

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

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 23, 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 Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Mary Haan following the first Public Input. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke  
Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of February 9, 2021 as corrected, adding Miller to roll call and votes. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the special session minutes of February 10, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None  
Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, spoke regarding disability discrimination and domestic violence against women.

9:05 a.m. Public Input Closed

Mary Haan, Homestead Township, spoke to those present about marijuana; she has been working to get issues on local jurisdiction ballots to not allow marijuana sales; she also spoke of the need to hire legal counsel and file a Circuit Court action.

Comm Jeannot stated that these issues belong at the township level.

**FINANCE**

**Bills:** Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve payment of the bills from February 9, 2021 thru February 19, 2021 in the amount of \$233,109.65, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Tom King, EMS Director, reported to the board that the power cot is due in next week; the EMS Advisory Board has been discussing the Frankfort station and the repairs needed – will continue those discussions; Billing – they are finalizing the RFP, MMR (who took over from North Flight) has changed the vendor they use for billing; have received a quote for a new ambulance from the same company that we recently purchased from (RSVP) – the other two companies will not provide a quote, and there are additional items that are now included in the base price of \$224,874; he spoke about the long-distance transfers from POMH – it is important to take those transfers to other areas; they are discussing the transfers from POMH to home.

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Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and stated that they are assisting seniors to get registered for the vaccine; they continue to receive produce boxes from the USDA; will continue to provide produce to the senior when the program is done; tax season is up and running – they partner with NMCAA and have no face-to-face meetings; looking at security cameras for the buildings.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste, reported on the scrap tire grant – will hold two events this year, and charge \$1.00 per tire – June 19 at Frankfort and August 14 at Road Commission.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written report.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

2021-008 Joint Resolution with Lake Twp: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Lake Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:08 a.m. Break

10:14 a.m. Reconvene

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chairman Roelofs reported that the EMS employees have expressed their gratitude of the board for supporting them and providing for them the best we can.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached); EDC is requesting that all BOC members communicate with your townships and villages about the willingness to participate financially in the expansion of broadband.

Comm Miller reported that he attended the Crystal Lake Township meeting via zoom, and they may be interested in purchasing our existing sound system and they held a special meeting for the Ironman; The City of Frankfort discussed the Frankfort Lighthouse renovations and will be raising money for those renovations; Frankfort Housing Commission reported that they anticipate their building project to be completed by Fall 2021 with rent being \$600 - \$700 per month; Rick Schmidt reported that they are looking to redo the Garden Theatre and have already raised the \$1.2 million of the \$2 million needed.

Comm Nye reported that Benzonia Township Fire Department has received a 2% grant for CO2 detectors; attended the Centra Wellness Board meeting; HR Committee – have had a complete turnover of committee members so we are starting fresh, we need to have someone that had HR skills; EDC Broadband – Elon Musk has a satellite-to-satellite program – this is the best worst option – we do not want to use local dollars if there is a federal solution available. Parks/Rec – time to get a conversation going regarding carry-in boat launch at the outlet -- the DNR will be leasing back to the County, a 29-acre parcel, it would then be the county project; 25-year renewable lease. They also talked about a Park/Rec Manager – a new conversation.

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Comm Markey met with Doreen Carter with the Animal Welfare League and she stated that they are not meeting at all; LEPC; HMEP grant is in process for training and equipment to review plans; Hazardous Mitigation Plan; HR committee; Benzie Senior Resources; met with the Executive Director of Centra Wellness for an orientation.

Comm Warsecke attended the Colfax Township meeting which was by telephone – not much to report.

Comm Sauer stated that he does have the MDOT road project map and will share with the board; Weldon and Gilmore Township meetings were both virtual; Village of Thompsonville reported that one well is sucking sand right now and they are looking at a USDA grant of \$1.5 - \$1.75 million for these repairs; they are hiring an attorney to review contracts with AT&T for towers. Road Commission – Love Road estimate from the engineering firm is \$650,000. Village of Elberta held a Special Meeting regarding Police Power Ordinance for Short-Term Rentals. DHHS pod cast with new DHHS director. School Safety meeting – the two SROs need to provide an update to the Board.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch**

The March 9 meeting will have a public hearing with Venture North for Eclipse Communication; will discuss interim HR and Finance position at the COTW this afternoon; have talked with Maridee and there are 5 distinct areas of concern – Payroll, Accounts Payable; Budget, HR and Technology. The key areas are Payroll and APs, we have secured Sherry Taylor for handling APs and Kelly Long for Payroll; 44North will assist with benefits.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve items 1-4 of the February 9, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to suspend the Board Rules for this appointment. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to appoint Linda Farrell to the Benzie Leelanau Health Dept Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2022. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to reinstate the Board Rules. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Tuscola County resolution regarding Second Amendment Sanctuary County received.
- Jackson County resolution regarding Request to Reopen Jackson County received.

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- Menominee County resolution regarding the Supporting of a Collective Effort Opposing Current and Future Orders Unilaterally Issued by Governor Whitmer received.
- Missaukee County Pandemic Resolution received.
- Mecosta County resolution of Support for Local Businesses received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority financial report for January 2021 received.

11:00 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, spoke regarding disability discrimination and was offended by Mary Haan's comments.

11:01 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 11:01 a.m. Roll call. 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 Mary Haan following the first Public Input.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of February 9, 2021 as corrected.
3. Approved the special session minutes of February 10, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$233,109.65, as presented.
5. Adopted the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Lake Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Approved items 1-4 of the February 9, 2021 Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
7. Suspended the Board Rules for a committee appointment.
8. Appointed Linda Farrell to the Benzie Leelanau Health Dept Board of Appeals for a term to expire December 31, 2022.
9. Reinstated the Board Rules.

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

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **2/10 BOC Special Meeting** – Attended by the full board to begin reviewing our strategic plan.
- **2/12 EDC Retention Committee** – Discussed development of supporting material and the potential of attracting private funds for startup cost. A list of Benzie County businesses is being identified and categorized. A decision needs to be made for the best place/agency to conduct this task. Due to business restrictions set by the State of MI, the implementation of this effort will be slow.
- **2/18 Northern MI Community Action Agency** – Standard business was discussed. An offer of employment has been extended to replace the retiring Controller.
- **2/19 EDC/BRA** – 2021 officers elected. Ed Kowalski will continue as Chair and Blake Brooks was elected as Vice-Chair. The committee has requested that the BOC discuss with their townships and villages the willingness to participate financially in the expansion of broad band connectivity. Either Rhonda or I will discuss this in more detail at the meeting. In addition, the committee has had discussions about the potential for additional funding in order to act more effectively as an EDC.
- **Almira Township** – Approved the county assessor agreement at their February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Other –**
  - Josh Mills, Mitch Deisch and myself met on February 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss a budget for startup cost for the “Business Retention” committee.
  - On February 16<sup>th</sup> Almira Township interviewed 5 candidates for the position of Fire Chief.
  - I will not be available to participate in the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to interview recruiting firms to re-place our County Administrator. I would recommend that the BOC give additional weight to firms that specialize in recruitment of public sector employees. This should allow for a deeper pool of candidates to draw from.
  - **Generator at Maples has been tested and results should be available within the next 2 weeks. At this time no problems are anticipated.**
  - **Made an introduction for Andy Miller to FPBLH chair, Dick Taylor.**

**RECEIVED**

**FEB 22 2021**

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617





448 Court Place • Beulah, MI 49617

Memo To: Board of Commission  
From: Mitchell D. Deisch, Administrator  
Date: March 2, 2021  
Subject: Administrator Update 3-9-21 BOC mtg.

1. **Administrator Office Update** – Deputy Administrator Maridee Cutler has been working with PT staff on ensure that AP is all set after her departure date. In addition, Ms. Cutler will be continuing to work PT to ensure payroll is completed. During this interim period Ms. Cutler is working to train the PT employees and Treasurer Dept. representatives to perform payroll. Ms. Cutler's last day is Friday March 12, 2021.
2. **Deputy County Administrator Job Posting** – Based upon discussions with the BOC at the Friday February 26, 2021 special meeting, I am posting to replace the Deputy County Administrator position. The new position will combine the need for both financial skills and HR skills. The new DCA will also be crossed trained in both AP and payroll. We will be posting the position ad in the TC Record Eagle, BC Record Patriot, Indeed website and some regional HR posting sights. Based upon the BOC conversation on 2-26-21, I have listed the salary range as Depending on Qualifications (DOQ) rather than listing a specific salary range. I will be using a team interview approach that will include Commission representation, Elected Official representation and Non-Elected Department Head representation. Applications will be due on Friday March 26, 2021. More to follow.
3. **Strategic Plan Update** – Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday March 1, 2021 for the second time to discuss updating the strategic plan. The emphasis on the second meeting was to look at areas of focus / goals. Administration will be updating the strategic plan in a draft version and will present it to the BOC as soon as possible.
4. **Medical Examiner Update** – The first meeting of the Medical Examiner (ME) subcommittee meet on Monday March 1, 2021. Members of the subcommittee include Prosecuting Attorney Sara Swanson, Sheriff Kyle Rosa, Undersheriff Greg Hubers, EMS Director Tom King, Commissioner Evan Warsecke and retired Forensic Pathologist/citizen Dr. Don Shaffer. Several members were unable to attend the first meeting, thus we spent most of the time talking about the proposals from Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner's Group and the Michigan Institute of Forensic Science and Medicine. In addition, we discussed ways to improve the current Regional Medical Examiner's Office. As for improving the current Regional Medical Examiners the focus was on incorporating Medical Examiner Investigator's (MEI'S) into Benzie County. More to follow.

RECEIVED

MAR 08 2021

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617