

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 8, 2022

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

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 to add I- MSHDA Grant supporting document to Action Items. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

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

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to approve the special session minutes of February 1, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Input – None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from January 25, 2022 thru February 8, 2022 in the amount of \$312,304.51, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported that she attended the Michigan Association of County Treasurer's conference in person last week; her office will continue to be short-handed for the next couple of weeks.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

U/S Hubers updated the board on the events of last Friday with the homicide; MSP is doing the homicide investigation; they are appreciative of all the resources they received.

ACTION ITEMS

Cody Kastl – MERS Purchase Time: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to approve the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for Cody Kastl, authorizing the Board Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

MERIT Service Agreement Addendum: Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to authorize the Service Agreement between Merit Network, Inc. and Benzie County for annual internet bandwidth originally authorized August 2015 and extended August 2020, be amended to reflect an increase in

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bandwidth from 40 Mbps to 100 Mbps in the annual amount of \$6,480 and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign such amendment. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

TelNet Phone Upgrade: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, approved the proposal from TelNet for an upgraded phone system and support for a period of 60 months, be accepted and the Board Chair be authorized to sign the appropriate agreements, with funds available in the appropriate department funds. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Prosecuting Attorney – Budget Amendment: Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the Budget Amendment recognizing an additional \$960 in grant revenue and \$960 in additional expenditures in the Prosecuting Attorney’s budget as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Headlee: Discussions held regarding process to move forward; agree to delay further discussion and appointment of a tax allocation committee until late 2022.

Planning Ordinance Repeal: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve that the Benzie County Planning Commission Ordinance Number 2009-002, adopted by the Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2009 be repealed in its entirety. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

ARPA Next Steps: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to direct Administration to facilitate brainstorming sessions with staff to prepare a draft list of allowable expenditures as defined by the Department of Treasury for the American Rescue Plan Act funding. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

MERS Service Credit Purchases Moving Forward: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, that the Board of Commissioners elect to eliminate the option for participating employees to purchase additional service credit, and not to approve any application requests after February 1, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign the appropriate documents. Roll call. Ayes: Nye and Sauer Nays: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Roelofs and Warsecke Motion denied.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, that the Board of Commissioners elect to eliminate the option for participating employees to purchase additional service credit, and not to approve any application requests after March 1, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign the appropriate documents. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: Miller and Nye Motion carried.

MSHDA Housing Form: Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Markey, to authorize the Program Income Exempt Project Determination for Housing as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign as the Certifying Officer. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:55 a.m. Break

10:03 a.m. Reconvene

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10:03 a.m. Tad Peacock, Nonpoint Source Grant – Village of Beulah

This grant was awarded to the Village of Beulah, and they will be the fiduciary; asks this board to consider a commitment of funds over the next three years – the same amount as two years ago, \$7,000 each year for three years.

Comm Sauer asks for clarity about what will be done. The SAW grant identified the problems, and this Nonpoint Source grant will be used to fix the issues.

Comm Markey asked about the maintenance plan for the future, who will take care of it?

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to stand by our earlier approval of \$7,000 per year for three years, upon determination of funding source. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended and reported on Special Meeting on 2/1; 2/3 Area Agency on Aging 2/23 Bylaws workshop.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report (attached).

Comm Miller attended and reported on the Human Services Collaborative; Airport Authority.

Comm Nye attended and reported on Benzie Leelanau Health Department; Goal Setting special meeting; Village of Benzonia meeting.

Comm Markey attended and reported on Homestead Township; Goal Setting; Local Planning Team.

Comm Warsecke attended the Goal Setting meeting.

Comm Sauer attended and reported on Benzie Leelanau Health Department; MAC Ag & Tourism; Joyfield Township; Blaine Township; DHHS (Maples); met with County Administrator, Sheriff and Undersheriff regarding School Resource Officer.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Reported on the MAC Conference which will be held next month; Broadband will present the survey results to the Board in April; LogoWear – if anyone is interested, please contact her; having a Benzie Senior Resources funding issue – will discuss further in the near future; Space Needs; Active Pure Units – does this board want another presentation, the current quote was close to \$100,000 for both buildings.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer, to approve items 1 - 4 of the January 25, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Benzie Leelanau Health Board: 3 applicants at this time-1 position; schedule interviews for Friday, February 11 starting at 9:00 a.m. Comm Roelofs, Nye, Sauer and CA Zeits to interview.

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CDBG Housing: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to acknowledge the resignation of Amy Bissell from the Benzie County Housing Committee effective April 30, 2022 with regrets. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Walterhouse Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Transportation Authority financial report for December 2021 received.
- Leelanau County resolution Supporting the Community Mental Health Authority and Opposing Current State Legislation to Change the CMHA received.
- Marquette County resolution Supporting the Cause of Protecting Democracy, Promoting Policies that Protect Access to the Ballot for Voters and Building on the Progress of the 2020 Elections received.

11:10 a.m. Public Input

Annie Browning, Benzonia Twp, was reflecting on the meeting and heard the phrase money grab, coming from the Village of Beulah & hearing Tad (Peacock) talk about Crystal Lake improvements to the community health.

11:10 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended to add I- MSHDA Grant supporting document to Action Items.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of January 25, 2022 as presented.
3. Approved the special session minutes of February 1, 2022 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills from January 25, 2022 thru February 8, 2022 in the amount of \$312,304.51, as presented.
5. Approved the Application for Additional Service Credit Purchase for Cody Kastl, authorizing the Board Chair to sign.
6. Authorized the Service Agreement between Merit Network, Inc. and Benzie County for annual internet bandwidth originally authorized August 2015 and extended August 2020, be amended to reflect an increase in bandwidth from 40 Mbps to 100 Mbps in the annual amount of \$6,480 and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign such amendment.

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7. Approved the proposal from TelNet for an upgraded phone system and support for a period of 60 months, be accepted and the Board Chair be authorized to sign the appropriate agreements, with funds available in the appropriate department funds.
8. Approved the Budget Amendment recognizing an additional \$960 in grant revenue and \$960 in additional expenditures in the Prosecuting Attorney's budget as presented.
9. Approved the Benzie County Planning Commission Ordinance Number 2009-002, adopted by the Board of Commissioners on May 19, 2009 be repealed in its entirety.
10. Approved to direct Administration to facilitate brainstorming sessions with staff to prepare a draft list of allowable expenditures as defined by the Department of Treasury for the American Rescue Plan Act funding.
11. Denied that the Board of Commissioners elect to eliminate the option for participating employees to purchase additional service credit, and not to approve any application requests after February 1, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign the appropriate documents.
12. Approved that the Board of Commissioners elect to eliminate the option for participating employees to purchase additional service credit, and not to approve any application requests after March 1, 2022 and authorize the Chair to sign the appropriate documents.
13. Authorized the Program Income Exempt Project Determination for Housing as presented, authorizing the Chair to sign as the Certifying Officer.
14. Approved to stand by our earlier approval of \$7,000 per year for three years, upon determination of funding source to the Village of Beulah for the Nonpoint Source Grant matching funds contribution. Approved items 1 - 4 of the January 25, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
15. Acknowledged the resignation of Amy Bissell from the Benzie County Housing Committee effective April 30, 2022 with regrets.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
February 8, 2022

- Participated in 7 meetings on behalf of the County since our January 25th meeting.
- **1/26 - EDC Retention Committee –**
 - We continue to work on a proposal to contract with the Benzie Chamber to help with economic development efforts. I hope to bring a recommendation to an April or May meeting of the BOC.
- **2/1 – Special BOC Meeting –** Attended by all Commissioners.
 - Attended by all Commissioners to discuss 2022 goals for administration staff.
- **2/3 – Lake Township –**
 - Representative of the National Parks Department discussed their experience with the Ironman event. They are hoping for advanced notice of the Townships participation for 2022 so that they can notify people registering for campsites during the event.
 - After some discussion regarding an RFP for legal services, I contacted our Administrator to provide a copy of the RFP the Commissioners used in recent years.
- **2/4 – MAC Finance and General Governance Committee –**
 - Presentation by MI Economic Development. There was a discussion about possible grants for local communities. Katie Zeits joined the meeting.
- **2/4 – Maples (DHHS) –**
 - At Commissioner Sauer's request I participated in the meeting to answer questions regarding the MOU with respect to the capital needs of the Maples. The topic was not brought up. Commissioner Sauer will report on the details of the meeting.
- **2/7 – Northern MI Counties Association –**
 - Discussion centered around Senator Shirkey's bill to change funding for community mental health in the State of MI. We were joined by Senator VanderWall. Katie Zeits also joined the meeting. In general, it appears as if the bill gets little support from the Northern Mi Counties.
- **2/7 – Networks Northwest –**
 - Council of Governments – Chris Christensen will continue on as Chair. Discussion on trail grant for Manistee and Benzie connector. NWNW is hosting a county administrator round table every other month. We were update on OMA policy. It is still being considered whether public input must be available for those people attending remotely. Apparently, some counties have had extended public input as a result of people offering comment who have no connection to the county.
 - Full board – discussion on possible funding to upgrade space for "Parole". NWNW staff will get back to me.
- **Other –**
- **2/7 –** Met with State Representative O'Malley to discuss state funding for economic development opportunities. I invited Blake Brooks and Katie Zeits to join us.

RECEIVED

FEB 08 2022

DAWN OLNEY
BENZIE COUNTY CLERK
BEULAH, MI 49617