

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 22, 2022

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 22, 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 amended, starting the Committee of the Whole meeting immediate after the Board of Commissioners meeting. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of November 8, 2022, as amended, regarding Commissioners Nye's report. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Mary Haan, Homestead Township passed out a chart regarding election results. This is a stolen election.

Lisa Schoomaker-Young, Benzie County, agrees with Mary Haan, election was stolen.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from November 4, 2022, through November 18, 2022, in the amount of \$556,307.22, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, provided a written report for 911 Dispatch. Introduced Cory Ellis, the new 911 Director.

Ed Hoogterp, Drain Commissioner, wanted to inform the Board of Commissioners that he will be submitting a pre-application grant to EGLE for the Dam Risk Reduction Grant by December 5, 2022. He is looking at applying for \$200,000 with a 10% match from the County, the Road Commission, the Townships, Drain Commissions and Crystal Lake Watershed.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Director, provided a written report. Updated that the snow removal for Lake Ann and Thompsonville are covered.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator provided a written report.

ACTION ITEMS

Kelly Ottinger – BACN Application for 2% Tribal Grant: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Benzie Area

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Christian Neighbors and authorize Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Doug Durand – Benzie Senior Resources 2% Tribal Grant: Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Benzie Senior Resources and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consideration and approval of dish washer replacement for jail operations: Motion by Miller, seconded by Markey, to approve the proposal from Stafford Smith, Inc for the purchase and installation of a dishwasher in the jail in the not to exceed amount of \$18,518.00, with funds available in the Capital and Jail funds. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

GIS contract for 911 services: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to authorizes a service agreement with Colligo GIS for GIS services, including a 911 mapping audit, for a period of one-year, with option to renew annually, and that the Chair be authorized to sign agreement subject to approval by legal counsel, with funds available in the Central Dispatch and General Funds. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consideration of appointing interim Equalization Director: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to authorize a service agreement with WAS, LLC for Equalization Director services on a month-to-month basis, in the not to exceed amount of \$7,500 per month, and authorize the Chair to sign subject to approval by Legal counsel, with funds available in the General Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

LOU Central Dispatch: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller to approve the Letter of Understanding (LOU), between the County of Benzie and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) updating the wage table for the Emergency Communication Specialists and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs stated that he attended the Agenda Review meeting, and had 3 meetings cancelled last week.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Miller stated that he attended the Frankfort School Board meeting, Crystal Lake Township meeting, and Airport Authority meeting. Toys for Tots annual event is November 30, 2022, at Papano's Pizza in Beulah. This is their 23rd year hosting the event.

Commissioner Jeannot thanked Commissioner Miller for all he and his wife does to support the Toys for Tots Drive.

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9:56 a.m. Closed Session with legal counsel to discuss attorney client communication pursuant to MCL 15.268(e). Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Jeannot, to enter into closed session to discuss with legal counsel, attorney client communication, pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to include the County Administrator, County Treasurer and County Clerk. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

10:35 a.m. Back in session.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review, Benzie Leelanau Public Hearing, Human Resource position interviews, Benzonia Township meeting, Village of Beulah meeting, Benzie School Board meeting, Health Department Bylaws meeting, and MAC Transportation Authority meeting.

Comm Markey attended the Village of Honor meeting, and had meetings cancelled due to deer session season.

Comm Warsecke attended Colfax Township meeting, Inland Township meeting, and Benzie Transportation Authority meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Gilmore Township meeting, Road Commission meeting, Village of Thompsonville meeting, Faith and Action Group meeting, Maples meeting, Village of Elberta meeting, and Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits reported that interviews were held for the Human Resource Manager position. Jackie Palfey has been offered the position and will start December 19, 2022. Kristine Bosley last day was Friday, November 18, 2022. Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, is retiring December 2, 2022, and we have posted the position. After Thanksgiving holiday, the Government Center christmas tree will be going up and the hat and mitten drive will be continued this year. Benzie County committed up to \$500,000 to Homestretch grant application. The State of Michigan has stated that the property identified is not sufficient, so they are looking at other properties. Update given regarding Broadband.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to set aside the board rules. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye to re-appoint Donald Schaffer to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service board, for a 3-year term to expire on 10/31/2025. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

An interview will be set up for Mary Dort regarding the EMS Advisory Board next week. The interview committee will be Commissioners Markey, Sauer, and Roelofs, along with EMS Director Tom King.

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Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Blake Brooks from the EDC Board. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to re-instate the board rules. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Public Hearing Agenda
- TCAPS 2023 Summer Tax Resolution

11:23 a.m. Public Input - None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approve the agenda as amended.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of November 8, 2022, as amended.
3. Approve payment of the bills from November 4, 2022, through November 18, 2022, in the amount of \$556,307.22.
4. Approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Benzie Area Christian Neighbors and authorize Chair to sign.
5. Approve the grant application for Tribal Council Allocation of 2% funding on behalf of Benzie Senior Resources and authorize the Chair to sign.
6. Approve the proposal from Stafford Smith, Inc for the purchase and installation of a dishwasher in the jail in the not to exceed amount of \$18,518.00, with funds available in the Capital and Jail funds.
7. Authorizes a service agreement with Colligo GIS for GIS services, including a 911 mapping audit, for a period of one-year, with option to renew annually, and that the Chair be authorized to sign agreement subject to approval by legal counsel, with funds available in the Central Dispatch and General Funds.
8. Authorize a service agreement with WAS, LLC for Equalization Director services on a month-to-month basis, in the not to exceed amount of \$7,500 per month and authorize the Chair to sign subject to approval by Legal counsel, with funds available in the General Fund.
9. Approve the Letter of Understanding (LOU), between the County of Benzie and the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) updating the wage table for the Emergency Communication Specialists and authorize the Chair to sign.

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10. Enter into closed session to discuss with legal counsel, attorney client communication, pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to include the County Administrator, County Treasurer and County Clerk.
11. Set aside the board rules.
12. Re-appoint Donald Schaffer to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Service board, for a 3-year term to expire on 10/31/2025.
13. Accept, with regret, the resignation of Blake Brooks from the EDC Board.
14. Re-instate the board rules.

Committee of the Whole

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

1. Removed.
2. Removed.
3. Adopt the Social Media Policy of 11/22/2022.
4. Sheriff and Undersheriff receive a 6½% wage increase, effective the first full pay period in January 2023.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
November 22, 2022

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our November 8th meeting.
- **11/9 – Human Resource Manager Interviews**
 - I participated in interviewing 3 candidates. The County Administrator will give a detailed report.
- **11/14 – Almira Township**
 - New President at Village of Lake Ann (Dan Hawkins).
 - The Township will begin discussing the use of ARPA funds by January.
- **11/17 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
 - Standard meeting. We learned about a new housing initiative called “Master Leasing” to target the homeless. This may appeal to some landlords and the agency will be reaching out to the rental community to generate interest.
 - The agency will be participating with the “diaper program” again this year. They are looking for more groups to participate in the distribution of diapers for people in need financially.
- **11/21 – EDC Broadband Committee**
 - I will share any relevant information at our meeting on Tuesday.
- **Other**
 - **11/8** – I met with Brenda McClellan from Traverse Connect to discuss our communities needs for business growth and retention.
 - **11/14** – Attended the Benzie Chamber Advocacy and Awareness Council meeting. I learned the following:
 - Benzie Aquatics Center is gaining some momentum and at the present is looking to private funding for capital needs. There is that question about sustainable operating funds.
 - Chamber is planning a community summit for early 2023. They hope the elected officials will participate.
 - Chamber is committed to Northern Alliance.
 - Frankfort housing project with Homestretch is on hold due to issues raised by MSHDA. They may not be able to overcome the issue. The project is in to close a proximity BLUA.
 - DTE discussed their renewable plans for energy. It appears they are ahead of schedule. I have attached a link for a brief overview IRP [handout.pdf \(dtecleanenergy.com\)](#)
 - **11/15** – Attended the Frankfort Area Community Land Trust meeting. They continue to make progress on 2 homes. Excavating is completed. Its my opinion they have a good mix of talent on the board.
 - I have been asked to facilitate a round table for the December 14th new commissioner training in Grayling. This is put on by MSU Extension.