

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 11, 2022**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, in the Frank Walterhouse Board of Commissioners 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 Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Motion by Markey, seconded by Miller, to approve the regular session minutes of September 27, 2022, as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Input

Alicia Thompson – with Faith in Action, regarding affordable housing and her experience with the struggles of making ends meet in Benzie County.

Pastor Chuck Towersy – Freshwinds Christian Community Church, with Faith in Action, continue working with the county on affordable housing with a growing community.

Jane Wild – regarding Trump Unity caravan.

Barry Hahn, Benzonia Township – regarding Trump Unity caravan.

Luke Allen – with Faith in Action, regarding last two speakers not a representative of Faith in Action here to speak about affordable housing.

Cathy Albro, Candidate for Michigan State House 104, all need to work together with local officials with all challenges especially regarding housing and allocation of funds.

Sonya Potts – Administrative Assistant for Prosecutor's Office regarding security in building.

9:19 a.m. Public Input closed

**FINANCE:**

Bills: Motion by Miller, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from September 27, 2022, through October 10, 2022, in the amount of \$431,110.77, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, reported they had a second sale. The bids were within \$500 of each bid from the first sale. The two defaulted bidders will be forever banned for bidding in the future on any Title Check LLC land auctions.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS:**

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Manager/911 Director presented a written report.

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Bert Gale, Associated Government Services, provided a written report regarding the Benzie County Building Code and Safety Enforcement Quarterly Report for July, August and September 2022.

### ACTION ITEMS

LOU – FOPLC Deputies – top scale start pay for experience candidate: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Miller, to authorize a Letter of Agreement with the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Deputies Unit, which permits a six-year starting wage step for Matthew McKinley to serve as the Benzie County School and Youth Resources Officer for the reasons outlined in the September 21, 2022, memo from the County Administrator, and authorize Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Resolution 2022-021 to transfer DTRF Administration Fees to General Fund: Discussion held. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to adopt Resolution 2022-021 as amended that approves the transfer from the Benzie County (DTRF) Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to the Benzie County General Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Letter of support for DTE grant application: Chris Hackbarth DTE Energy / Regional Relations Manager was present and gave an overview of grant. Discussion held. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, that the Board of Commissioners authorizes a letter of support for the grant application of DTE Energy and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Apportionment Report: Thomas Longanbach, Equalization Director, was present, and provided the Tax Allocation Report by municipality for 2022 with an overview. This report is required and summarizes the millages to be levied. Discussion held. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to accept the Tax Allocation Report for 2022 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approval of fees to charge for certified mailing of signature cards: Michelle Thompson was present and requested that a fee be established for copies of certified mailing signature cards. Discussion held. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to adopt a \$50/parcel fee for requests for certified mailing signature cards packets. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Rebecca Hubers – 2023EMPG Work Agreement: Motion by Markey, seconded by Sauer, to authorize the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the 2023 EMPG Work Agreement with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division. Roll call. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:03 a.m. break

10:09 a.m. reconvene

### COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

Chair Roelofs attended Veterans Affairs and Buildings and Grounds meetings, Agenda Review, Attended Benzie Central vs Kingsley Football game with overview of event.

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Comm Jeannot – provided a written report.

Comm Miller – attended Benzie HSC, Buildings and Grounds, and Frankfort School Board meetings

Comm Nye – attended Master Plan Committee, Benzie Leelanau Health Department Board meeting, Village of Benzonia, and Benzie Central School Board meetings, Memorial Park tree planting project with ReLeaf, attended a presentation by Senator Jack Bergman

Comm Markey – attended Homestead Township Board meeting, Centra Wellness Network Committee meeting, Master Plan Committee review, Village of Honor Counsel meeting

Comm Warsecke – attended Inland Township meeting

Comm Sauer – attended Benzie Leelanau Health Department Board meeting, Betsie Valley Trail, Joyfield Township, Blaine Township, Village of Thompsonville, and Iron Man after action review meetings.

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

Stated that auditors were here, and we need to work on our fixed asset reporting and additional requirements from them. They are continuing to work on updates to the Counties website and county policies. Attending broadband meetings and working on an application for a reconnect loan from the Federal Government for broadband for Benzie County.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:**

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve items 1 and 3 of the September 27, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Nye removed items #2, 4, and 5 from the consent calendar. Discussion held

Motion by Nye to authorize the Undersheriff wage to be 12.5% higher than the Lieutenant base wage, effective October 1, 2022. Motion not supported.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Roelofs, to move item #2 to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None. Motion carried.

Regarding item #4, Katie Zeits, Administrator, stated her office will make some changes to the Appointments and Committees Policy to clarify the attendance policy, section 7, and this will be brought back for approval at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve items 5 of the September 27, 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: - None**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** - None

**NEW BUSINESS:** - None

### **PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter from Maner Costerisan regarding audit
- Betsie Valley Trailway Management Council September 6, 2022, Minutes
- Iron County Resolution 2022-0012
- Iron County Resolution 2022-013

11:39 a.m. Public Input none

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:39p.m. Ayes: Jeannot, Markey, Miller, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Bob Roelofs, Chair

Kim Childs, Benzie County Chief Deputy Clerk

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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of September 27, 2022, as presented.
3. Approve payment of bills from September 27, 2022, through October 10, 2022, in the amount of \$431,110.77, as presented.
4. Authorize a Letter of Agreement with the Michigan Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council, Deputies Unit, which permits a six-year starting wage step for Matthew McKinley to serve as the Benzie County School and Youth Resources Officer for the reasons outlined in the September 21, 2022, memo from the County Administrator, and authorize Chair to sign.
5. Adopt Resolution 2022-021 as amended that approves the transfer from the Benzie County (DTRF) Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund to the Benzie County General Fund.
6. The Board of Commissioners authorizes a letter of support for the grant application of DTE Energy and authorizes the Chair to sign.
7. Accept the Tax Allocation Report for 2022 as presented.
8. Adopt a \$50/parcel fee for requests for certified mailing signature cards packets.
9. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and the Emergency Management Coordinator to sign on behalf of Benzie County the 2023 EMPG Work Agreement with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.
10. Approve items 1 and 3 of the September 27, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
11. Removal of Consent Calendar items 2, 4, and 5 for further discussion.
12. After discussion, approve item 5 of the September 27, 2022, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Authorize a onetime increase of 13.16% for the Chief Deputies for fiscal year 2022/2023, effective October 1, 2022, with the understand a strategy will be developed so it can be applied consistency in future years.
2. Removed
3. Move forward with Memorandum of Agreement with Centra Wellness Network, pending legal and administrative review, authorize Chair to sign.
4. Removed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Miller, to approve the Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as Follows:

5. Commit up to \$120,000 to Frankfort Area Land Trust with their best efforts made with matching funds to support housing in Benzie County.

**Art Jeannot**  
**Commissioner Report**  
**October 11, 2022**

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **10/6 – Lake Township**
  - MI Assessing Services has been hired to manage the Townships assessing needs.
  - It appears 50% of the votes cast for the November 8<sup>th</sup> election will be mail in. This is based on applications for mail in ballots. Clerk has concerns about proposal 2 regarding election processes.
- **10/7 – MI Association of Counties (Finance and General Governance Committee)**
  - Discussed HR Bill 6423 in draft. The following are some highlights.
    - This would allow comments from public attending remotely.
    - Removal of attendees threatening violence or unreasonable participation.
    - Posting meetings on line vs paper notice.
    - Nuisance law suits as determined by the court regarding OMA or FOIA would have to pay legal cost by the plaintiff.
  - Zillow request to get cost free access to county property records was defeated.
  - Proposal to move the primary election to June from August, the exception would be a year where there is a presidential the primary would be March. This would take some pressure off Clerks and reduce the cost to candidates.
- **10/10 – Almira Township**
  - I will share any relevant information at the BOC meeting
- **Other**
  - **10/6 – Attended a ceremony celebrating 100 years of being in business for the Andy Case family and Cherry Hut. Presentation by State Representative Jack O'Malley and the Benzie County Chamber. *I will be attending a 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm with a presentation by Congressman Bergman. I encourage anyone who is available to join us at my invitation. Let's have a great turnout showing our support and gratitude for the Case family's commitment to Benzie County. This includes members of our community.***