

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 12, 2021

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 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 (Board Room), Markey (Zoom – Beulah), Nye (Board Room), Roelofs (Board Room), Sauer (Board Room) and Warsecke (Board Room)

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

Agenda:

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of December 22, 2020 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Organizational meeting minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$431,944.96, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Rosa reported that everything seems to be going smooth; a lot of good things happened while he was gone; U/S is Greg Hubers; a lot of positive things are happening; proud to be sitting here as the Sheriff; look forward to working with all of you.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management/911, gave an update on vaccinations; Phase 1B – fire and police are being scheduled now; Seniors have a public hotline to call and get on the list for scheduling; demolition should have started at Congregational Summer Assembly (CSA) to prevent the structure falling into Lake Michigan.

Michelle Klein – BL Health Department: Michelle gave an update on the vaccine process – 500 vaccines have been given; another clinic will be held in Lake Ann on Thursday (need an appointment); they are working on future sites; when they place an order for vaccines on Thursday, they are received on Monday; the National Guard will be coming to assist with clinics over the next few weeks.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 4

January 12, 2021

ACTION ITEMS

Building Closure: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to close the Government Center building to the public effective January 12, 2021, and limit the public to appointment only, and all employees are required to report to work as instructed by their department heads until January 27, 2021. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Board Rules: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, that the per diem rate for Board of Commissioners remain the same until January 1, 2023 and at that time move to \$40.00 for each meeting four hours or less, meetings lasting longer than four hours is considered two meetings (\$80.00) and after eight hours will be considered 3 meetings (\$120.00) for per diem. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, that upon legal counsel review, to move all non-elected per diems to the \$40.00, \$80.00 and \$120.00 tier. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached) and reported that Almira Township is looking for a new fire chief; their building has limited access to the public with limited access during regular hours.

Comm Nye reported that the Village of Benzonia will be accepting credit card payments; they received a quote from BS&A to Payroll/APs/ General Ledger – no action taken as the quote was too high; the Zoning Administrator is forming volunteer committees to assist with tackling tasks in the Master Plan. Centra Wellness Executive meeting talked a lot about Linda Farrell's resignation – she was very active in a number of committees – will be missed. Village of Beulah had a major water leak on Christmas Eve; the cross-connection violations letters have been sent out with corrective measures; estimate for the dredging of the settling basin is over \$140,000 – it was rejected and will rebid the project; they talked about the sidewalk snow removal for businesses; remains to be seen if Winter Fest will happen; talked about if it is a liability to the county if employees refuse to get the vaccine? Township meeting has been changed to January 20.

Comm Markey reported that the Village of Honor is working on the Home Stretch property; they are defining the role of a Deputy Clerk. Homestead Township is working on their budget, computer upgrades; fire department brush truck ~~hog~~ delivery is expected in the Fall 2021.

Comm Warsecke attended the Benzie Schools meeting via teleconference and reported that the board chose their new officers. Inland Township postponed their meeting. Colfax meeting will be tomorrow via Zoom.

Comm Sauer reported that Atwell Mauby is looking into the old school for demolition costs for the Road Commission; we have had no snow, so plowing hasn't been necessary; they are going to have their finance manager review the audit. Health Department is overwhelmed with calls for vaccines. Joyfield discussion regarding Mick Road again. Blaine Township talked about the Ironman; started working on their own website. Attended a Zoom meeting with Friends of Point Betsie where they were given some possible fixes from SHPO (State Historical Preservation Office).

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 4

January 12, 2021

Chair Roelofs reported that he attended a walk through of the jail with legal counsel and Jail Administrator Smith. Village of Lake Ann will meet tonight and he intends to join via phone. VA meeting on Thursday.

10:10 a.m. Recess

10:19 a.m. Reconvene

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mitch Deisch

Reported that he will return to work on January 19, 2021 – he is off his COVID restrictions on January 15, 2021; he will participate with EDC meeting on January 15 via Zoom; have been working with Matt Nordfjord regarding the issue of possible liability to the county if employees are not vaccinated; spoke regarding the search for a new County Administrator.

Sheriff Rosa introduced a new deputy – Ryan Dumond – he is assigned to the Government Center and Court Security.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Consent Calendar.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Wexford County resolution regarding COVID and local businesses received.
- Crystal Lake Elevation report for December 2020 received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report for December 2020 received.

10:27 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Beulah, spoke regarding her respect for Kyle Rosa, COVID vaccinations, Platte River Elementary School.

10:28 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 10:28 a.m. or the call of the chair. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey (zoom), Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of December 22, 2020 as presented.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 4

January 12, 2021

3. Approved the Organizational meeting minutes of January 5, 2021 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$431,944.96, as presented.
5. Approved to close the Government Center building to the public effective January 12, 2021, and limit the public to appointment only, and all employees are required to report to work as instructed by their department heads until January 27, 2021.
6. Approved the per diem rate for Board of Commissioners remain the same until January 1, 2023 and at that time move to \$40.00 for each meeting four hours or less, meetings lasting longer than four hours is considered two meetings (\$80.00) and after eight hours will be considered 3 meetings (\$120.00) for per diem.
7. Approved that upon legal counsel review, to move all non-elected per diems to the \$40.00, \$80.00 and \$120.00 tier.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
January 12, 2021

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our December 22nd meeting.
- **1/5 BOC Organizational Meeting** – Attended by all.
- **1/7 Lake Township** – Township is in need of assistance in updating their FEMA ordinance. I have connected them with Rebecca Huber and Crystal Lake Township. There is a small housing development being planned on Sutter Rd.
- **1/8 Friends of PBLH** – Group continues to work on solutions for protecting the lighthouse. The task includes preserving the historical nature while qualifying for monies from State and Federal funding and having the final solution be functional.
- **1/8 EDC Retention Committee** – The group has made a decision to limit its membership size to 5 people. This initiative will be slowed down due to changes at the County Chamber and travel restrictions from DHHS.
- **1/11 Almira Township** – I will share any relevant information at our meeting.
- **Other –**
 - Rick Coates, Executive Director of the Benzie County Chamber of Commerce has announced his resignation effective early March.
 - I have submitted my interest in serving on the MAC Finance and General Government Committee. The intent is to give Benzie County a voice on these subjects at the State level.

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2021

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617