

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 25, 2022**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 25, 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, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke

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

Commissioner Jeannot had a question regarding protocol. There was someone in the audience that wanted to speak to us and get some response as to public safety issues but was not able to get on the agenda in time. Do they have to speak at public input, or can we add them to the agenda? Commissioner Roelofs stated that we would like to schedule a special meeting regarding public safety issues only and invite the general public to attend.

**Agenda:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, removing Action Item E – possible appointment of 911 Director. 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 October 11, 2022, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Commissioner Roelofs stated that he was out of state for the last 5 days and wanted to apologize to anyone that was trying to reach him.

Grant Cole stated that the County is under attack and riddled with crime the last few months. His business was broken into on October 13, 2022. When his wife made the call to 911 dispatch, she was told sorry, there is no one available to help. We are the only county in northern Michigan without 24-hour road patrol. It's time we made a change. Ask the Commissioners to review the funds and work with the Sheriff's Department and do what we need to do to protect this community.

Phil Down, Village of Beulah, supports Mr. Coles' thoughts regarding 24-hour road patrol. Spoke to neighbors and council members, and they agree, we need 24-hour patrol in this county.

Mary Haan, Homestead Township, provided a handout regarding marijuana and the effects on the environment in Whitewater Township. She had e-mailed the Commissioners a video regarding the environment and marijuana.

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, agrees with what was being said regarding public safety and can relate to it. Safety is always first.

Tom White, Village of Beulah, had 3 of his tires slashed, along with his neighbors' tires.

9:13 a.m. Public Input Closed

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 2 of 5**

**October 25, 2022**

### **FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from October 11, 2022, through October 24, 2022, in the amount of \$492,295.47, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer stated that when looking at the Cash Summary Fund report you will notice several funds in the negative. This is attributed to grants ending from the State of Michigan, except for the Jail fund. Attended the Michigan Association of Land Summit in Detroit. Took a tour of the Lank Bank projects in Detroit.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Tom King, EMS Director, provided a written report. He stated his biggest issue has to do with finance billing and submitting claims. There may be issues with new EMT's, and Paramedic's as Munson is doing away with their EMT and Paramedic training.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management provided a written report. She stated that they had their first meeting with the School Resource Officer (SRO) committee group. Working with the schools regarding upcoming grants for SRO and school safety programs. The upcoming grants must be applied for by the schools. Want to commend 911 workers for their response and hard work on the large windstorm that came through the county. They did a great job.

Commissioner Jeannot questioned when dispatch gets a call at 3:00 am or 3:30 am in the morning, who do they refer it to?

Rebecca Hubers stated that the policy is that if it is 3:00 am to 5:00 am then they contact the shift that was on duty to be called back in, if it is 5:00 am to 7:00 am, then they contact the shift that is coming on duty. The Sheriff Department does have an on-call policy.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources provided a written report. He stated that they now have 10 churches signed up for the holiday program. Fall cleanup is progressing. Six contractors have signed up for snow removal.

Benzie Leelanau Health Department Annual Report: Michelle Klein and Dan Thornell provided a handout and presented the Benzie Leelanau District Health Department Annual Report 2021.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of Capital Plan: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the projected capital improvements – 5-year plan, dated October 17, 2022. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approval to obtain new domain name, changing to Benzieco.gov: Motion by Miller, seconded by Markey, to approve the letter to the .Gov Domain Registration to claim the [www.benzieco.gov](http://www.benzieco.gov) domain name for use by Benzie County. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Core Technologies – approval of service agreement related to LEIN: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve a services agreement with CORE Technology to provide multibridge enterprise for LEIN services in the Sheriff's Office and Central Dispatch Office, with agreement to

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 3 of 5**

**October 25, 2022**

be approved by Legal Counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Grand Traverse Band Cross Deputization Agreement with Benzie County Sheriff Office: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the Cross Deputization agreement between the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Benzie County for enhanced law enforcement services in Benzie County and authorize Chair to sign, subject to approval by Legal Counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:52 a.m. Break

9:59 a.m. Reconvene

9:59 a.m. - Closed Session with legal counsel to discuss attorney client communication pursuant to MCL 15.268(8)(H).

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Miller, to enter into closed session to discuss with legal counsel attorney client communication, pursuant to MCL 15.268(8)(H), to include the County Administrator, Human Resources and County Clerk. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

10:22 a.m. back in session

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chair Roelofs attended the Agenda Review meeting. He had been out of state for the last few days.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Miller attended the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse meeting, Frankfort City Council meeting, Crystal Lake Township meeting, Frankfort Fire Department open house and BACN open house.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review meeting, Benzonia Township meeting, Benzonia Sewer Task Force meeting, Village of Elberta Planning Commission meeting, and Village of Beulah meeting

Comm Markey attended Centra Wellness Board meeting, Michigan Northern Regional Entity Board meeting, Broadband Ad Hoc meeting, LAPC meeting, Benzie Senior Resource meeting, Dispatch Advisory Board Sub Committee meeting, and Dispatch Advisory Board Special meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended the Parks and Recreation meeting.

Comm Sauer attended the Frankfort Area Community Land Trust meeting, Road Commission meeting, School Safety meeting, Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting, MAC Worker Compensation Group meeting, and Village of Elberta meeting.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Katie Zeits reported that she will be speaking at the Housing Summit at the Great Wolf Lodge on Friday. We have received an additional application for the 911 Director position. Kristine's position has been changed to Human Resource Manager and it

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Page 4 of 5**

**October 25, 2022**

has been posted. Moving some of the finance portion out of the Human Resource Manager position and putting it in the Executive Assistant Administrator's position. Point Bestie is working through some issues with an easement and the road. Provided a roster for the Sheriff Department from 2008-2009 to present. There was 24-hour road patrol in 2008/2009 era. We can make recommendations to the Sheriff, but it is the Sheriff's that makes operational decisions.

Commissioner Nye asked when the date and time will be set for the Public Safety Special meeting.

Commissioner Roelofs stated that it will be added to the agenda this afternoon.

Commissioner Jeannot asked if the memo regarding wage recommendation was shared with the Sheriff and Undersheriff.

Katie Zeits stated that it was given to them last week and she confirmed with the Sheriff and Undersheriff yesterday that it was received.

Commissioner Jeannot requested that the record reflects that the County Administrator reported she provided the memo to the Sheriff and Undersheriff Thursday last week.

Katie Zeits stated that the memo was sent Friday but discussed it with the Sheriff, Undersheriff and Human Resource Director on Thursday.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Commissioner Sauer removed #1 and #2.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 3 and 4 of the October 11, 2022,

Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke    Nays: None    Motion carried.

Commissioner Sauer stated that the BOC is setting themselves up for bad negotiations in the future. He is about getting the Sheriff and Undersheriff to these points eventually, but not in a quick jump. Would like to wait or consider a small increase for both. With the current issues that just came up, this may not be the time to ask for a pay increase when we are possibility talking about staffing changes.

Commissioner Jeannot stated that with the new information from public input today, everything is up in the air right now. The Sheriff is given a budget to work with and we want to make sure he has the funds to meet the public safety.

Commissioner Warsecke requested that we schedule the public safety meeting in the evening so more people can attend.

Katie Zeits stated that it is her understanding the Sheriff is off for the month of November.

Commissioner Sauer would like to see the Prosecutor and the Courts involved with this discussion.

Commissioner Nye stated that they could attend via zoom.

Undersheriff Hubers stated that he that is unsure if the Sheriff will have the capabilities of zoom in the location he will be at.

Commissioner Jeannot requested before we adjourned today, it would be good to get a list of people in the room that want to be notified of the public safety meeting.

Commissioner Roelofs stated that the decision is under the responsibility of the Sheriff, we are just providing support and a place for it to be discussed.

Undersheriff Hubers stated that the dates the Sheriff will be out of town is November 10, 2022, to November 21, 2022. We have an opportunity here, and I do not see this as an argument. We will do our best to work on a schedule that will work within our limits. Hope to have proposal to the County Administrator soon and to the Board of Commissioner for the November 8, 2022, meeting.

Commissioner Roelofs stated that what he is hearing is we will have answers at the November 8, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting, so a special meeting will not be needed.



## COMMISSIONERS

Page 5 of 5

October 25, 2022

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

### NEW BUSINESS - None

### PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Leelanau District Health Department October 26, 2022, agenda

11:08 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Village of Beulah, pleased with this meeting. I feel heard and encouraged with you all working together. Thank you.

11:09 a.m. Public Input closed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

### INDEX

1. Approve the agenda as amended.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of October 11, 2022, as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from October 11, 2022, through October 24, 2022, in the amount of \$492,295.47.
4. Approve the projected capital improvements – 5-year plan, dated October 17, 2022.
5. Approve the letter to the .Gov Domain Registration to claim the [www.benzieco.gov](http://www.benzieco.gov) domain name for use by Benzie County.
6. Approve a services agreement with CORE Technology to provide multibridge enterprise for LEIN services in the Sheriff's Office and Central Dispatch Office, with agreement to be approved by Legal Counsel.
7. Approve the Cross Deputization agreement between the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and Benzie County for enhanced law enforcement services in Benzie County and authorize Chair to sign, subject to approval by Legal Counsel.
8. Enter into closed session to discuss with legal counsel attorney client communication, pursuant to MCL 15.268(8)(H), to include the County Administrator, Human Resources and County Clerk.
9. Approve items 3 and 4 of the October 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Removed
2. Removed
3. Upgrade the security regarding door mechanisms up to \$30,000.
4. Commit up to \$10,000 for a review and update of our master plan contracting with Networks Northwest, allowing the subcommittee to establish the scope of work

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**October 25, 2022**

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **10/11 – Platte Township**
  - This was their quarterly meeting. Discussed master plan that is being completed jointly with Benzonia Township.
  - Several attendees expressed concern regarding a potential commercial development.
- **10/14 – EDC Broadband Sub-Committee**
  - A proposal for funding was presented by Cherry Capital. A good deal of documentation was included. Emphasis is on unserved and underserved businesses and households. The local school systems will be invited to provide input on this group to be sure we are including households with students. The sub-committee voted to recommend this request to the EDC's full committee and the BOC. A presentation will be made at the October 25<sup>th</sup> COTW. Administration was asked to identify sources for funding. The objective continues to be county wide availability, reliability and cost.
- **10/17 – Northern MI Counties Association**
  - Discussed pending senate bills for Community Mental Health and short-term rentals. MAC continues to oppose these bills.
  - Opioid settlement dollars from class action lawsuit with Jansen (?) should be distributed this year.
  - Discussion on creating trust fund for revenue sharing so that annual funding will be stabilized.
  - 2023 invoice for dues will be sent to the county administrators by year end.
- **10/20 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
  - Business as usual. This was the annual meeting at which time we approve the next fiscal year budget.
- **10/24 – Networks Northwest**
  - I will report on any relevant information at the Board of Commissioner meeting
- **Other**
  - **10/10** – Attended a ceremony celebrating 100 years of being in business for the Andy Case family and Cherry Hut. Presentation by Congressman Bergman.
  - **10/22** – At BACNs request I will be speaking at their grand opening. I will share with the attendees the contribution and impact the agency has on our community.