

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 26, 2022

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 26, 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, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke
Excused:

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

Agenda:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the agenda as amended, add BVT to Committee Appointments. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of April 12, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Nye, to approve the closed session minutes of April 12, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None
Motion carried.

9:04 a.m. Public Input

Mary Haan spoke regarding National Day of Prayer to be held on May 5 at the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion.

9:07 a.m. Public Input Closed.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from April 13, 2022 thru April 25, 2022 in the amount of \$248,918.09, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tom King, EMS Director, provided a written report and reported that the state inspection went good with no issues; COVID seems to be slowing down at this point; New vehicle is here working on final items to get it on the road; paving at Station 2 is scheduled for June; educational trainings continue; working on grant funding for active shooter training.

Dawn Bousamra, Benzie Senior Resources, provided a written report and reported that snowplowing program has finished and they have started Spring clean-up – 4 contractors have signed up; waiting for the Senior Project Fresh to begin.

Dawn Olney, County Clerk, reported that she is announcing her retirement effective June 1, 2022. After 35 years of service, I have decided that now is the time. I have loved my job here and the many people I have assisted over the past 35 years. I will miss you all.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 4

April 26, 2022

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Amendment -- Jail Medical: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve budget amendments up to \$60,000.00 from the General Fund, Budgeted Use of Fund Balance for jail medical expenses for inmates on an as needed basis for the 2021/2022 fiscal year. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – Sewer Feasibility Study: : Motion by Nye, seconded by Miller, to approve budget amendment for \$40,000.00 of marijuana excise tax funds as contribution to cover the sewer feasibility study facilitated by Benzonia Township, as follows:

Increase:

101-253-439.00	Marijuana Excise Tax	\$40,000
----------------	----------------------	----------

Increase:

101-26608000.00	Contracted Services	\$40,000
-----------------	---------------------	----------

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

Comm Jeannot noted that he is opposed to the process of allocating funds, but the majority of Commissioners have approved it so he will support payment.

Comm Sauer echoes those comments.

Brownfield Plan Approval – True North Project: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, that Resolution 2022-016 approving the Benzie County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan, Village of Honor Scattered Plan, be adopted which supports the project proposed by Convenience Management for development of a convenience store and gas station. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – District Court Jury Fees: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,200 for jury fees be approved, with funds to move from the CARES act dollars as needed. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:46 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Reconvene

Aaron Stevens, Maner Costerisan, presented the county's audit for year ending September 30, 2021.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on attendance at a mediation meeting; EMS; Agenda review.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller attended and reported on Frankfort City Council and Crystal Lake Township.

Comm Nye attended and reported on Benzonia Township; EDC; Centra Wellness Board; MAC Transportation; Animal Control; township meetings regarding sewer feasibility study; Highway Clean-Up

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 4

April 26, 2022

Comm Markey attended and reported on LEPC and Benzie Senior Resources.

Comm Warsecke attended and reported on Colfax Township; Conservation District; Parks & Recreation; Benzie Transportation Authority.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on Gilmore Township; Weldon Township; Road Commission; School Safety meeting; Village of Elberta.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits – provided a written report (attached).

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Betsie Valley Trail: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to confirm Roberta Benedict as the Village of Elberta Representative to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council for 3 years. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Betsie Valley Trail Management Council minutes of October 5, 2021 and April 5, 2022 received.
- Green Lake Township Notice of Adoption of Master Plan Amendment.
- Benzie-Leelanau Health Dept minutes of March 30, 2022 received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority Financial Statement for March 2022 received.

11:02 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Beulah, reported that she has been busy with duties at the Village of Beulah getting ready for summer.

Mary Haan, Honor, spoke regarding the ARPA funds and that her laundromat is in need of help as well.

11:06 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:07 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Approved the agenda as amended.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of April 12, 2022 as presented.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 4

April 26, 2022

3. Approved the closed session minutes of April 12, 2022 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$248,918.09, as presented.
5. Approved budget amendments up to \$60,000.00 from the General Fund, Budgeted Use of Fund Balance for jail medical expenses for inmates on an as needed basis for the 2021/2022 fiscal year.
6. Approved budget amendment for \$40,000.00 of marijuana excise tax funds as contribution to cover the sewer feasibility study facilitated by Benzonia Township, as presented.
7. Approved Resolution 2022-016 approving the Benzie County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Plan, Village of Honor Scattered Plan, be adopted which supports the project proposed by Convenience Management for development of a convenience store and gas station.
8. Approved the budget amendment in the amount of \$5,200 for jury fees be approved, with funds to move from the CARES act dollars as needed.
9. Confirmed Roberta Benedict as the Village of Elberta Representative to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council for 3 years.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
April 26, 2022

- Participated in 4 meetings on behalf of the County since our April 12th meeting.
- **4/15 – EDC/BRA –**
 - After a number of meetings to learn more about True North's request to use brownfield tax credits to support their project in Honor, a motion passed to recommend to the BOC approval of their request. This will be on an upcoming BOC agenda and will be discussed in greater detail.
 - We had a presentation regarding Benzie Central Wellness Center. We have been invited to go on a field trip to see other projects that are functioning in other communities.
- **4/18– Northern MI Counties Association –**
 - We discussed proposed bills for funding CMHs in Michigan. We were joined by State Representative Mary Whiteford to learn more about her proposed house bill on this subject. The bill proposed by Senator Shirkey appears to be lacking support. 62 counties have passed a resolution against the Senators bill (SB 597-598)
 - Additional monies may be coming from the State of MI to match ARPA dollars at the county level.
 - \$250M has been allocated to help rural communities with broadband initiatives.
- **4/19 – Northern MI Community Action Agency (Housing Committee) –**
 - We met to discuss investing /sponsoring a housing project in Leelanau County. You may not be aware that this same committee supported a request to fund \$145k for the housing project being built in Honor. The committee has 3 voting members who make recommendations to the full board at NMCAA.
- **4/21 – Northern MI Community Action Agency –**
 - Approved the application for a MSHDA grant for a housing project in Leelanau County.
 - I learned that Head Start has been put on notice to vacate the Platte River Elementary School at the end of the school year. I spoke with Bob Rosa and explained that Head Start is having problems finding a new location in Benzie County. Potentially Benzie County may not be able to have Head Start for the next school year. Bob has agreed to re-visit this conversation with the BCRC board.
 - There are additional monies available from the State (\$183k) for housing weatherization assistance. We need to find a way to communicate this to our community. Some of the rules have been relaxed.
- **Other –**
- **4/15 –** At Kyle Mauer's request I did a site visit to the animal shelter to discuss concerns and plans to re-locate the dog run.
- **4/19 –** I met with members of Benzie Faith in Action at their request to discuss housing and broadband in Benzie County. Katie Zeits and Paula Figura joined me.

Memorandum



To: Board of Commissioners

From: Katie Zeits, County Administrator *Katie Zeits*

Date: April 7, 2022

Subject: **Administration Update**

Broadband

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Merit will be presenting their presentation to the Board of Commissioners on May 24th. In the near future, I will share with the board a quick 2-pager overview that can be distributed to the community.

The State of Michigan has allocated funds for broadband, and we expect programming to access those funds to be out in May. There is a great deal of money at both the state and federal level and broadband is a priority of both the Governor and the President. I will continue to follow this topic.

22/23 Budget

We will begin budgeting very soon! The process will be similar to last year but will be moved up a bit giving the board a little extra time to discuss and approve funds.

This and That

I attend the Weldon Township meeting and they were excited to hear from me. I gave them an overview of the ARPA process, let them know about the broadband presentation coming up and answered other questions they had.

I attended a Faith in Action meeting with Commissioner Jeannot to discuss broadband and housing. The group is eager to assist with both efforts in our community.

I recently met with Senator Jon Bumstead. Pending the November 2022 election, he would be our Senator in Benzie County. Senator Bumstead and I have a good history. Him and I discussed various monies at the State level and how we can potentially benefit from them, including broadband, sewer, trails, and brownfield. I brought Senator Bumstead around the building to meet with additional staff.

I continue to meet with interested developers for various properties in Benzie County, including the old high school, Platte School and Crystal Lake school. I am hopeful we can continue the momentum we've found for the Village of Honor project in Benzie County.

As a reminder, we will be celebrating with Amy Bissell on Friday, April 29th for her retirement. This event will take place in the Board room from 1pm until 4pm.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, June 17th for an all-employee cookout! More details to come.

Capital Budget

It was requested at the October 26, 2021, 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.

To date, the Board has approved a total of \$211,114 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, and generator onboarding in both the Governmental Center and the Sheriff's Office/Jail.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you!

Finance Report