to apply to Two Seven Oh Inc for an in-kind grant in the amount of \$4,557.00 authorizing the chair to sign.
9. Entered into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorneys regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the Opioid pending litigation.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**November 23, 2021**

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **11/18 Platte Township –**
  - Met with the township supervisor to discuss the need to have citizens respond to the broadband survey. He has offered to have information regarding the survey in the upcoming newsletter.
- **11/18 Northern MI Community Action Agency –**
  - We continue to meet remotely. Normal business activities were discussed. November is “homeless awareness” month.
- **11/19 EDC/BRA –**
  - Discussed grant opportunities from EGLE to help get select properties “project ready” to attract developers.
  - There are a couple of developments being considered by the private sector. This committee will need to hire the expertise necessary to guide them through brownfield requests.
  - Updated on broadband survey kick off. It is stressed that a diverse community response is important for success. Each commissioner needs to promote this with our townships/villages.
  - There is a need to update membership to this committee to ensure a quorum is available.
- **Other –**
  - **November 19<sup>th</sup>**, Opioid update via a webinar. The county administrator also participated.