

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 26, 2022

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 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, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of July 12, 2022 as amended. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve payment of the bills from July 14, 2022, thru July 21, 2022, in the amount of \$382,747.44, 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, provided a written report. He stated that one ambulance was involved in a deer accident, twice over the last couple of months. Echo unit had \$2,500 worth of maintenance done on it. Continuing to work with Paul Oliver Hospital regarding an ambulance remaining staged there.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Director, provided written report. He stated they are working on the 2022 budget. 2 hogs have been donated and are being processed. Working on 3-year cycle with Area Agency on Aging. Walk-a-thon fundraiser is on August 6, 2022, at Bellows Park.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management/911 Director, stated that the Advisory Board has approved switching data services, so each vehicle has a data service that provides CAD to that vehicle. Switching from Verizon to First Net. First Net is a first responders priority service that will ~~priorities~~ prioritize services to our ambulances, fire vehicles and police vehicles. Friday, July 29, 2022, will be doing a walk through with Motorola regarding 2 potential radio towers sites in Frankfort and Elberta. This tower project has been talked about prior to her hiring into this position. This will improve the 800-megahertz radio communications in Frankfort, Elberta, Gilmore, Crystal Lake, and Lake Township. August 2 and 3 there will be a Campus Active Shooter Training at the Frankfort Elberta Area High School.

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ACTION ITEMS

William Johnson -Purchase of MERS service credit: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the MERS Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for William Earl Johnson and authorizes the Board Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Benzie Transportation Authority Resolution – Amended Bylaws: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve Resolution 2022-020 to Amend Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Benzie County Transportation Authority and authorize Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Master Plan review Subcommittee: Commissioners Markey, Warsecke, and Nye volunteered to become members of the subcommittee to review the Benzie County Master Plan.

Ironman Agreement: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the Agreement to Provide EMS Services, Emergency Manager Oversight Services, and extra Road Patrol Services during the Ironman 70.3 Michigan Race, with the added line item for Administration Cost and authorizing the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Carpet replaced in Board of Commissioners room and adjacent areas: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the replacement and addition of carpeting in the Governmental Center, as recommended by the Maintenance Coordinator in the not to exceed amount of \$23,880, with funds available in the Capital fund and authorize the Board Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

EDC/BRA Authority agreement with telecommunication entities: Tim Maylone, from Cherry Capital Communication, was available to answer questions. Motion by Miller, seconded by Jeannot to concurs with Economic Development Corporation and authorizes a public private partnership with Cherry Capital Communications, with consideration of other partnership if they arise. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to support a contracted broadband project manager position in the not to exceed amount of \$ 200,000.00 over a four-year period, with funding available ~~from~~ from American Rescue Plan Act funding, CARES act funding and/or General Fund Balance. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:00 a.m. 34th District State Senator Jon Bumstead – Introduced himself to the Board of Commissioners. With redistricting he is running for the 32nd District State Senator seat. He has had the same staff for 10 years. His cell phone number is 231-250-0654.

10:09 a.m. – Marilyn Passmore and Harold McNeil – Spectrum Charter - presentation regarding the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). What areas they have completed installment for internet service and what areas they are working on. Passed out information on Spectrum Internet Assist for Seniors and Affordable Connectivity Program for households struggling to afford internet services.

10:45 a.m. Break

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10:52 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Village of Lake Ann meeting, 911 meeting, Veteran Affairs Cookout, Car Show at Culver's in Traverse City for Disabled Veterans; 253 registered show cars, very well attended.

Comm Jeannot, provided written report.

Comm Miller attended the Friends of Point Betsie meeting, Frankfort Housing Commission meeting, Benzie Housing Collaborative meeting, Frankfort City Council meeting, Crystal Lake Township meeting, Frankfort Housing Commission and Frankfort Area Land Trust joint meeting.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review, AP Review, Benzie Housing Collaborative meeting, Benzonia Township meeting, Sewer Feasibility Kick Off meeting, and Central Wellness Board meeting.

Comm Markey attended Homestead Township meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended 2 Benzie Bus meeting, and Parks and Recreation meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Road Commission meeting, LEPC meeting and Gilmore Township meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

ARPA survey – looking for approval from the Commissioners to proceed with publishing and disturbing the survey to the public. MAC conference is September 18 through 21, 2022.

Commissioners are to contact the Administrators office if they wish to attend. RFPs for 911 Expansion – met with an architect and meeting with another this week. Hope to make a strong recommendation to the Board of Commissioners soon. Working on website re-design. Goal is to make the website user friendly. Changes to the Benefits package will be discussed at Committee of the Whole this afternoon. Have been able to save \$70,000 and maintain the current level of employee benefits. True North project kickoff meeting was yesterday with EGLE. RFP for Cleaning the Government Center and Sheriffs Department have gone out. U.S. News, has awarded Benzie County for being the top 10% healthiest community in the United States. Met with Bert Gale, Associated Government Service, Building Department, and he will attend the August 9, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting and give updates.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council May 3, 2020, minutes
- Mescosta County Resolution 222-11

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- Benzie-Leelanau Heath Department July 27, 2022, agenda

11:29 a.m. Public Input

Heather Hollick, Platte Township, commented that she lives on Martin Drive, where Spectrum stated the internet service is available. Grateful to have internet access, but there have been four outages. I glad that the Board of Commissioners agrees that a project manager is needed. She believes there needs to be oversight on this project.

11:32 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:33 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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2. Approve the regular session minutes of July 12, 2022, as amended.
3. Approve payment of the bills from July 14, 2022, thru July 21, 2022, in the amount of \$382,747.44, as presented.
4. Approve the MERS Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for William Earl Johnson and authorizes the Board Chair to sign.
5. Approve Resolution 2022-020 to Amend Bylaws and Rules of Procedure for the Benzie County Transportation Authority and authorize Chair to sign.
6. Approve the Agreement to Provide EMS Services, Emergency Manager Oversight Services, and extra Road Patrol Services during the Ironman 70.3 Michigan Race, with the added line item for Administration Cost and authorizing the Chair to sign.
7. Approve the replacement and addition of carpeting in the Governmental Center, as recommended by the Maintenance Coordinator in the not to exceed amount of \$23,880, with funds available in the Capital fund and authorize the Board Chair to sign.
8. Concurs with Economic Development Corporation and authorizes a public private partnership with Cherry Capital Communications, with consideration of other partnership if they arise.
9. Support a contracted broadband project manager position in the not to exceed amount of \$ 200,000.00 over a four-year period, with funding available form American Rescue Plan Act funding, CARES act funding and/or General Fund Balance.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
August 9, 2022

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our July 26th meeting.
- **7/28 EDC –**
 - A small group of us met with staff from Roscommon County to discuss their approach to broadband implementation. They used a project manager that we have under consideration and had only positive comments regarding the individual. Our goal is to keep this project moving and align Benzie County to be eligible for possible grant money. Through multiple partnerships we hope to have 90% or greater coverage for the County. Not all citizens will elect to connect. In addition, we need to educate the community on incentives that are in place to help subsidize cost to the end user based on need.
- **8/4 Lake Township –**
 - There continues to be discussion about dredging at the end of Lake Michigan Dr. Elected officials at the state and federal level will be needed to help get a positive resolution to this issue.
 - The township is considering a contract with an individual or group to help enforce local ordinances.
- **8/8 Almira Township –** I will share any relevant information with you at the BOC meeting.