

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 8, 2022**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 8, 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.

**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 Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of October 25, 2022, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the closed session minutes of October 25, 2022, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from October 21, 2022, through November 3, 2022 in the amount of \$348,759.00, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Sheriff Rosa introduced the new school resource officer, Matt McKinley. The reinspection of the Benzie County Jail conducted on October 10, 2022, by the Michigan Department of Corrections stated that Benzie County Jail is in full compliance with the administrative rules of jails and lockups.

Nate Loop, Maples, gave an update regarding their capital improvement projects. The Maples are currently COVID free, and things are going well.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Appointment of 911 Director: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to offer the position of Central Dispatch Director to Cory Ellis, contingent upon successful background and reference check completion at a starting salary of \$55,000, plus appropriate benefits. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Letter of Support for Cherry Capital: Tim Maylone was present. Motion by Miller, seconded by Jeannot, to commit to moving forward with Project 2, committing Benzie County to \$1.5 million to

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expand broadband in Benzie County. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

24-hour Road Patrol: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to direct the County Administrator to work with the Sheriff Department to move forward with 24-hour road patrol. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

MSU Extension Service agreement: Jennifer Berkey was present. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve the annual agreement for Extension Services with MSU Extension, and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ACO purchase of a new vehicle: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve the purchase of a 2022 Chevy Tahoe and the purchase of necessary caging for animal care equipment, as recommended by the Animal Control Director not to exceed amount of \$65,000, with funds available in the Capital fund and authorizes the Chair to sign any necessary proposal documents. Along with declaring the 2 existing ACO vehicles and boxes as surplus and authorizing them to be sold. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Purchase of 2 portable police radios: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey to authorize the purchase of 2 portable Motorola police radios, with \$7,110.48 coming out of the Benzie County Central Dispatch fund and up to \$2,689.52 coming out of the Benzie County Sheriff Office fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

December 27, 2022, BOC and COTW meetings: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, cancel the December 27, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting and the December 27, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, and only have one meeting on December 13, 2022. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Resolution 2022-022 Delegating Supervisory Authority of the County Administrator: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve Resolution 2022-022 affirming the Board of Commissioners' authority to appoint, employ, and removed certain positions while delegating supervisory authority to the County Administrator. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:22 a.m. Break

10:31 a.m. Reconvene

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Area Agency on Aging meeting, 911 Special Meeting, and this Friday is Veterans Day.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report. In addition, he attended an Economic Outlook function in Traverse City. What to say Thank You to the Township Clerks'. Proud of Benzie County and the way we manage elections under pressure.

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Comm Miller attended the Benzie Human Services Collaborative meeting, and Airport Authority meeting.

Comm Nye attended the Agenda Review meeting, Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, attended 2 Feasibility Study meeting with at the 2-Townships, meeting at State Saving Bank regarding the proposed project with Habitat for Humanity and Graceland, Village of Benzonia meeting, and EDC meeting.

Comm Markey attended the LPT meeting, Network Northwest meeting, Centra Wellness Network Resource meeting, Homestead Township meeting, Dispatch Director interviews, Special Dispatch Advisory meeting, and the Northern Regional Entity Substance Abuse Board meeting.

Comm Warsecke – nothing to report.

Comm Sauer attended the Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, Maples meeting, Road Commission meeting, Weldon Township meeting, Joyfield Township meeting, Blaine Township meeting, and Gilmore Township meeting.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT** – Katie Zeits stated that she was invited to speak at the Northern Housing Summit last Friday, at the Great Wolf Lodge. Tomorrow she will be interviewing for the Human Resource Manager position in her office. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be participating in the interviews, and Kristine will be zooming in. Commissioner Nye questioned if a 3<sup>rd</sup> commissioner is needed at the interviews. Commissioner Sauer suggested Commissioner Jeannot. Commissioner Jeannot accepted.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** - None

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Motion by Markey, seconded by Sauer to accept the letter of resignation from Marty Dagneau-Bates from the EMS Advisory Board, Almira Township Representative. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Mary Dort has proved a letter of interest for the EMS Advisory Board Almira Township Representative.

EMS Advisory Board Almira Representative and EDC position will be advertised then interview will be scheduled.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Jean Bowers and Dawn Olney from the Benzie Housing Committee Board, acknowledging the decades of service they have provided. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Jeannot recommended that we wait to appoint members to the Benzie Housing Committee Board at this time. He will be researching, after the election, the continuation of this committee, as rural development funds have not been available for some time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

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### **PRESENTATION: Request for Daycare Funding from ARPA funds.**

Ashley Lingstrum is the owner/director of the Whistle Stop Learning Center in Thompsonville. She provided a written presentation including 4 options for funding from the APRA funds. She asks that the Commissioners stop by and look at her daycare. Commissioner Nye proposes that this be put on the next COTW meeting. Commissioner Roelofs supports this.

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Brian Harrison request for Resolution regarding Michigan Auto Insurance Reform
- Crystal Lake Elevation report
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report

11:31 a.m. Public Input

JoAnn Holwerda, City of Frankfort, stated that she hopes helping the Whistle Stop Learning Center can be done. They have 2 staff members that use her.

11:32 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to adjourn at 11:32 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

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of October 25, 2022, as presented.
3. Approve the closed session minutes of October 25, 2022, as presented.
4. Approve payment of the bills from October 21, 2022, through November 3, 2022 in the amount of \$348,759.00, as presented.
5. Offer the position of Central Dispatch Director to Cory Ellis, contingent upon successful background and reference check completion at a starting salary of \$55,000, plus appropriate benefits.
6. Commit to moving forward with Project 2, committing Benzie County to \$1.5 million to expand broadband in Benzie County.
7. Direct the County Administrator to work with the Sheriff Department to move forward with 24-hour road patrol.
8. Approve the annual agreement for Extension Services with MSU Extension and authorize the Chair to sign.
9. Approve the purchase of a 2022 Chevy Tahoe and the purchase of necessary caging for animal care equipment, as recommended by the Animal Control Director not to exceed amount of \$65,000, with funds available in the Capital fund and authorizes the Chair to sign any necessary proposal documents. Along with declaring the 2 existing ACO vehicles and boxes as surplus and authorizing them to be sold.

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10. Authorize the purchase of 2 portable Motorola police radios, with \$7,110.48 coming out of the Benzie County Central Dispatch fund and up to \$2,689.52 coming out of the Benzie County Sheriff Office fund.
11. Cancel the December 27, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting and the December 27, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, and only have one meeting on December 13, 2022.
12. Approve Resolution 2022-022 affirming the Board of Commissioners' authority to appoint, employ, and removed certain positions while delegating supervisory authority to the County Administrator.
13. Accept the letter of resignation from Marty Dagneau-Bates from the EMS Advisory Board, Almira Township Representative.
14. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Jean Bowers and Dawn Olney from the Benzie Housing Committee Board, acknowledging the decades of service they have provided.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**November 8, 2022**

- Participated in 1 meeting on behalf of the County since our October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **10/28 – EDC/BRA**
  - 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 committee voted to recommended this to the BOC in the amount of \$1.5M. The objective continues to be county wide availability, reliability and cost.
- **Other**
  - **11/7** – I will be attending the Economic Outlook Luncheon and will report any relevant information.