

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 11, 2023

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

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

Agenda:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Clerk update regarding election drop boxes under Elected Officials and Department Heads Comments. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the regular session minutes of June 27, 2023, as amended. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:03 a.m. Public Comment - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to approve payment of the bills from June 23, 2023, through July 6, 2023, in the amount of \$277,499.55, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried. Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, was present and provided a written report.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Tammy Bowers, County Clerk, provided information regarding election drop boxes, security camera's and 9 day early voting legislation as of today. There are still a lot of unknowns now and hope to have more information after the August County Clerk's conference.

State Representative John Roth, spoke that the first round of bills that went through the House is that no camera is necessary for election drop boxes that are placed outside and that they can be placed on private property. These bills have not gone through the Senate. Budget was disappointing, priority was for Lansing south. One good thing, we got emergency tower funding. Need to get serious about housing.

9:20 MSU Annual Report: Jennifer Berkey, District Director, provided a written handout and presented the MSU Extension 2022-2023 Annual Report for Benzie County.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS (Continued)

Sheriff Rosa stated that the 2018 Dodge Charger that was advertised on MIBid ended up selling for \$11,700 and we will end up with around \$10,500. Those funds will go back into the vehicle replacement fund. There are two Road Patrol positions open. They will be moving forward with one

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of the candidates into the NMC College program in August. There is one vacant position in Corrections. Still looking for a 2nd Bailiff, so we can move forward with 24-hour Road Patrol.

ACTION ITEMS

Consider appointing officer and employee delegate for MERS Annual meeting: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to select County Administrator, Katie Zeits as the Officer Delegate, and Commissioner Sauer, as the Alternate Officer Delegate to attend the annual MERS conference in September 2023 and further selects Karen Mallon, as the Employee Delegate, and Lisa Cole, as the Alternate Employee Delegate to attend such meeting. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Adopt Resolution 2023-008, declaring \$300,000 DTRF surplus for 22/23 Capital Project Budget: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, that resolution 2023-008 be adopted declaring a surplus in the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF). Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Adopt Resolution 2023-009 giving consent to the Area Agency on Aging for Northwest Michigan Fiscal Year 2024 Implementation Plan: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adopt resolution 2023-009, to consent and approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Implementation Plan for the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Review RFP for opioid funding for publication: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Opioid Settlement Fund eligible projects and services and directs Administration to publish such document and accept proposal for a period of 2 months. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider setting a public hearing to participate in the Michigan Lean and Green PACE program, as recommended by EDC: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to adopt resolution 2023-010, Intent to Establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy Program and schedule a public hearing related to this matter on August 8, 2023. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Katie Zeits will take care of publishing the public hearing notice in the newspaper.

Discussion regarding DTRF administration fee and consideration of its allocation: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer to authorize DTRF administration fee funding in the amount of \$80,000 to be utilized towards capital needs, and authorizes the related budget amendments to show transfer of funding. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:30 a.m. Break

10:36 a.m. Reconvene

Discussion regarding marihuana funding and consideration of its allocation: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to authorize marihuana state funding to remain in the general fund for purposes of general fund activities. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Approve a letter to request staffing analysis of Jail: Sheriff Rosa and Jail Administrator Dan Smith were present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the request for an updated staffing analysis of the Benzie County Jail and authorizes the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Establish an Ad Hoc committee for EMS: Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to establish an ad hoc committee to make recommendations for capital needs for Benzie County EMS and Animal Control and that the Chair, Commissioner Markey, Commissioner Warsecke, and Administrator be appointed to such committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Veterans Affairs meeting and stated that the final total for the 5K run fundraiser in Lake Ann was \$15,200. September 8, 2023, is the Benzie/Frankfort Salute to Services football game.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report and an update. Want to acknowledge that our thoughts go out to Dr. Schaffer, regarding his wife's passing. Spoke to Representative Coffia regarding reimbursement for the Kinship program as is done with the foster care program.

Comm Cunningham provided a written report.

Comm Nye attended the Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, DTRF meeting, EDC Special meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, Joint Township Special meeting with Platte and Benzonia Townships, Benzonia Planning Commission meeting, Community Panel Discussion at Grow Benzie, and Benzie Central School Board meeting.

Comm Markey stated that Bill Ward was appointed the Village of Honor President do to the passing of Jeffrey Sandman.

Comm Warsecke had nothing to report.

Comm Sauer provided a written report and an update. Gilmore Planning Commission is asking that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed changes to Article 9 of the Gilmore Township Zoning Ordinance. Betsie Valley Trail Brew to Brew raised \$3,800. Attended the Village of Beulah meeting regarding the water runoff into Crystal Lake. Toured the new Homestead Hill Elementary School with the Superintendent. She is planning on giving all of us a tour.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits

She will be on vacation July 20, 2023, through July 31, 2023, so Jackie will be the contact person. Point Betsie Shoreline Protection bid opening is July 24, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. Digitalization is going well. The State allocated \$2.2 million for the emergency tower. Will be meeting with Motorola for final numbers. Our office has been thankful for Sherry Taylor assistance.

STUDY SESSION - None

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS -None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from Lake Township regarding support of Emergency Communications Tower
- Letter from Gilmore Township Planning Commission and amended Article 9
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department May 24, 2023, minutes
- Benzie Transportation Authority May 2023, income statement
- Alger County Resolution 2023-12 regarding Rights to Bear Arms
- Alger County Resolution 2023-13 regarding Revised School Code HB4284
- Alger County Resolution 2023-14 regarding opposition to House Bills 4526-4528
- Alcona County Resolution 2023-13 regarding Revised School Code HB4672
- Cheboygan County Resolution 2023-10 regarding Sanitary Code

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to accept the proposed Gilmore Township Planning Commission Article 9 changes and have no comment. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

11:25 a.m. Public Comment

State Representative John Roth stated that he would be willing to meet with the Clerks in the next couple months regarding election changes and stated that there is a lot of money out there for fiber.

Barbara Skurdall, Benzonia Township, spoke regarding Sunkissed Hills. She hopes that the Commissioners stay on top of this.

Commissioner Jeannot requested that the Study Session meeting this afternoon be moved up to 12:30 p.m. Everyone agreed.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:31 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approve the agenda as amended.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of June 27, 2023, as amended.
3. Approve payment of the bills from June 23, 2023, through July 6, 2023, in the amount of \$277,499.55, as presented.

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4. select County Administrator, Katie Zeits as the Officer Delegate, and Commissioner Sauer, as the Alternate Officer Delegate to attend the annual MERS conference in September 2023 and further selects Karen Mallon, as the Employee Delegate, and Lisa Cole, as the Alternate Employee Delegate to attend such meeting.
5. Resolution 2023-008 be adopted declaring a surplus in the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (DTRF).
6. Adopt resolution 2023-009, to consent and approve the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Implementation Plan for the Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan.
7. Approve the Request for Proposal (RFP) for Opioid Settlement Fund eligible projects and services and directs Administration to publish such document and accept proposal for a period of 2 months.
8. Adopt resolution 2023-010, Intent to Establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy Program and schedule a public hearing related to this matter on August 8, 2023.
9. Authorize DTRF administration fee funding in the amount of \$80,000 to be utilized towards capital needs and authorize the related budget amendments to show transfer of funding.
10. Authorize marihuana state funding to remain in the general fund for purposes of general fund activities.
11. Approve the request for an updated staffing analysis of the Benzie County Jail and authorize the Chair to sign.
12. Establish an ad hoc committee to make recommendations for capital needs for Benzie County EMS and Animal Control and that the Chair, Commissioner Markey, Commissioner Warsecke, and Administrator be appointed to such committee.
13. Accept the proposed Gilmore Township Planning Commission Article 9 changes and have no comment.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
July 11, 2023

- **6/29 – Special EDC Planning**
 - We discussed the value of having a professional staff person working on economic development opportunities. The County has seen the benefit of a professional guide us through broadband initiatives. It is acknowledged that this position could be used in other county initiatives. More discussion to follow.
- **7/6 – Lake Township**
 - I expressed on behalf of the Board of Commissioners our gratitude for the \$100k donation for the emergency service tower and \$100k for Pointe Betsie. I was asked what would happen to their donation if it was not required, to pay for the tower due to the \$2.2M from the State of MI. I responded that I believe their donation was restricted and any unused amount would be returned.
- **7/10 – Almira Township**
 - I will report any relevant information at our meeting.
- **Other –**
 - Met with Katie Zeits and Mitch Shapiro to discuss details of his amended contract.
 - Attended a joint meeting between Benzonia and Platte Townships to listen to the conversation about hiring an assistant zoning administrator. Commissioner Nye also attended. It was decided to offer the assistant position to Mary Pitcher.
 - On July 6th I attended a panel discussion sponsored by the Seabury Foundation. The topic was helping to change thinking to addressing complex problems. Commissioner Nye and County Administrator Katie Zeits also attended.
 - I plan to attend a coffee hour on July 10th with State Representative Betsie Coffia. I will report any relevant information at our meeting.



11 June 2023

Commissioner Cunningham, District 3

kcunningham@benzieco.net

231.822.4067

Attended/Presented

6 July **Lake Twp Board** Upcoming meeting, I will report pertinent information.

Community

27 June Frankfort Land Trust fundraiser and tour of Grove home.

28 June Meeting and tour of Cherry Capital Communications HQ, Elk Rapids.

30 June Spoke with Mayor Holwerda about an Airport issue.

30 June Coordinated biochar expert with MAC Environmental Regulatory facilitator to speak with multi county committee in fall 2023.

Correspondence

Assorted emails main topics: Sunkissed and broadband.

Rhonda Nye
District IV – Benzonía Township
Commissioner Report
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June 28 – Benzie Leelanau Health Department

- Dan Thorell, Health Officer, shared that pursuit of grant funding for required programs keeps the amount of local appropriations reasonable. 11% of the Health Department budget is local funding.
- Health Officer provided information and recommendations regarding air quality impacted by Canadian fires.

June 29 – DTRF Meeting

- Reviewed the Benzie County Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund Policy.
- Discussion and consensus on amount to be declared surplus.

June 29 – EDC Special Meeting

- Essentially a visioning session to guide future EDC direction.
- Need to clarify whether the EDC is a corporation or committee.

July 3 – Village of Benzonía

- Planning Commission representatives gave annual report.
- Approved purchase of 'speed signs' to slow folks down on Traverse Ave.
- Updated fee schedule, reducing Special Land Use for Residential from \$500.00 to \$200.00.
- Introduced Kelly Long who will be filling in for Clerk when she requires time off.

July 5 – Joint Township Special Meeting (Platte and Benzonía Townships)

- Meeting called to review applicants for the assistant to the Zoning Administrator position.
- Recommendation to the West Benzie Joint Planning Commission to hire Mary Pitcher as the assistant to the ZA.

July 6 – Benzonía Planning Commission

- Sunkissed Hills LLC site update: stamped engineered plans required were not provided, therefore, conditional approval not given.
- New website established: wbjpc.org
- Special Meeting will be held July 20th at 6:00 pm, the topic will be OMA Presentation/Discussion.

July 6 – Community Panel discussion at Grow Benzie

- Meeting sponsored by the Seabury Foundation
- Topic was a systems change approach to address complex community problems.
- Literature referenced, Stories of Change: How a Systems Change Approach is Transforming a Region.

From: Gary Sauer <garysauer53@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 9:28 PM
To:
Subject: Commissioner report district 7

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Benzie County Email System. Maintain caution when opening external links/attachments.

6-28 Health department. Discussion on applying for grants and keeping board informed. Concern about rabies, occurs more down state mainly bats in homes keep the animal to be tested.

6-29 Gilmore Planning Commission. Discussed Article 9 and possible changes to the zoning ordinance. Kept the five acre minimum with one possible split to a maximize the total split only once if approved. Requested that our required oversight be expedited to help speed up process.

7-5 BVTMC. Purchased Gator for trail use and work, paid for by the Friends. Discussed permits to be issued for work along trail and emergency use, will discuss at next meeting.

7-5 Joyfield Township. Awarded bids for tree removal at cemetery and power washing building. Discussed getting new drop box for elections, paid for by the state, concerns about requiring security camera on the drop box.

Sent from my iPad