

PUBLIC COMMENT

Purpose: The Benzie County Board of Commissioners is a public policy setting body and subject to the Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976). The Board also operates under a set of “Benzie County Board Rules (section 7.3)” which provides for public comment during their meetings. It continually strives to receive comment from the residents of the county and reserves two opportunities during the monthly scheduled meeting for you the public to voice opinions, concerns and sharing of any other items of common interest. There are however, in concert with meeting conduct certain rules to follow.

Speaking Time: Agenda items may be added or removed by the board but initially at least two times are devoted to Public Comment. Generally, however, attendees wishing to speak will be informed how long they may speak by the chairman. All speakers are asked to give their name, residence and topic they wish to address. This and the statements/comments will be entered into the public record (minutes of the meeting). Should there be a number of speakers wishing to voice similar opinions, an option for a longer presentation may be more appropriate for the group and one or more speakers may talk within that time frame. The Board will not be accepting public comment via zoom/online.

Group Presentations – 15 minutes
Individual Presentations – 3 minutes

Board Response: Generally, as this is an “Comment” option, the board will not comment or respond to presenters. Silence or non-response from the board should not be interpreted as disinterest or disagreement by the board. However, should the board individually or collectively wish to address the comments of the speaker(s) at the approval of the Chair and within a time frame previously established, responses may be made by the board. Additionally, the presenter may be in need of a lengthier understanding of an issue or topic and may be referred to a committee appropriate to address those issues.

Public Comment is very important in public policy settings and is only one means for an interchange of information or dialogue. Each commissioner represents a district within the county, and he/she may be individually contacted should greater depth or understanding of an issue be sought. Personal contact is encouraged and helpful to both residents and the board.

Commissioner Contacts:

District I – Bob Roelofs (Almira East of Reynolds Road).....	231-645-1187
District II - Art Jeannot (Almira Twp West of N. Reynolds Road, Platte Twp, Lake Twp East of Sutter Rd, and Inland Twp section 1-6, section 7 lying west of Maple City Hwy, north of US-31)	231-920-5028
District III – Karen Cunningham (Crystal Lake, Frankfort and Lake Twp, at Sutter Road going West)	231-527-9675
District IV – Rhonda Nye (Benzonia Twp, except for sections 31, 36 and 35 East of Case Road).....	231-510-8804
District V – Tim Markey (Homestead and Benzonia Twp sections 31, 36 and 35 West of Case Road).....	231-871-1399
District VI - Evan Warsecke (Colfax, Inland except sections 1-6, section 7 lying west of Maple City Hwy and North of US-31).....	231-275-3375
District VII - Gary Sauer (Blaine, Gilmore, Joyfield, Weldon)	231-651-0647