

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 13, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 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 Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer
Excused: Commissioner Warsecke

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

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of May 23, 2023, as amended. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to approve the close session minutes of May 23, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Comment - None

PUBLIC HEARING – Truth in Taxation

Brianne Lindsey, Equalization Director, was available to answer any questions regarding the Truth and Taxation hearing and the L-4029. Headlee millage millage levied will be the same as last year. The purpose of this meeting is to notify the public of the County's intent to levy the maximum under Headlee.

9:04 a.m. Public Hearing Open:

Commissioner Sauer inquired as to what is the rate now from last year, and did it go down?

Katie Zeits, County Administrator, stated it did not go down because of the way inflation and how all the evaluations came in. Our millage rate will stay at 3.3378 mills, so there will be no roll back.

9:06 a.m. Public Hearing Closed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to adopt Resolution 23-006, Truth in Taxation to adopt the general operating millage rate for Benzie County. Roll Call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve payment of the bills from May 25, 2023, through June 8, 2023, in the amount of \$508,612.49, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to approve payment of the bills from June 8, 2023, in the amount of \$382,086.44, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Rosa stated that he had an employee retire in April, and another employee leave last week. He had placed the openings on MCOLES but has received no applicants in a months' time. A lot of Sheriff Offices are sponsoring individuals to go to the Police Academy. We are fortunate to have a Police Academy at NMC, it is a 16-week program instead of a 2-year program. We have been talking to the Administrator and Human Resources to see if we can formulate a plan and get this in place. We now have the Body Scanner in place and training has started. Want to thank everyone for all the help and cooperation in making this happen.

Rebecca Hubers, Emergency Management, stated that Ray Kendra will be here today to discuss the lower-level expansion. Want to acknowledge that Benzie County Office of Emergency Management has a group of people that volunteer (CERTS) that work for them. You might see them at events. They help with resources like the City Police and Sheriff Office. A lot of these individuals are aging / retiring, some due to health reasons. Even though they are not employees of Benzie County, they dedicate their time for the resources of Benzie County. We have good people working for us even though they are not getting paid.

Kyle Mauer, Animal Control, stated that he received the paperwork from Two Seven Oh Inc, for a reimbursement grant for \$20,000. This grant will be put towards the floor repairs. He will bring that information back to the board. Attended a training on Animal Shelter Operations and Guidelines. The biggest take away was separation of animals and vaccination of animals when they come in the door.

Brianne Lindsay, Equalization Director provided correspondence from the Department of Treasury.

ACTION ITEMS

MI Spark grant application: ~~Jim Gribble~~ Jed Maker and Lara Treemore Spears were present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt Resolution 23-007 authorizing the Spark's Grant Application for reimbursement funding for the paving of the Betsie Valley Trail from Village of Beulah to Case Road, and authorize the Chair and County Administrator to sign the related site control and grant application documents. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Award Project to bidder regarding the lower-level expansion - Dispatch: Ray Kendra was to present to review the bids, make a recommendation and answer any questions.

9:49 a.m. Break to reconnect Zoom.

9:56 a.m. Reconvene.

Cory Ellis, 911 Director spoke regarding the staffing and life expectancy of this expansion.

Commissioner Nye would like to add a discussion regarding the DTRF fund, and the funds dedicated to this project, on the afternoon Study Session agenda.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to accept the project bid and authorizes construction contracts with Grand Traverse Construction for the lower-level expansion project in the total amount of \$1,880,000, with funds available in the Central Dispatch fund balance, General Fund fund balance, American Rescue Plan Act funding, and CARES Act funding, recognized as General Fund dollars, and the Delinquent Tax Revolving fund, such contracts subject to approval as to their substance by

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Administration and their form by legal counsel. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS:

10:21 a.m. Ed Hoogterp, Parks and Recreation Director presented the Parks and Recreation Feasibility Study report. There is more work to be done before we come back with our request.

10:50 a.m. Tim Maylone, CEO Cherry Capital Communications, presented the Broadband Expansion Project update. They have been task to work with the County to bring fiber to all the unserved or underserved homes in Benzie County.

11:21 a.m. Break to reconnect with Zoom.

11:32 a.m. Reconvene

Approve IN Digital proposal regarding Central Dispatch mobile phone backup: Cory Ellis, 911 Director, was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the proposal with IN Digital for MEVO Anywhere Mobile Kits for priority calling when the need arises in the amount of \$7,443.08, and further approve an annual service charge of \$2,208.69 for a period of five years, with funds available in the Central Dispatch Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Authorize Village of Honor summer patrol contract: Sheriff Rosa was present to answer any questions. Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the Sheriff Patrol Agreement with the Village of Honor for the 2023 summer months, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Purchase three portable radios for Sheriff's office use: Sheriff Rosa was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to confirm the purchase of three portable radios as outlined in the Motorola Solutions quotes dated March 25, 2023, with funds available in the General Fund Sheriff's Office Equipment, with reimbursement for one radio from Centra Wellness and that a budget amendment approving funding from fund 282 for the cost of bailiff radios be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Consider authorizing an agreement in connection to an employment matter: Sheriff Rosa was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the Last Chance Agreement prepared by legal counsel with a member of the Police Officers Association of Michigan and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Budget amendment to recognizes revenue and expenditures with a reimbursement grant for District Court set aside: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$8,564 for clean slate implementation, increase both revenues and expenditures related to District Court. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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Approve proposal for fire alarm integration related to the leased space in the Government Center:

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to approve the proposal from Summit Fire Protection to integrate the fire alarms in the Governmental Center addition in the not to exceed amount of \$9,564, with funds available in fund 310. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Approve copier lease for Prosecutor's office: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve a five-year lease agreement with NetLink Business Solutions for a Sharp Advanced Copy machine for the Prosecutor's Office operational use and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call.

Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Budget amendment for Building Department: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$28,000 recognizing additional revenue and expenditure for the Building Department fund, Mechanical Inspector. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs stated that he wanted to appreciate everyone that were at the Memorial Day Celebration at the Veterans Memorial Park. Had a great time with great people. Paul Miller, who passed away during service in Afghanistan was recognized at the celebration, and his father, Jim Miller was present. Attended the MACC Transportation meeting and Area Agency on Aging meeting. If any veteran would like to walk in the Beulah 4th of July parade or the Frankfort 4th of July parade, they can contact him.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report. Wanted to make a comment about the Veterans Memorial Day Celebration. Really pleased to see how you are bringing in young people.

Comm Cunningham provided a written report and gave an update on the Frankfort Elberta School Board meeting.

Comm Nye provided a written report and gave an update on the Land Bank meeting and Centra Wellness meeting.

Comm Markey provided a written report and gave an update on the Centra Wellness meeting and Village of Honor meeting.

Comm Sauer provided a written report and wanted to recognize Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Director, for all his hard work to ensure the recycling event in Frankfort was a success.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

Point Betsie is accepting public comments for the shoreline restoration project. This is part of the project being an historical site. The new website has been delayed but will be meeting with the web host next Tuesday. We received notice from the Department of Treasury that the Equalization Department has been released from the Equalization Corrective Action Plan. Brianne is doing wonderful things down there. Met with the representatives from the Crystal Lake Watershed Association at their request to talk about Sunkissed and various things. They are concerned about the

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process and how the process went. Wanted to let the Board know that she has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Michigan Association of County Administrative Offices.

STUDY SESSION - None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS -None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Crystal Lake Elevation report.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation report.
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department May 1, 2023, minutes.
- Correspondence from Lisa Pyne.
- Correspondence from Robin Talsma.
- Alcona County Resolution – The Revised School Code HB4284
- Ottawa County Resolution.
- Ingham County Resolution 23-229 – LGBTQ Pride Month
- Livingston County Resolution 2023-05-080 – Veteran Services

12:25 p.m. Public Comment - None

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Cunningham, to adjourn at 12:26 p.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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2. Approve the regular session minutes of May 23, 2023, as amended.
3. Approve the close session minutes of May 23, 2023, as presented.
4. Adopt Resolution 23-006, Truth in Taxation to adopt the general operating millage rate for Benzie County.
5. Approve payment of the bills from May 25, 2023, through June 8, 2023, in the amount of \$508,612.49, as presented.
6. Approve payment of the bills from June 8, 2023, in the amount of \$382,086.44, as presented.
7. Adopt Resolution 23-007 authorizing the Spark's Grant Application for reimbursement funding for the paving of the Betsie Valley Trail from Village of Beulah to Case Road and authorize the Chair and County Administrator to sign the related site control and grant application documents.
8. Accept the project bid and authorizes construction contracts with Grand Traverse Construction for the lower-level expansion project in the total amount of \$1,880,000, with

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funds available in the Central Dispatch fund balance, General Fund fund balance, American Rescue Plan Act funding, and CARES Act funding, recognized as General Fund dollars, and the Delinquent Tax Revolving fund, such contracts subject to approval as to their substance by Administration and their form by legal counsel.

9. Approve the proposal with IN Digital for MEVO Anywhere Mobile Kits for priority calling when the need arises in the amount of \$7,443.08, and further approve an annual service charge of \$2,208.69 for a period of five years, with funds available in the Central Dispatch Fund.
10. Approve the Sheriff Patrol Agreement with the Village of Honor for the 2023 summer months, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, and authorizes the Chair to sign.
11. Confirm the purchase of three portable radios as outlined in the Motorola Solutions quotes dated March 25, 2023, with funds available in the General Fund Sheriff's Office Equipment, with reimbursement for one radio from Centra Wellness and that a budget amendment approving funding from fund 282 for the cost of bailiff radios be approved.
12. Approve the Last Chance Agreement prepared by legal counsel with a member of the Police Officers Association of Michigan and authorizes the Chair to sign.
13. Approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$8,564 for clean slate implementation, increase both revenues and expenditures related to District Court.
14. Approve the proposal from Summit Fire Protection to integrate the fire alarms in the Governmental Center addition in the not to exceed amount of \$9,564, with funds available in fund 310.
15. Approve a five-year lease agreement with NetLink Business Solutions for a Sharp Advanced Copy machine for the Prosecutor's Office operational use and authorizes the Chair to sign.
16. Approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$28,000 recognizing additional revenue and expenditure for the Building Department fund, Mechanical Inspector.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
June 13, 2023

- **6/1 – Lake Township**
 - The Township is ready to write checks for the public safety tower and Point Betsie. At their request I have connected them with county administration for direction.
- **6/8 – Platte Township**
 - I have been contacted by township residents expressing concerns with the Benzonia/Platte Township Joint Planning Commission (WBJPC). Their concerns appear to be oversight of the Sunkissed Hills development and how the Commission has managed this. More information will be provided in future reports if appropriate.
- **6/12 – Almira Township**
 - I will report any relevant information at our meeting.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonía Township
Commissioner Report
June 13, 2023

May 23 – Networks Northwest Master Plan Update

- New census data added
- Reviewed and discussed suggested edits

May 24 – Benzie Leelanau District Health Department Board

- Due to elimination of the family planning program and an adequate fund balance, FY 2024 budget request will not be increased.
- Discussion regarding the legislation that would require mandatory five-year septic inspection; implementation would be extremely problematic for our health department i.e. cost to implement, additional staff needed, safety of staff and compliance enforcement concerns.
- Leelanau basement remodel plan has been pared down in an effort to obtain bids within budget.
- After meeting with partners at the Benzie building, plans to add on to that building will not move forward.

May 31 – Crystal Lake Watershed Association Land Use Committee

- Meeting requested to discuss Sunkissed Development and identify gaps in various entities permitting processes that could be improved to protect our area lakes, specifically Crystal Lake.

June 5 – Village of Benzonía

- Japanese knotweed has been identified in various places within the village. Discussion regarding the invasion nature of this plant especially if disturbed; has potential to damage infrastructure.
- Approved the purchase of a zero turn mower to maintain village property.
- Board considered a requests for short term rental payment refund and forgiveness of an unpaid water bill. Both requests denied.
- Four people needed for the formation of a Wellhead Protection Program Committee, 2 seats filled and two remain open.

June 5 – Benzie Central Board

- Fiscal update given by Justin Westin, Director of Finance. Benzie projected to have 30% fund balance at year end and will be moving forward with a Headlee renewal of their non-homestead operating millage.
- Educational Foundation will be dissolving and will be absorbed by the Grand Traverse Regional Foundation. All existing funds will be donated to the GTRF for the benefit of Benzie Central students.
- Offer to purchase received for the old bus garage and adjacent property, offer would allow Benzie to continue to use bus garage for one year for \$1.00/month and could be re-negotiated at the year end. Board interested but will need time to consider.
- Offer to purchase received for Crystal Lake Elementary School. Board had lengthy discussion regarding several options for the school including:

- Selling to BWAC
- Selling a portion of the property and retaining a portion to convert to housing
- Listing the school or requesting RFP's for sale
- Demolishing building and allow building trades to develop property – perhaps four houses

Discussion will continue at next meeting.

- Approved Letter of Agreement – Effective/Highly Effective Bonus in the amount of 150/250.

June 7 – Land Bank

- Report will be given at BOC meeting.

June 8 – Centra Wellness Board

- Report will be given at BOC meeting.

Tammy Bowers

From: Gary Sauer
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2023 10:22 AM
To: Tammy Bowers
Subject: Commissioner Report District 7

5-24 Health Department. No increase in county match this year. State wide septic ordinance being looked at in Lansing

5-25 Road Commission. Brining completed. Perusing brownfield grant for demolition of Platte River school.

5-25 Maples DHHS. Rolling reviews for clients of DHHS no look back. Pay to train Cena's for jobs at the Maples, traveling nurses and cena's huge extra cost.

5-31 MCWCF meeting. Training by attorney on current legal requirements. Investments doing well. Concerns with current Lansing group expanding workers comp claims in favor of individuals filing.

6-1 Blaine township. Update from Frankfort district library. Discussion with a local road issue.

6-5 Mac ag and tourism. Approved changes to platform. John Yellich spoke regarding aquifer's and a study done in Branch county and the effects from farming. Actually very little effects.

Sent from my iPad



13 June 23

Commissioner Cunningham, District 3

kcunningham@benzieco.net

231.822.4067

Attended/Presented

- 16 May Frankfort City Council, discussed Golf Cart ordinance.
CLTwp, broadcasted for the first time.
- 17 May Benzie Chamber
Point Betsie
- 23 May BoC voted on Strategies document for 23-24, 5 votes yes, 1 vote no, 1 absent.
The Maples Dir. Loop presented ratings of the facility, over all highly rated above 'like' facilities.
- 24 May Human Services Coalition Benzie, annual meeting.
Fire Dept drone rescue demonstration TV 7 and 4.
- 25 May attended The Maples meeting.
Airport Authority, will coordinate with Chief Cederholm concerning the drone.

Community

FEAS groundbreaking.

Point Betsie: Open House 6 May, 10am- 4pm.

Frankfort, golf cart hearing

Kinship Coalition: planning a Benzie meeting in June, purpose to establish a monthly support meeting.

Writing a description for a "liaison".

Veterans Inspiring Veterans Art Show board site visit. Toured Land Grant housing on "Jay's Place". Planning on Frankfort Business Accelerator Task Force, MIHQ. Interview about Biochar.

Assorted meetings and emails with constituents, as it relates to county information, concerns and strategies.

Recommended reading: the Strategies document from the 23 May 23 Board of Commissioner packet.

Tim Markey
Commissioner Report
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June 05th thru June 7th – CMHA of MI (Community Mental Health Association of Michigan) Annual Summer Conference

- Mostly normal congerence stuff, like workshops for social workers to get their continued education credits. I did attend the "What We Wish We Didn't Know About Cannabis" workshop. Talked mostly on terminology, access and how adult normals translate to child normals. What you see is what you do.
- There was a presentation from Michigan Department of Health & Human Services, Bereau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy & Supports on what it is they do and how to engage services. One take away is that they are looking at the local CMH's to do child placement which is a function of Child protective services. I do believe that this is in the planning stage and might not happen.

June 8th – Centra Wellness Network Board

- Will provide updates as I see necessary