

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 28, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 28, 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, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Excused: Commissioner Markey and Miller

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

Agenda:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of December 14, 2021 as corrected. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

FINANCE – None

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that she has one staff member on medical leave until the end of January 2022, so please be patient with us; auditors were here a couple of weeks ago and things are looking good.

Dawn Bousamra, Benzie Senior Resources, reported that they have hired an Assistant Senior Center Coordinator; holiday frozen meals have gone out; they are dealing with the high cost of food; Strategic Plan has been adopted and they will begin working on their goals.

ACTION ITEMS

Recycling Site Leases: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adopt seven (7) Recycling Site Leases for 2 years as follows: Almira Township, City of Frankfort, Homestead Township, Benzie County Central Board of Education (Lake Ann Elementary), Subhash Kapur Living Trust, Village of Beulah, and Village of Thompsonville as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

MMRMA Member Rep: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to accept the resignation of Dawn Olney as MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) Member Representative. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to appoint the County Administrator as the MMRMA Member Representative. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported that he attended the EMS meeting and Parks & Rec interview; and he spoke regarding the power outage.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Nye reported on Centra Wellness Planning & Finance; Joint Court meeting; EDC; Parks & Rec interviews.

Comm Warsecke reported on Conservation District and Benzie Bus.

Comm Sauer reported on Weldon Township; Joint Court meeting; Village of Elberta and Road Commission.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

MS. Zeits updated the board regarding Capital Budget; Planning Commission; Technology; Broadband Survey; FOIA Appeal; Mailroom Changes; ARPA Funding; Animal Control and Holiday celebration.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1 - 7 of the December 14, 2021, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EMS: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to reappoint Chris Parrish and Elizabeth Merrill to the Benzie EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

EDC/BRA: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to accept the resignation of Paula Figura from the EDC/BRA with regrets. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation: Two interviews have been held; two more to be scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – FOIA Appeal: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to deny the FOIA appeal of Jim Meredith, with County Administrator to prepare letter. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS – None

9:55 a.m. Marty Blank, MERS Purchase Time Request

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Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to authorize the application of Martin Blank to purchase additional service credit through Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS), authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Green Lake Township Notice of Adoption of Zoning and Master Plan Amendment.
- DNR Natural Rivers Permit Notification by Weldon Township.
- Eaton County resolution to Condemn Federal Vaccine & Testing Mandates received.

9:59 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, spoke about the important services mentioned here today – we need a tourism tax; she has recently adopted a dog from the Animal Control.

10:01 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 10:01 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey and Miller Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of December 14, 2021 as corrected.
3. Adopted seven (7) Recycling Site Leases for 2 years as follows: Almira Township, City of Frankfort, Homestead Township, Benzie County Central Board of Education (Lake Ann Elementary), Subhash Kapur Living Trust, Village of Beulah, and Village of Thompsonville as presented.
4. Accepted the resignation of Dawn Olney as MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) Member Representative.
5. Appointed the County Administrator as the MMRMA Member Representative.
6. Approved items 1 - 7 of the December 14, 2021, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
7. Reappointed Chris Parrish and Elizabeth Merrill to the Benzie EMS Advisory Board for a 3-year term.
8. Accepted the resignation of Paula Figura from the EDC/BRA with regrets.
9. Denied the FOIA appeal of Jim Meredith, with County Administrator to prepare letter.
10. Authorized the application of Martin Blank to purchase additional service credit through Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS), authorizing the chair to sign.

**Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
December 28, 2021**

- Participated in 2 meetings on behalf of the County since our December 14th meeting.
- **12/15 EDC Business Retention –**
 - Discussed a draft document that details a relationship with the Benzie County Chamber for EDC activities. This would include calls to our business community, access to resources for growth and development and taking a leadership role in positioning the County to be eligible for potential grants for economic development. This document will be presented to the BOC for consideration sometime in the first quarter of 2022.
- **12/17 EDC/BRA –**
 - Welcomed Betsie Evans as our newest member.
 - Developed a plan to recruit new members to fill vacant seats. Currently we have 4 open seats. One is being held for a potential Benzie County Chamber representative. We have had difficulties getting a quorum for meetings.
 - Discussed potential business opportunities to include contracting with a firm to help us with brownfield requests.
- **Other –**
 - **December 20** – I observed a meeting for the Broadband Committee. There have been in excess of 1100 surveys returned. Many have come on paper. The surveys will continue to be collected through January 15, 2022. At that time Merit will put together a report of the findings. We still need to get more surveys from Colfax, Joyfield and parts of Platte Townships. The committee will work on next steps at their January meeting.

MERRY CHRISTMAS / HAPPY NEW YEAR

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617