

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**April 12, 2022**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 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 Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as amend, to add Emergency Management Budget Amendment to Elected Officials and COTW Consent Agenda dated April 11, 2022. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey  
Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of March 15, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey  
Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

**FINANCE**

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$2,369,196.65, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke  
Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, requested approval of a budget amendment to cover a grant received for the Victim Services Unit in the amount of \$1,525.08.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to amend Fund 425 in the 2021-22 budget as follows:

Increase:

425-301-539.02	VSU Grants and Donations In	\$1,525.08
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Increase:

425-301-967.09	VSU Grants and Donations Out	\$1,525.08
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Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey  
Motion carried.

She also stated that this is National Public Safety Telecommunications Month so be sure and thank your dispatchers for their work; the dispatch roster is full at this time.

On the Emergency Management side, there are a lot of trainings, exercises and exams going on right now; will attend an Ironman meeting next week.

Tom Longanbach, Equalization Director, stated that this is the time for County Equalization; explains the L-4024 report and requests adoption of same.

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Kyle Maurer, Animal Control, informed the board that Two Seven Oh, LLC has indicated that grant money is available again this year and will be used for updating of the cat cages; still having well issues; Court hearing on April 14 and hopefully will obtain opportunity for release of some of the animals; Shelter Attendant position main goal is socialization; this is Animal Control Appreciation Week.

Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Director, provided a written report.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources Executive Director, provided a written report.

### ACTION ITEMS

Equalization Report; L-4024: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the L-4024 as presented, authorizing the chair and clerk to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

BARR Engineering Change Road – Point Betsie: Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to approve Change Order #1 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protect Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$15,187 and that the Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$15,187 for the project to allow for reimbursement revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

ACO Services Agreement with Grand Traverse County: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the Interlocal Government Agreement for Animal Control Services with Grand Traverse County, as prepared by legal counsel, authorizing the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

MTG Cost Allocation Plan: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve a multi-year agreement up to five (5) years with MGT of American Consulting to prepare the annual Cost Allocation Plan, with funds available in the General Fund, contracted services and authorize the Chair to sign following legal counsel review. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Scrap Tire Grant Agreement with EGLE: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for reimbursement of funds to collect and dispose of approximately 3,000 tires in Benzie County and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Com Van Radio Repeater: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve the purchase of the enhanced vehicular repeater system to extend portable radio coverage as detailed in the April 12, 2022 packet communications with funds available in the 911 Emergency Service Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Benzonia Twp Sewer Project Proposal: Jason Barnard, Benzonia Township Supervisor, presented a request for a portion of the 2022 Marijuana Proceeds that were provided to the county to participate in a collaborative funding effort to fund a sewer feasibility study in the Benzonia area; roughly

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\$100,000 for the cost of this study to be shared by Benzonia Township, Benzonia Village, Beulah Village and Benzie County.

Chair Roelofs asked if Benzonia Twp received ARPA money? Yes.

Comm Nye stated that she wanted to get this on the ARPA matrix, but with us being very slow about how to spend those funds; possible infrastructure funds coming down from the state and are looking at shovel-ready projects and this study is the first step in this process.

Comm Jeannot stated that the Village of Beulah water/sewer costs are excessive – will this have any change in those costs? Dan Hook spoke on behalf of the Village of Beulah – sewer system rates were just increase by 17% because we will have to put money into the system.

Comm Jeannot stated that we should first look at our costs due to the additional dispensaries with respect to how we spend the 2022 Marijuana Proceeds. The Board was reminded that in 2021 a resolution was approved to use future proceeds for retiring MERS shortfall.

Sara Kirk speaks to the overlay with the Village of Benzonia through their Master Plan; the community recognizes this as a problem. We are ready for development but on hold due to the sewer matter.

Comm Jeannot agrees with Comm Nye that this is a collaboration.

Chair Roelofs asks how many sites in the township are not suitable for sewer.

Comm Sauer stated that his district would not benefit from this. This is not the county responsibility; no one else was given money to help.

Comm Miller says thank you to Benzonia Township for allowing marijuana facilities.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to rescind the April 27, 2021 resolution 2021-016 Resolution to Authorize the Use of Recreational Marijuana Funds to be Dedicated to Address Benzie County's Unfunded Pension Liability. Roll call. Ayes: Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot and Sauer Exc: Markey Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, that the Board of Commissioners are dedicated to addressing the sewer needs of the Benzonia and Beulah regions and commits \$40,000 to the Sewer Feasibility Study project with funds available from the 2022 allocation of the State of Michigan's Adult Use Marijuana retail sales excise tax revenue. Roll call. Ayes: Miller, Nye, Roelofs and Warsecke Nays: Jeannot and Sauer Exc: Markey Motion carried.

10:15 a.m. Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Nye, to enter closed session under MCL15.268(c) to discuss options with the County Attorney. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

10:24 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Miller, that the Settlement Agreement in connection with a termination as discussed in Closed Session on April 12, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$6,000 and the Board Chair be authorized to sign, with funds available in the Jail fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on Veterans Affairs and their Rolling Thunder event on July 9; MAC Conference.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

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Comm Miller attended and reported on City of Frankfort; Crystal Lake Township, Human Services Collaborative; Airport Authority; Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse; Frankfort Elberta Area School Board meeting.

Comm Nye attended and reported on the Benzie County Central School; Centra Wellness Finance and Planning; Health Department; Village of Benzonia; Land Bank Authority; Village of Beulah; EDC Special Meeting; Grow Benzie Summit.

Chair Roelofs asked if everyone on the board were present at the Health Dept meeting. Comm Nye says no, Dr. Kuipers was not in attendance.

Comm Warsecke attended and reported on Parks & Recreation; Solid Waste Advisory; Inland Township.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on MAC Conference; Benzie County Road Commission; Court Security; Health Department; Betsie Valley Trail Management Council; Joyfield Twp; Congratulations to Paula Eberhart for being appointed Register of Deeds to fill the remainder of the unexpired term; DHHS board meeting.

## **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits**

Also attended the MAC Conference; reported on EDC; all millages have now been approved to appear on the August 2022 ballot; been doing some relationship building with townships, villages and groups; working to memorialize agreements with other entities.

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve items 1 - 4 of the March 15, 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.

Comm Jeannot removed item 1 from the April 11, 2022 Consent Calendar.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye, to approve items 1-10 of the April 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.

#11: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to adopt Resolution 2022-015 Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Millage Renewal and Restoration Question for the Benzie County Medical Care Facility (The Maples) Operations of 0.3531 for 4 years to be presented to the electorate at the August 2022 election, subject to execution of the Memorandum of Understanding before the Maples Board. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Centra Wellness: Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to reappoint Donald Smeltzer to the Centra Wellness Board for a 3- year term, expiring March 31, 2025. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

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Benzie Bus: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to reappoint John Morse 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.

Land Bank: Motion by Miller, seconded by Nye, to reappoint Jason Barnard to the Land Bank Authority for a 3- year term, expiring April 5, 2025. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

## NEW BUSINESS

### PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority financial report for February 2022 received.
- Grand Traverse resolution regarding Michigan Auto Insurance received.
- Iosco County resolution Mental Health Services received.
- Iron County resolution Urging the Return of State Workers to In-Person Operations received.
- Memo received from Kasson Township regarding review of their Master Plan received.
- Grand Traverse resolution of Solidarity with Residents of Ukrainian Descent received.
- DRAFT Weldon Township Zoning Ordinance for review and comment received.

11:19 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Township, spoke about the importance of the sewer study and the value in the study.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that the treasurer foreclosed on four parcels and that sale will be on line September 9; she also reported on delinquent tax collection.

11:24 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to adjourn at 11:24 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Exc: Markey Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

## INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amend.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of March 15, 2022 as presented.
3. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$2,369,196.65, as presented.
4. Amended Fund 425 in the 2021-22 budget as presented.
5. Adopted the L-4024 as presented, authorizing the chair and clerk to sign.
6. Approved Change Order #1 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protect Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$15,187 and that the Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$15,187 for the project to allow for



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- reimbursement revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County be approved.
7. Approved the Interlocal Government Agreement for Animal Control Services with Grand Traverse County, as prepared by legal counsel, authorizing the Chair to sign.
  8. Approved a multi-year agreement up to five (5) years with MGT of American Consulting to prepare the annual Cost Allocation Plan, with funds available in the General Fund, contracted services and authorize the Chair to sign following legal counsel review.
  9. Approved the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy for reimbursement of funds to collect and dispose of approximately 3,000 tires in Benzie County and authorize the Chair to sign.
  10. Approved the purchase of the enhanced vehicular repeater system to extend portable radio coverage as detailed in the April 12, 2022 packet communications with funds available in the 911 Emergency Service Fund.
  11. Rescinded the April 27, 2021 resolution 2021-016 Resolution to Authorize the Use of Recreational Marijuana Funds to be Dedicated to Address Benzie County's Unfunded Pension Liability.
  12. Approved stating that the Board of Commissioners are dedicated to addressing the sewer needs of the Benzonia and Beulah regions and commits \$40,000 to the Sewer Feasibility Study project with funds available from the 2022 allocation of the State of Michigan's Adult Use Marijuana retail sales excise tax revenue.
  13. Enter closed session under MCL15.268(c) to discuss options with the County Attorney.
  14. Approved the Settlement Agreement in connection with a termination as discussed in Closed Session on April 12, 2022 be approved in the amount of \$6,000 and the Board Chair be authorized to sign, with funds available in the Jail fund.
  15. Approved items 1 - 4 of the March 15, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
  16. Approved items 1-10 of the April 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
  17. Adopted Resolution 2022-015 Resolution Submitting to a Vote of the Electorate a Millage Renewal and Restoration Question for the Benzie County Medical Care Facility (The Maples) Operations of 0.3531 for 4 years to be presented to the electorate at the August 2022 election, subject to execution of the Memorandum of Understanding before the Maples Board.
  18. Reappointed Donald Smeltzer to the Centra Wellness Board for a 3- year term, expiring March 31, 2025.
  19. Reappointed John Morse to the Benzie Transportation Authority for a 3- year term, expiring April 30, 2025.
  20. Reappointed Jason Barnard to the Land Bank Authority for a 3- year term, expiring April 5, 2025.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**April 12, 2022**

- Participated in 6 meetings on behalf of the County since our February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- **3/17 – Northern MI Community Action Agency –**
  - Nothing of relevancy to report.
- **4/4 – Networks Northwest –**
  - I attended both the Counsel of Government meeting and the full board. Standard operations were primarily discussed.
- **4/5 – Platte Township –**
  - Standard business was discussed. Rebecca Huber’s addressed the board regarding Emergency Management Services. Rebecca represented the County well.
  - The board spoke highly of Jessie Zylstra regarding his management of the Solid Waste Department.
  - The Morgan School building will be available for sale with an asking price of \$265k.
- **4/6 – EDC Business Retention Committee –**
  - Approved a job description and business plan to manage economic growth opportunities in Benzie County. I anticipate this will come before the BOC in the next 30 days to request funding for this initiative. Commissioner Nye may have more information to share on this meeting.
- **4/7 – Lake Township –**
  - A vote to support Ironman for September 2022 was approved. Representatives of the event were present to answer questions.
  - 3 responses to an RFP for new legal counsel were distributed for a decision to be made at an upcoming meeting.
- **4/8 – Brownfield Authority –**
  - The authority held a work session to learn more about True North’s development in Honor. True North plans to invest approximately \$3.3M with the improvement on the property to start as soon as possible. Susan Wenzlick is guiding us through the process. A recommendation to approve a new Brownfield plan and a project specific proposal may come before the BOC within the next 30 days. Commissioner Nye may have additional input.
- **Other –**
- **4/7 –** I met with Josh Stoltz from Grow Benzie. He offered input regarding use of ARPA funds and special mileage assessments.
- I have been contacted by the Benzie County “Faith in Action” committee to discuss county housing and broadband at their April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Paula Figura has agreed to join me.