

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 25, 2022

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

Excused: Commissioner Markey

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 add Health Dept and EDC to Committee Appointments and D – Step 3 Grievance to Action Items. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of January 11, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the closed session minutes of January 11, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Comment

Annie Browning, Beulah, spoke regarding living with a disability – she will get on the board agenda in the future.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve payment of the bills from January 11, 2022 thru January 24, 2022 in the amount of \$285,192.10, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING – Eclipse Communications LLC

Laura Galbraith, Executive Director of Venture North, provide the board and public with information regarding the request; Eclipse Communications is requesting \$50,000; will hire two full-time employees over the next two years; they are a wireless internet provider which was formed in 2016; 8 members of the public were present.

9:12 a.m. Public Hearing Opened

Annie Browning, Beulah, asked how does what you offer and Merit work together?

Chris Varenhorst stated that Merit is a Tier 2 provided; they have the opportunity to work with them. Art Jeannot stated that there is a MOU with Eclipse and a contract with Merit that they prepare, execute and deliver a product.

Bob Roelofs asked where Merit's infrastructure is -- up the Highway to Honor then to Traverse City; they are not intended to go to the home.

9:17 a.m. Public Hearing Closed

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Resolution 2022-004: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt Resolution 2022-004 Authorizing Resolution - Community Development Block Grant Loan Fund Application – Eclipse Communications LLC as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Dawn Bousamra, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and updated the board regarding staffing issues, Christmas Bag program was successful; tax preparation program will be starting in February; 150 people signed up for snow removal.

Sheriff Rosa spoke regarding the COVID extension; he stated that we are far from being out of the woods with this.

ACTION ITEMS

Covid Sick Time Extension: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the return of leave hours to employees or pay, if applicable, employees who have met one of the following conditions within the timeframe of January 11, 2022 through January 25, 2022:

- 1) Medical facility confirmed positive test for Covid 19 or it's variants, or
- 2) Have been advised to quarantine by Administration and Human Resources; and

Further that the Benzie County Board of Commissioners authorize the Benzie County Administrator in conjunction with Human Resources to approve pay to employees meeting the following conditions within the timeframe of January 26, 2022 through March 15, 2022:

- 1) Medical facility confirmed positive test for Covid 19 or it's variants, or
- 2) Are required to quarantine by Administration and Human Resources; and further

That the Board of Commissioners adopts the Resolution Adopting a Health Advisory Leave Policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic and preauthorizes seven letters of understanding outlining the additional benefits with the respective bargaining units, with the policy and seven letters of understanding to sunset on March 15, 2022.

Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

9:59 a.m. Break

10:06 a.m. Reconvene

Step 3 Grievance: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, designates County Administration to act on its behalf to hear and respond to the Step 3 Grievance for the FOPLC Deputy Unit involving Deputy James Kosiboski, LC Grievance #01-18-22-FOPLC-426. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on 911; EMS; Agenda Review meeting; Centra Wellness Interview.

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Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller attended and reported on Frankfort City Council; Crystal Lake Twp budget and Twp board meetings.

Comm Nye attended and reported on Centra Wellness interview; Centra Wellness Board meeting (via phone)

Comm Warsecke attended and reported on Inland Township; Colfax Township; Solid Waste and Parks & Rec.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on Weldon Township; Betsie Valley District Library; Benzie County Road Commission; School Safety Meeting; Local Emergency Planning; Village of Elberta.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Provided a written report (attached) and stated that she will have the phone system on the agenda for February 8; W-2s will be out this week; open position in Animal Control; stairtreads are done; blinds are up; BS&A timesheets program will be up and running soon; working on a digital conference room schedule; will hopefully schedule Goal Setting for next week.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve item 1 of the January 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

BTA: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to reappoint Jeannette Feeheley to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a 3-year term, expiring April 30, 2025. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to appoint Jason Barnard and Barb Ikens to the two vacant seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term, expiring December 31, 2024. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Centra Wellness: Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to appoint Paula McLain to the vacant seat on the Centra Wellness Board, with a term to expire on March 31, 2024. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

EDC/BRA: Acknowledge the letter from Ed Kowalski that he is not seeking reappointment.

Health Dept Board: This is an at-large position and needs to be advertised; no appointment made at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

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NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Friends of Betsie Valley Trail Launch Fundraiser to Build a New Storage Facility.

10:56 a.m. Public Comment

Annie Browning, Beulah, spoke regarding the Land Trust – she will be involved in Frankfort at the request of Todd Bruce.

Art Jeannot spoke regarding Senator Shirkey's bill and asked everyone to email Senator VanderWall with your position on the Shirkey Bill.

10:58 a.m. Public Comment Closed

Chair Roelofs reported that the BOC Committee appointments are being finalized.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adjourn at 10:59a a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended add Health Dept and EDC to Committee Appointments and D – Step 3 Grievance to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 11, 2022 as presented.
3. Approved the closed session minutes of January 11, 2022 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills from January 11, 2022 thru January 24, 2022 in the amount of \$285,192.10, as presented.
5. PUBLIC HEARING – Eclipse Communications LLC
6. Adopted Resolution 2022-004 Authorizing Resolution - Community Development Block Grant Loan Application – Eclipse Communications LLC as presented.
7. Approved the return of leave hours to employees or pay, if applicable, with restrictions.
8. Adopted the Resolution Adopting a Health Advisory Leave Policy related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Designated County Administration to act on its behalf to hear and respond to the Step 3 Grievance for the FOPLC Deputy Unit involving Deputy James Kosiboski, LC Grievance #01-18-22-FOPLC-426.
10. Approved item 1 of the January 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Reappointed Jeannette Feeheley to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a 3-year term, expiring April 30, 2025.
12. Appointed Jason Barnard and Barb Ikens to the two vacant seats on the Parks and Recreation Commission for a 3-year term, expiring December 31, 2024.
13. Appointed Paula McLain to the vacant seat on the Centra Wellness Board, with a term to expire on March 31, 2024.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
January 25, 2022

- Participated in 2 meetings on behalf of the County since our January 11th meeting.
- **1/14 - MAC Finance and General Governance –**
 - We discussed broadband and what resources may be available to rural communities. It appears that investing into broadband study will improve our chances to secure grants going forward. Katie Zeits joined the conversation.
 - Discussed contract limits for county administrators. I understood the presenter to say state statutes limit contracts to 3 years.
 - Personal property tax exemption increasing in 2022.
 - MAC opposes Shirkey bill related to community mental health.
- **1/20 – NMCA -**
 - I continue to serve on the agencies executive committee. Topics discussed represented day to day activities and an overview on the yearly audit that is in process.
- **Other –**
 - **1/12 –** Commissioner Sauer and I met with the new Maples administrator, Nate Loop. This was an opportunity to discuss some of the history and relationship between the Maples and BOCs. This was a positive conversation and I believe will help develop a working relationship.
 - **1/19 –** A Brownfield Seminar was presented by EGLE. Katie Zeits also joined the presentation. There was information about eligible projects and potential to access grants and loans for economic development. It was stressed about the need to have project ready opportunities.

Memorandum



To: Board of Commissioners

From: Katie Zeits, County Administrator *Katie Zeits*

Date: January 19, 2022

Subject: **Administration Update**

Capital Budget

It was requested at the October 26th meeting, that a running total be given of the capital expenditures approved by the board for this current fiscal year. With the 2021/2022 budget approval, a total of \$390,000 was budgeted in the 401 General Fund Capital Budget. The corresponding capital plan accounted for \$297,500 in General Fund capital expenditures and an additional \$68,495 in jail expenditures.

As of January 5th, the Board has approved a total of \$195,864 in expenditures. This has included the BS&A Timesheet upgrade, stairwell tread and riser replacement (amended amount), HVAC upgrades in the jail, blind purchase, and the approval of two vehicles for Sheriff's Department operational use.

I do have approval of a proposal for generator onboarding on the Committee of the Whole in the not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.

Technology

I will have an update at Tuesday's meeting as to internet/phone services and device replacement; I have a meeting with IT Right on Monday.

Broadband Survey

We have obtained over 1200 unique responses to the internet survey! I've requested additional help from the community for the southern areas of our county, responses are lacking there. If you know of anyone in those areas, please have them participate in the survey. Merit is working to finalize travel arrangements to present their final report to the Board; it's looking like closer to mid-March.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you!