

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**January 26, 2021**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 26, 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 (Board Room), 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 Markey, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of January 12, 2021 as amended. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from January 12, 2021 thru January 26, 2021 in the amount of \$521,763.21, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, spoke regarding the cash summary by fund report; updated the board regarding the Forfeiture law effective January 1, 2021.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Tom King, EMS Director, stated that the trucks are in good shape – a couple of trucks just got new tires; COVID 19 preparedness are in good shape received 2 more PAPRS so we now have three on each of the four trucks; January 10 education class was held; majority of the staff (75%) have been vaccinated, after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose about half of them felt sick for a couple of days. Will be assisting the Health Dept with the vaccination sites – they need on-site medical personnel at each vaccination site. LUCAS machine has been received, but still waiting for the power cot. Working with POMH regarding renovations to the ambulance site in Frankfort. Billing – the RFP has not been completed yet; we still have the same biller, so there are no issues, it was a smooth transition.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, updated the board regarding the Designated Assessor; this board approved a contract with Polly Carnes contingent on approval of seven local jurisdictions; at this time there are five townships that have approved but seven are needed; Tom will follow up with the jurisdiction to get an answer.

Lisa Peacock, Health Office of Benzie Leelanau Health Department, gave the board an update on the COVID cases and how the vaccination process is going; State cases are trending down, however Benzie County is seeing a slight increase in positive cases; they are continuing testing and contact tracing; they are seeing cases in the school population. But not necessarily happened in school;

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vaccination planning is going well with our limited supply due to the vaccine being rolled out world-wide; Johnson & Johnson are very close with a vaccine which will be only one dose; they are working on a drive-through clinic at Paul Oliver in February; we had a low number of doses allocated to us this week; 917 people in Benzie County have been vaccinated so far.

Sheriff Rosa reported that they have been busy with Property Damage Accidents (PDA) and Personal Injury Accidents (PIA) with the snow; three teenagers fell through the ice on Bronson Lake – all were able to get out of the water; spoke regarding the transfer of control for the Animal Control Department and feels this matter should be tabled to a later date, however we (Sheriff Office) will continue to assist the ACO as in the past – their safety is a high priority.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, making phone calls to client to assist them in getting on the list for scheduling to receive the vaccine. Thursday the Health Dept will look at the Gathering Place activity room as a possible vaccine site. We continue to increase with our Home Delivered Meals numbers.

Rebecca Hubers, 911 Director and Emergency Management, reported that the drawings for the safety glass has been confirmed and sent forward with down payment of one-half total cost, with approximately four-week turnaround.

## ACTION ITEMS

Building Closure: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to open the Government Center back to regular service. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Designated Assessor: Already handled.

Joint Resolution with Crystal Lake Twp: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt resolution 2021-004 the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Crystal Lake Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Nye reported that she attended the Benzonia Township meeting where they talked about the Love Road 5-foot reduction in the road, township will pay for a survey; they have opened the township hall to the public on January 19; the Baymont Hotel will be doing an addition on the South side of the building. EDC – Rick Coates seat on the retention subcommittee will remain open for his replacement at the Chamber; Paula Figura updated the EDC on the broad band. Centra Wellness reviewed the OMA and Sunshine Laws. Parks & Rec met last night – the new chair is Ed Hoogterp, Vice Chair is Chuck Krauss and Secretary is Barb Skurdall. State of Michigan that the State Historic Preservation is considering Gwen Frostic's Studio for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Coury Carland had asked her at another meeting if the county would be liable if employees at the Maples refuse to get the COVID vaccine – Rhonda reported that she was told that the county would have governmental immunity.

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Comm Markey attended the Land Bank (LBA) meeting where they reviewed all of the LBA properties; Homestead Township held a Special Meeting to decide whether or not to appeal a decision by Judge Mead about not recusing himself – they decided not to appeal.

Comm Warsecke reported that Colfax Twp did not meet; Inland Township held a meeting last night regarding their budget.

Comm Sauer attended the Weldon Township meeting where June 19 at 2 pm has been set as the dedication for Diamond Crossing. Road Commission – had their organizational meeting and there are no changes on their board, they have been cutting trees since we have no snow to plow; they are working on the transfer of the Platte River School to the Road Commission; they talked about Esch Road and Love Road. Village of Thompsonville – working on internet service; they have been approached about purchasing the Diamond Crossing Depot which is now in Glen Arbor; they handed out Christmas Bags to kids at their Christmas Party – had a good turn out; Village of Elberta approved the Ironman race, approved a \$40.00 fee for signs; approved permit for the distillery; February 11 they will hold a Short-Term Rental Ordinance discussion.

Comm Roelofs attended the Village of Lake Ann meeting via conference call – they are looking for a new Zoning Administrator; 911 meeting – Tim Markey was elected chair; Veterans meeting they set their meetings for the year and handled a few other items; met with the County Administrator and the Vice Chair Nye regarding Committee Appointments.

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

- Commissioner Committee Appointments for 2021.
- Provided Sample Interview Questions for District III Commissioner on Friday, January 29 @ 9 a.m.
- Letter received regarding a DTE Energy grant to help address the COVID crisis.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Comm Jeannot removes item #1.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to authorize up to \$6,000 to find a solution on how the mail will be handled and invite those involved in the day-to-day operations to determine what the best solution is. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Parks & Recreation: Interview of one candidate to be scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Interview Committee: Comm Roelofs, Comm Nye, Comm Markey, Mitch Deisch and Ed Hoogterp, P/R Chair.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS – None**

**PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

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- Transportation Authority financial report for December 2020 received.
- Grand Traverse County Resolution 8-2021 regarding the Pandemic received.

Mitch stated that he is very proud that, as the Benzie County Board of Commissioners, you have stayed focused on the primary county items that you do have control over.

11:03 a.m. Public Input – None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 11:04 a.m. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, 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 present.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 12, 2021 as amended.
3. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$521,763.21, as presented.
4. Approved to open the Government Center back to regular service.
5. Adopted resolution 2021-004 the Joint Resolution & Intergovernmental Agreement to Manage Floodplain Development for The National Flood Insurance Program with Crystal Lake Township as presented, authorizing the chair to sign.
6. Authorized up to \$6,000 to find a solution on how the mail will be handled and invite those involved in the day-to-day operations to determine what the best solution is.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**January 26, 2021**

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **1/15 EDC Meeting** – Committee will vote for 2021 Chair and Vice-Chair at the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. 2021 meeting dates are set for 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month starting at 11am. Paula Figura, Chair of the Broadband sub-committee will give an update to the BOC at an upcoming meeting.
- **1/19 Platte Township** – Postponed until February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- **1/20 Housing Committee** – Met to discuss subordination agreement and payment of bills.
- **1/20 Friends of PBLH** – 2021 officers elected. Dick Taylor will continue on as chair. Chuck Clarke's term has ended as treasurer. Laura Reznich was elected as treasurer. The organization has open board seats.
- **1/21 Northern MI Community Action Agency** – Mostly routine business. CARES Act is bringing in additional dollars to the agency. Benzie County residences are getting benefit from the programs.
- **Other –**
  - Participated in a summit on affordable housing. Developers and investors are running into challenges with certain syndicators and may affect the speed that development occurs.
  - EDC was awarded a \$1k grant from the Community Foundation and DTE Energy Foundation. Conditions apply and will be taken up as a discussion in an upcoming EDC meeting. The grant is for assistance to an eligible organization that is affected by COVID-19. More information will be forthcoming.

**RECEIVED**

**JAN 21 2021**

DAWN OLNEY  
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK  
BEULAH, MI 49617