

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 13, 2022**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, in the Frank Walterhouse Board of Commissioners Room, 448 Court Place, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Roelofs.

Present were: Commissioners Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer  
Excused were: Commissioners Markey and Warsecke

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

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of August 23, 2022, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the special session minutes of September 1, 2022, as amended. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input

Jim Evans, Joyfield Township, here to represent himself only, no other interest. Has been paying close attention to the election process. Presented a resolution template regarding optimizing election integrity as it pertains to the acceptance of unregulated private monies for funding elections along with supporting documents for ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center), and request that the Board of Commissioners review.

9:05 am – Public Input closed

**FINANCE**

**Bills:** Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from August 23, 2022, thru September 12, 2022 in the amount of \$689,767.36, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer reported that there are 62 parcels in forfeiture at this time. This is lower than we usually report in February prior to the March foreclosure. Sold 4 parcels at the land auction totaling \$352,500.00. Three out of the four bids were sold to local people.

She is requesting a motion for the County Treasurer to interfund borrow or transfer up to \$1,000,000.00 to balance all budgets. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to authorize the County Treasurer to interfund burrow or transfer up to and not exceeding \$1,000.000.00 to balance all budgets in September 2022. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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### ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Rosa stated that the seasonal contracts have been completed. Final reports have been sent and awaiting payment. Deputy Miller and Deputy Maul are back in the schools. The first week was a success and they were able to be at all the schools. Have posted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> School Resource Youth Officer position as Deputy Miller will be transferring out of that position.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management/911 Director, stated that the Ironman was successful. It has been scheduled for September 17, 2023. If any of the Township have any observations or concerns regarding the Ironman, please have them contact her. 911 Advisory Board met and set a posting plan for the 911 Director position. Job description and application can be found on the Benzie County website, with a closing date of September 30, 2022.

Commissioner Roelofs stated his appreciation for emergency management, law enforcement, and all the people and effort that was put in to this event to make it a success.

### ACTION ITEMS

Establishment of School and Youth Resource Advisory Committee: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to establish the School and Youth Resource Officer Advisory Committee with existing representative agencies to be assigned to such committee and that the Emergency Manager be assigned as responsible staff representative. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Rescind motion to purchase ¾ ton truck and authorize purchase of Durango: Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to rescind the approval made October 12, 2021, for the purchase of a ¾ ton truck and approve the purchase of a Dodge Durango from Watson Benzie in the amount of \$40,390.00, with funds available in the capital fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

State of Michigan agreement regarding booking fees with training for staff in return: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the Benzie County Sheriff's Office participation in the Local Corrections Officers Training Fund which requires Benzie County to surrender its booking fees to the Michigan Sheriff's Association with the anticipation of receiving training in return at no cost. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Rooftop Heating/Cooling Units of the Government Center: Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the proposal from Hurst Mechanical for replacement of cooling condensers and compressors on the rooftop unit above Emergency Management in the Government Center in the not to exceed amount of \$43,984.00 with funds available in the Capital Budget. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consideration of Letter of Commitment to support a grant application for Homestretch: Jay White, Jonathan Stimson, Katie Condon, and JoAnn Holwerda were present for questions. Motion by Miller, seconded by Jeannot, to provide a letter of commitment up to \$500,000.00, contingent upon, Homestretch receiving this grant application to obtain funding to develop 12 townhomes in Frankfort and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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10:23 a.m. Recess

10:30 a.m. Reconvene

Discussion and Adoption of the 2022/2023 Budget: Katie Zeits reported that they are still working with the City of Frankfort on the surplus funds regarding the School Resource Officer (SRO) budget. Mayor JoAnn Holwerda stated that it is being handled ~~though~~ through the City of Frankfort attorney. For that reason, Katie recommends that the entire amount of the SRO millage be levied for the 2022/2023 budget. Motion by Miller, seconded by Nye, to adopt the 2022/2023 General Appropriation Act and 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Budget and authorizes the Chair to sign the General Appropriations Act and L-4029, as amended with changes to the School Youth Resource Officer. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Sauer gave thanks for a balance budget.

Commissioner Roelofs wanted to thank all Department Heads, Elected Officials and Administration for their hard work regarding the budget.

Ragnar Relay Agreement: Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to authorize the event service agreement with Ragnar Relay for the Benzie County Sheriff's Office services during their 2022 event, and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chair Roelofs attended Veterans Affairs meeting, Area Agency on Aging meeting, and Agenda Review meeting.

Comm Jeannot – provided written report. He also attended the Active Shooter Training put on by Undersheriff Hubers and was impressed.

Comm Miller attended Airport Authority meeting, Benzie County Housing Committee interview, Road Commissioner interview, Frankfort Housing Commission meeting, Ironman Final Agency meeting, Ironman Event, and Frankfort School Board meeting.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review meeting, Road Commissioner interview, Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, Chamber Advocacy and Awareness meeting, Ad Hoc EDC Broadband meeting, Village of Beulah meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, Master Plan Review meeting, Land Bank meeting, and Central Wellness Board meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, Chamber meeting, Workers Compensation group meeting, Joyfield Township meeting, Road Commission meeting, Ironman update meeting, and Village of Thompsonville meeting.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Katie Zeits reported she and Kristine Bosley will be at a conference next week, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. A lot of information will be reported on this afternoon at the Committee of the Whole meeting.

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### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve items 1 of the August 23, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer  
Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to appoint Sally Bobek to the Benzie County Housing Committee to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2024. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to appoint Lee Ferguson to the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Committee to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2022. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS- None**

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council Meeting Agenda for September 6, 2022
- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council minutes of August 2, 2022
- Little Platte Lake Elevation
- Crystal Lake Elevation
- DHHS letter of September 1, 2022, regarding youth placement rates
- Jackson County Resolution 8-22-24
- Networks Northwest Press Release

11:17 a.m. Public Input - None

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 11:18 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Exc: Markey and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of August 23, 2022, as presented.
3. Approve the special session minutes of September 1, 2022, as amended.
4. Approve payment of the bills from August 23, 2022, thru September 12, 2022, in the amount of \$689,767.36, as presented.
5. Authorize the County Treasurer to interfund burrow or transfer up to and not exceeding \$1,000,000.00 to balance all budgets in September.

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6. Establish the School and Youth Resource Officer Advisory Committee with existing representative agencies to be assigned to such committee and that the Emergency Manager be assigned as responsible staff representative.
7. Rescind the approval made October 12, 2021, for the purchase of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton truck and approve the purchase of a Dodge Durango from Watson Benzie in the amount of \$40,390.00, with funds available in the capital fund.
8. Approve the Benzie County Sheriff's Office participation in the Local Corrections Officers Training Fund which requires Benzie County to surrender its booking fees to the Michigan Sheriff's Association with the anticipation of receiving training in return at no cost.
9. Approve the proposal from Hurst Mechanical for replacement of cooling condensers and compressors on the rooftop unit above Emergency Management in the Government Center in the not to exceed amount of \$43,984.00 with funds available in the Capital Budget.
10. Provide a letter of commitment for up to \$500,000.00, contingent upon, Homestretch receiving this grant application to obtain funding to develop 12 townhomes in Frankfort and authorize the Chair to sign.
11. Adopt the 2022/2023 General Appropriation Act and 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Budget and authorizes the Chair to sign the General Appropriations Act and L-4029, as amended with changes to the School Youth Resource Officer.
12. Authorize the event service agreement with Ragnar Relay for the Benzie County Sheriff's Office services during their 2022 event and authorize the Chair to sign.
13. Approve items 1 of the August 23, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
14. Appoint Sally Bobek to the Benzie County Housing Committee to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2024.
15. Appoint Lee Ferguson to the Benzie County Parks and Recreation Committee to fill the unexpired term ending December 31, 2022.

**Committee of the Whole**

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Recommend to the Board of Commissioners to contract with Networks Northwest, in the not to exceed amount of \$17,300.00, for a feasibility study for a Parks Director, authorizing Chair to sign.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**September 13, 2022**

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- **8/29 – Networks Northwest (special meeting)**
  - We met to discuss qualifications of a new CEO. Action was delayed due to a lack of a quorum.
- **8/31 – EDC Broadband**
  - Discussion with prospective consultant regarding next steps. During the meeting we agreed that we need to more clearly document what is expected from the consultant. Our end objective is to make broadband internet service available county wide at a competitive price. We need a consultant to identify the right steps to get to the objective.
- **8/31 – Benzie Housing Committee**
  - Interviewed Sally Bobek for the board seat that is open as a result of Amy Bissel's retirement. We recruited Sally for this position due to her involvement with BACN. The interview team will recommend her appointment at the next BOC meeting.
- **9/1 – Road Commission Interviews**
  - This was attended by all BOC members and Bob Rosa, Chair of the BCRC. Seven candidates were interviewed for one opening. Several qualified candidates for this opening.
- **9/1 – Lake Township**
  - Carol Merrill, township assessor has resigned effective October 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Township continues to discuss issue of dredging at the mouth of Platte River. This may become an economic and safety concern.
- **9/6 – Networks Northwest (special meeting)**
  - A quorum was present. Terry Vandercook was approved to be the next CEO. He will start no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **9/12 – Almira Township**
  - I will report on any relevant information at our BOC meeting.
- **Other**
  - **9/9 Active Shooter Training –**