

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 11, 2022

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 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, Roelofs and Sauer

Excused: Commissioner Markey, Nye and Warsecke

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

Agenda:

Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of December 28, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to approve the Organizational session minutes of January 4, 2022 as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Comment

Amy Bissell, Register of Deeds, spoke against the possible change in start time for the Committee of the Whole.

9:04 a.m. Public Comment Closed

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve payment of the bills from December 28, 2021 thru January 10, 2022 in the amount of \$530,100.21, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

Budget Amendment – Point Betsie: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to amend the 2021-2022 Budget to create a budget for the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection project to allow for reimbursement revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County, as follows:

Increase:

285-808-585.00	Local Match	\$228,310.00
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Increase:

285-808-800.00	Contracted Services	\$228,310.00
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Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

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Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management & 911 Central Dispatch, provided a written report for Central Dispatch and spoke regarding water testing at the Government Center and Jail due to the lead issue in the Village of Beulah – no concerns; Conducted two workshops at both Benzie and Frankfort schools, school violence is an issue. Power outages in December – kudos to those that kept Benzie County moving forward – the internet went out and it has been determined that it works in a loop system; and both sides of the loop that the county is on was out of power, so there was no internet, there is need for backup power sources; will be looking into a possible grant for a backup generator for the Darcy Library to keep us up and running.

U/S Hubers says thank you to Rebecca for the school trainings – it was long overdue; COVID is now running through the road patrol staff and he asks to extend the COVID funding for a while.

Katie Zeits, County Administrator, stated that she will address it on January 2 after questions are answer from the auditors.

Comm Sauer stated that the Village of Thompsonville is wanting to set up a Community Watch Group and they have spoken with the Sheriff.

Nate Loop, Maples Administrator, gave the board more of his background – Nursing Home Administration runs in his family. The culture at the Maples is healthy and strong, but we always have room to improve, since the holidays we have had an uptick of COVID among staff with five new cases.

ACTION ITEMS

2022-001 - Depositories: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt resolution 2022-001 Depositories as amended, removing #3 and leaving to chair to decide regarding #4 and the Chief Finance Officer, authorizing the chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

2022 Board Rules: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt the 2022 Board Rules as amended by legal counsel and insert to 1.12 “The Annual Meeting will be first meeting of the Fiscal Year.” Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

10:07 a.m. Motion by Miller, seconded by Sauer, to enter into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorneys regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with the Lasecki vs Benzie County litigation, Attorney Allen VanderLaan will join via Zoom, included in closed session would be County Administrator Katie Zeits and County Clerk Dawn Olney. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

10:41 a.m. Re-enter Open Session

Motion by Roelofs, seconded by Sauer, to follow the advice of counsel regarding settlement and trial strategy as discussed in closed session. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

2022 Meeting Dates: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Miller, to adopt the 2022 Meeting Dates as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

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MSP Grant Extension - Courts: Motion by Miller, seconded by Jeannot, to approve amending the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant Contract originally authorized on August 11, 2020 to allow for additional time to spend funding received and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs reported on EMS; attended a zoom meeting regarding an Aquatic Center; we have begun having an Agenda Overview meeting for BOC agendas and packets; Veterans Affairs; Parks & Recreation interviews.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report

Comm Miller reported on the Frankfort Elberta School Board meeting – they have a new board member.

Comm Sauer reported on Joyfield Township; Blaine Township and Village of Thompsonville.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EDC/BRA: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to suspend the board rules and appoint Thor Goff and Eric Gustad to the EDC Board. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

Parks & Recreation: Interviews are completed; once Comm Markey and Nye are back will make a decision and bring to this board.

Centra Wellness: Interview to be scheduled for January 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. Interview Committee: Comm Nye, Markey and Roelofs; County Admin Katie Zeits; Chip Johnson, Centra Wellness Director

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Road Commission Actual Revenue and Expenditure report for year ended 9/30/2021 received.
- Benzie Transportation Authority November 2021 Financial Report.
- Charter Spectrum Broadband Update of service area received.
- Crystal Lake & Little Platte Lake elevation reports for December 2021 received.

11:26 a.m. Public Input – None

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Motion by Miller, seconded by Jeannot, to adjourn at 11:27 a.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Miller, Roelofs and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Markey, Nye and Warsecke Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as presented.
2. Approved the regular session minutes of December 28, 2021 as presented.
3. Approved the Organizational session minutes of January 4, 2022 as presented.
4. Approved payment of the bills in the amount of \$530,100.21, as presented.
5. Amended the 2021-2022 Budget to create a budget for the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection project to allow for reimbursement revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County, as presented in the amount of \$228,310.00.
6. Adopted resolution 2022-001 Depositories as amended, removing #3 and leaving to chair to decide regarding #4 and the Chief Finance Officer, authorizing the chair to sign.
7. Adopted the 2022 Board Rules as amended by legal counsel and insert to 1.12 "The Annual Meeting will be first meeting of the Fiscal Year."
8. Entered into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with its attorneys regarding trial and settlement strategy.
9. Approved to follow the advice of counsel regarding settlement and trial strategy as discussed in closed session.
10. Adopted the 2022 Meeting Dates as presented.
11. Approved amending the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Grant Contract originally authorized on August 11, 2020 to allow for additional time to spend funding received and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign.
12. Suspended the board rules and appoint Thor Goff and Eric Gustad to the EDC Board.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
January 11, 2022

- Participated in 2 meetings on behalf of the County since our December 28th meeting.
- **1/4 Platte Township –**
 - No issues. Township officials are working to get broadband surveys completed in areas need in their township.
- **1/10 Almira Township –**
 - I will share any relevant information from this meeting.

- **Other –**

Memorandum



To: Board of Commissioners

From: Katie Zeits, County Administrator *Katie Zeits*

Date: January 5, 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.

We are still waiting on a quote regarding the onboarding of department onto the generator.

Technology

Administration is still working through some internet bandwidth issues with IT Right. As discussed before, we are utilizing more internet than allowed in our agreement and are experiencing overages. My office is also working with IT Right to identify devices needing replacement, including multiple servers.

Broadband Survey

We have obtained over 1200 unique responses to the internet survey! As we approach the end of the survey, Merit will be working to analyze the data and give the Board a report in mid-February.

FOIA Appeal

We have communicated with Mr. Meredith regarding his appeal. For commissioners who may like to see the response letter, please let me know.

Mail Changes

The mail room is now in use on the first floor of the Governmental Center. This new system seems to be going well. We are still waiting on new mailboxes, but the old ones have been working in the meantime.

Administration will now be sorting the mail going forward for the County. Laura in my office has set up a PO Box and all items will be sorted there at the post office. The Treasurer's Office will serve as backup for mail sorting if for some reason our office cannot perform the duty on a given day.

ARPA Funding

Please be prepared to have a discussion at the second meeting in January, Committee of the Whole.

Animal Control

Director Kyle Maurer has indicated that a local company has serviced the well and other mechanisms for water. The water pressure has increased at the shelter but is still not satisfactory. The cleaning of the well system is a temporary fix, but we will need to plan for a long-term solution at Animal Control. We have been informed that hooking up to village water is an avenue we will have to plan for because the existing well system is not a long-term option.

Benzie County Millage Requests

There are multiple millages expiring after this year, including TNT, School Resource and Emergency Services. We also plan to ask for a millage for the Animal Control department. I have met with departments heads and have made a request to legal to prepare draft language for each millage. Tentatively, we will start this discussion on January 25th, Committee of the Whole. In summary, two millage requests would be a renewal and restore and two would be a requested increase.

There are two additional millage requests for the 2022 election cycle from the Conservation District and the Maples. I have reached out to both entities and asked them to bring their requests to me with justification for a future agenda.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

Thank you!