

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 9, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 in the Frank F. 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 Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

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

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the special session minutes of January 29, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Mary Haan requested that she be placed on the next board agenda to talk about marijuana issues.

Gary Sauer mentioned that Comm Warsecke received a Life Saving Award from his employer, City of Traverse City Police Department for entering a burning building and saving someone's life.

9:05 a.m. Public Input Closed

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke seconded by Markey, to approve payment of the bills from January 27, 2021 thru February 8, 2021 in the amount of \$360,043.07, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, provided the board with financial reports which she will do monthly; these are similar to the quarterly reports done by the finance manager prior.

Kyle Maurer, Animal Control Officer, reported that the new garage door has been installed; he is requesting quotes for cat room cages – having trouble getting quotes back; he is working on the State report; the two horses are now ready for adoption; Two Seven Zero Inc has once again offered the grant for spay and neuter – he is completing the application; looking into new computers for the department. Currently there are 4 dogs and 5 cats in the shelter.

Rebecca Hubers, 911 and Emergency Management, provided a written 911 report; reported that the safety glass for the 3 main counters is scheduled to ship on February 23; Ironman discussions are at the township level; the route to be taken has not been decided; vaccination clinics are moving forward.

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ACTION ITEMS

2021-005 Joint Resolution with Blaine Twp: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Blaine Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-006 Joint Resolution with Inland Twp: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to adopt the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Inland Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

2021-007 Joint Resolution with Village of Elberta: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to adopt the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with the Village of Elberta as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller has no report.

Comm Nye attended the Centra Wellness Planning and Finance meeting. Health Dept – received a very thorough training since she is new to this committee – they are working on digitizing documents and Leelanau is doing a mapping project. Village of Benzonia has received an easement request from DTE. Village of Beulah talking about the Papano's building annexation from the 1980s which was never completed – the State says that annexation applications never expire. Had a tour of the BACN facility and was very impressed.

Comm Markey attended the LPT meeting where they reviewed the current projects. Homestead Township is working on their budget; they are moving forward with a settlement with St. Ambrose; Village of Honor is finishing up with the Home Stretch project.

Comm Warsecke reported on the SWAC meeting and they are looking to upgrade the lighting and cameras at the recycling sites; there is no word on a tire grant yet; Household Hazardous Waste days are scheduled for August 14 at the Road Commission and June 19 at Frankfort High School. Inland Township met last night. BCCS talked about roof replacement, advertising campaign and technology.

Comm Sauer attended the Health Dept meeting. Road Commission – renewed Matt Skeels contract; lowered the administration fee for project costs to 8.5%. Did ask the Road Commission about the State Forest Land – they did receive an increase this year – 33 cents. Maples – generator needs to be inspected and it will run the entire building; 50% of staff have been vaccinated and all but three of the residents have been vaccinated. Blaine Twp has concerns regarding the Ironman that continue to go unanswered, we need assurance that emergency vehicles can get through.

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Chair Roelofs attended the Domestic Violence Task Force (DVTF) meeting; he, Rhonda and Mitch have met regarding the county administrator search; EMS & VA were cancelled.

10:00 a.m. Recess

10:05 a.m. Reconvene

Dr. David Stockman and Dr. Russell Bush, Michigan Institute of Forensic Science & Medicine gave a presentation and proposal for medical examiner services; they will be training and certifying investigators; they provide their own transportation; would put a vehicle in Benzie County; they pay for everything – we would not see separate bills for i.e., labs, mileage. Michigan is one of two states that still have County Medical Examiners, not regional.

They will provide additional information and a proposal to the board.

David Oellerich (via Zoom), Betsie Valley Trail

This would be for reconstruction of a portion of the BVT from downtown Beulah about 1 mile west past the DNR boat launch. Cost of the project is \$200,000; MDNR Passport Grant of \$150,000; balance of \$50,000 has been raised by the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail; bids due mid-March; Construction to start May; planned completion by Memorial Day.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to authorize the letting of bids for the Betsie Valley Trail Reconstruction project as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Provided a written report; he will be speaking with legal counsel Matt Nordfjord regarding union negotiations; will need to have an Executive Session at the March 9 meeting to discuss the economic issues; he and Maridee have talked and will be looking to bring in an interim part-time employee to assist with accounts payable, payroll and other items; per diem for non-commissioner committees. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, that the board approve the meeting attendance per diem to the \$40.00, \$80.00 and \$120.00 tier effective February 9, 2021, and does not affect the Board of Commissioner members. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Comm Jeannot removed item #4.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1-3, 5 and 6 of the January 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to adjust the 2020-21 budget for fund 205 TNT as follows:
Increase:

205-851-828.10	Liability & Building Insurance	\$4,644.40
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Decrease:

205-000-704.00	Wages TNT Officer	\$ 644.40
205-000-970.00	Equipment	\$ 1,000.00

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205-000-999.01 Transfer to General Fund \$3,000.00

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

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to amend the 2019-20 Budget as follows:

Increase:

101-851-828.10 Liability & Building Ins \$15,741.32

209-851-828.10 Liability & Building Ins \$ 4,843.40

Increase:

101-000-691.00 Fund Balance \$15,741.32

209-000-691.00 Fund Balance \$ 4,843.40

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

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Comm Nye to sit on both Parks & Recreation and Planning Commission committees; this will open a Citizen At Large position on Parks & Rec and an interview will now be scheduled for February 12, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Mitch asked how the board wants to move forward with the Medical Examiner presentation; Mitch, Evan, Sheriff, Dr. Don Schaffer and Prosecutor will begin gathering information from the Mid-Michigan company as well as the one that presented today.

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Kalkaska County Pandemic Resolution received.
- Alpena County Pandemic Resolution received.
- Antrim County resolution in Support of Local Businesses received.
- Weldon Township Recreation and Cultural Plan for 2021-2025 received.
- Benzie-Leelanau Health Dept minutes of January 27, 2021 received.

11:39 a.m. Public Input

Dr. Donald Schaffer commented regarding the ME presentation; be sure and look very carefully before you jump on this; do not make rapid decisions.

Dr. Schaffer has agreed to work with Mitch, Evan, Sheriff Rosa and Prosecutor Swanson.

11:41 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 11:41 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 26, 2021 as amended.
3. Approved the special session minutes of January 29, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$360,043.07, as presented.
5. Adopted the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Blaine Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Adopted the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Inland Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Adopted the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with the Village of Elberta as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
8. Authorized the letting of bids for the Betsie Valley Trail Reconstruction project as presented.
9. Approved the meeting attendance per diem to the \$40.00, \$80.00 and \$120.00 tier effective February 9, 2021, and does not affect the Board of Commissioner members.
10. Approved items 1-3, 5 and 6 of the January 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Adjusted the 2020-21 budget for fund 205 TNT as presented in the amount of \$4,644.40.
12. Amended the 2019-20 Budget Liability & Building Insurance as presented in the amount of \$20,584.72.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
February 9, 2021

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our January 26th meeting.
- **1/29 BOC Special Meeting** – Attended by the full board to appoint new commissioner for District 3.
- **2/1 Northern MI Counties Association** – Discussed MAC legislative priorities for 2021. Highlights include support of a bill to extend county commissioner terms from 2 to 4 years, allow counties to assess a “tourism re-investment excise tax” collected through lodging owners, create an option for counties to have the State handle tax foreclosures, State to fund 100% of cost to cover 17 year old’s entering the juvenile justice system, County VA’s to qualify for COVID-19 re-imbursement for eligible expenses, increase funding support for local community mental health care, court funding at the State level and stabilize state revenue sharing by using a formula based approach.
- **2/1 Council of Governments** – A new Secretary was elected (Patricia Sautas-Little from Leelanau County). 8 grants were awarded in Benzie County thru the “Going Pro” program. The State House of Representatives has a new committee this year to focus on rural housing and workforce development. Senate Bill 46 has been introduced to consider a 10-year property tax abatement on new infrastructure for broadband access.
- **2/1 Networks Northwest** – 2021 officers elected. Sue Peters (Chair) and Bill Kennis (Vice-Chair). This group is made up of the Council of Government and members of the business community (Workforce Development) WFD. I have served on this board in the past as a member of the WFD and it is always well attended. 40+ were in attendance by zoom. Benzie County currently has 2 openings for the WFD. Networks Northwest is working with the Benzie County Chamber to identify candidates for the BOC to approve.
- **2/2 Platte Township** – This was their quarterly meeting. Two new trustees participated, Dan Haswell and Robb Bollenberg. The inter-governmental resolution regarding property assessing was approved. Sean Duperron spoke in favor of a “single track” trail proposal. Tim Markey joined the meeting to report on fire runs in his role as fire chief for Homestead Township.
- **2/4 Lake Township** – Board members are requesting that organizers from Iron Man do a presentation to Township. Office is scheduled to re-open to the public on February 22nd.
- **2/8 Almira Township** – Items of significance will be reported on at our meeting.
- **Other –**
 - I have contacted Dick Taylor, Chair of the Friends of Point Betsie to begin the transition for Andy Miller to be their board liason.
 - Election of officers for 2021 on the EDC/BRA board are scheduled for the February 19th meeting.