

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 24, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 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. Commissioner Roelofs stated these meetings are now streaming live on YouTube. Benzie County has changed from the Zoom platform to live streaming.

Agenda:

Motion by Markey, 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 Sauer, seconded by Markey, to approve the regular session minutes of January 10, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Comment

Ed Hoogterp, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair, requested that the appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission be done quickly. Working on finalizing a grant for the Outlet Site and a Feasibility Study for creating a Parks Director position. Next Meeting is a month from yesterday.

JoAnn Holwerda, City of Frankfort Mayor, wanted to thank everyone for being patient regarding the School Resource fund, we finally got the audit. There will be \$172,066.45 plus a car reserve of \$20,000 which will be addressed at the City of Frankfort's February meeting and a check will be issued after that meeting. Will work with Katie regarding the funds being returned to the County. The City of Frankfort has been busy. They have hired Wade Trim to help develop workforce housing. Also, the Frankfort Methodist Church is going to have 0-3 years old daycare at their building. The Building Trades is going to start up in the fall.

Matt Rush, Lake Township, bought a place up here 10 years ago, and retired up here 2 years ago. Three points to make regarding the Benzie Wellness Aquatic Center project. 1) Project - Health and Wellbeing services for all; 2) Model – is about free access for all; 3) Ask – Facilitate access to capital. Initial need is \$250,000 for planning. Site still needs to be determined.

9:12 a.m. Public Comment closed.

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Nye, seconded by Sauer, to approve payment of the bills from January 6, 2023, through January 19, 2023, in the amount of \$342,312.94, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Sheriff Rosa wants to recognize all the employees of the Sheriff's Department from top to bottom. They are all doing outstanding work. The Jail employees have been tasked with different things and they are doing very well. Our detectives assisted in the investigation regarding stolen catalytic converters in the area.

Tom King, EMS Director, provided a written report. He also gave an update regarding the ambulance operations. One ambulance has engine issues that will need to be repaired. Will be starting another EMT program. Getting ready to purchase an ambulance in 2025.

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resource provided a written report.

ACTION ITEMS

Budget Amendment to the Child Care Fund Grant: Carly Bailey was present to answer any questions. Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to approve amendment to the 2022-23 budget in the amount of \$41,520 to increase revenues and expenditures in the Child Care Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Approve Contract with Grand Traverse County for Inmate Housing: Sheriff Rosa and Undersheriff Greg Huber were present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Jeannot, to approve the agreement with Grand Traverse County for housing Grand Traverse County inmates, agreement subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel, and authorize the Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Approve Memorandum of Understanding – Central Dispatch Cory Ellis was present to answer any questions. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Equipment Loaned for equipment purchased by Central Dispatch and loaned to neighboring agencies as to form and authorize Director Cory Ellis to sign such documents. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Grant Application for US DOT funding for Betsie Valley Trail: Jim Gribble and Lara Treemore-Spears presented their request for Benzie County to apply for and administer a US DOT reimbursement grant to pave the Betsie Valley Trail from Beulah to Thompsonville in the amount of \$4,000,000.

Benzie County concerns are the amount and administration of the grant. The money would have to be paid upfront, and then paperwork submitted for reimbursement. We are still waiting for reimbursement on a project from 2 years ago. Would like the Parks and Recreation Committee and Betsie Valley Trailways Management Counsel to make an official recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Would like to see the request for smaller amounts and the project in phases.

Cole Property Acquisition – payment of winter tax and authorize Chair to sign closing documents: Ed Hoogterp, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair was present to answer any questions. The Land Conservancy is requesting that Benzie County pay a prorated share of the winter taxes in the amount of \$19,287.30. Also requesting that the Chair be authorized to sign the closing document, which is set for March 14, 2023, at this time.

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Commissioner Jeannot questioned what the purchase agreement states as to the winter taxes.

Commissioner Nye questioned why the endowment fund would not cover this cost.

Commissioners would like the Land Conservancy present to answer some questions and would like them here at the next meeting, February 14, 2023.

Commissioner Nye would like to see a summarized settlement page.

Commissioner Jeannot would like to see the purchase agreement.

Establish Ad Hoc Committee – EMS Advisory Board: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot to establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendations regarding member roster and vacant positions on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee and that the Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioner Markey, Administrator designee, EMS Director Tom King, and the current Chair of the EMS Advisory Committee be appointed to such committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Establish Ad Hoc Committee – Park and Recreation: Motion by Markey, seconded by Nye, to establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendation regarding four terms on the Parks and Recreation Commission, terms expiring December 31, 2025, and that the Chair, Commissioner Sauer, Commissioner Warsecke, Administrator Designee, and Ed Hoogterp Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee be appointed to such committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Establish Ad Hoc Committee – Benzie Bus: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendation for one term, expiring April 30, 2026, on the Benzie Transportation Authority, and that the Chair, Commissioner Jeannot, Commissioner Cunningham, Administrator Designee, John Morse, Committee Chair, and Jessica Carland, Executive Director from Benzie Bus be appointed to such committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Consider Veterans Affairs Coordinator Karen Korolenko for full time position: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the Veterans Coordinator position as a full-time at-will position, and offers this position to Karen Korolenko, who has served as a part-time contracted employee in this position since 2018, and terminate the contract dated December 10, 2018, related to this position. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Consider Appointing Brianne Lindsay to Equalization Director position: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to appoint Brianne Lindsay to the position of Equalization Director for Benzie County and authorizes the Chair to sign the necessary documents to submit this decision to the State Tax Commission. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

10:48 a.m. Break

10:56 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended a meeting with Administration and VA, EMS Advisory Board meeting, 911 Advisory Board meeting, Equalization Director Interview, and Agenda Review meeting.

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Comm Jeannot – provided written report. At the EDC meeting on Friday, the Chamber is looking for a volunteer that will represent the EDC as a summary. He would be willing to do this, unless someone else would like to do it.

Comm Cunningham – went over the written report that was provided.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review, Village of Beulah meeting, Benzonia Township meeting, Centra Wellness meeting, Benzie Housing Collaborative meeting, EDC meeting, and she has received her acceptance letter for the MACC Health and Human Services Board.

Comm Markey attended Centra Network Board meeting, LEPC/LPT meeting, and Benzie Senior Resources meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Gilmore Township meeting, Road Commission meeting, Village of Thompsonville meeting, and Village of Elberta meeting.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits stated that their office has been working on the “Budget at a Glance” information sheet. She has copies here if any of the Commissioners would like to take some. She and Michelle Thompson, County Treasurer, had applied for funding through the Federal Government for the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund. Benzie County was eligible for \$100,000. We will receive \$50,000 this fiscal year and \$50,000 next fiscal year. After much conversation regarding Benzie County's new domain name, it will now be www.Benzieco.gov. Animal Control will have their new vehicle tomorrow. The League of Women Voters have asked her to be on a panel with other County Administrator's, to talk about ARPA. There was a press release from the Governor regarding funds awarded for School Resource Officers (SRO). You will notice that Benzie County Central Schools and Frankfort Elberta Area Schools were not on that list. The schools had to apply for the funds, and they declined to apply.

Discussion was held regarding the SRO grant, and the Board of Commissioners would encourage the school system to cooperate with us in trying to get those funds.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve item 1 of the January 10, 2023, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

EDC/BRA: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to appoint Andrew Miller to a six-year term expiring December 31, 2028, on the Economic Development and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

Airport Authority: Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to re-appoint Kenneth J. Laurence to a four-year term expiring March 01, 2026, on the Frankfort City-County Airport Authority. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

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Betsie Valley Trail: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to re-appoint Anne Browning to a three-year term expiring April 15, 2025, on the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council, subject to confirmation by the Village of Beulah. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Sauer Nays: None Exc: Warsecke Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Agenda for January 25, 2023.

1:46 p.m. Public Comment

Ryan King, Benzonia, here this morning with the goal of using this room. Does not understand why public rooms needs to be lock down now. Rooms should be available to the public. Only 38% of the people of Benzie County possess a college degree. So, there is a high percentage of hicks that vote for stuff, that doesn't pay taxes. The worst law school in America is Cooley Law School. It is only fit for the idiot hicks of Benzie County.

1:49 p.m. Public Comment Closed

Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 11:50 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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1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of January 10, 2023, as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from January 6, 2023, through January 19, 2023, in the amount of \$342,312.94, as presented.
4. Approve amendment to the 2022-23 budget in the amount of \$41,520 to increase revenues and expenditures in the Child Care Fund.
5. Approve the agreement with Grand Traverse County for housing Grand Traverse County inmates, agreement subject to approval as to its form by legal counsel and authorize the Chair to sign.
6. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding – Equipment Loaned for equipment purchased by Central Dispatch and loaned to neighboring agencies as to form and authorize Director Cory Ellis to sign such documents.
7. Establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendations regarding member roster and vacant positions on the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Committee and that the Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioner Markey, Administrator designee, EMS Director Tom King, and the current Chair of the EMS Advisory Committee be appointed to such committee.

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8. Establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendation regarding four terms on the Parks and Recreation Commission, terms expiring December 31, 2025, and that the Chair, Commissioner Sauer, Commissioner Warsecke, Administrator Designee, and Ed Hoogterp Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee be appointed to such committee.
9. Establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendation for one term, expiring April 30, 2026, on the Benzie Transportation Authority, and that the Chair, Commissioner Jeannot, Commissioner Cunningham, Administrator Designee, John Morse, Committee Chair, and Jessica Carland, Executive Director from Benzie Bus be appointed to such committee.
10. Approve the Veterans Coordinator position as a full-time at-will position, and offers this position to Karen Korolenko, who has served as a part-time contracted employee in this position since 2018, and terminate the contract dated December 10, 2018, related to this position.
11. Appoint Brianne Lindsay to the position of Equalization Director for Benzie County and authorizes the Chair to sign the necessary documents to submit this decision to the State Tax Commission.
12. Approve item 1 of the January 10, 2023, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
13. Appoint Andrew Miller to a six-year term expiring December 31, 2028, on the Economic Development and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.
14. Re-appoint Kenneth J. Laurence to a four-year term expiring March 01, 2026, on the Frankfort City-County Airport Authority.
15. Re-appoint Anne Browning to a three-year term expiring April 15, 2025, on the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council, subject to confirmation by the Village of Beulah.

Committee of the Whole

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

1. Adopt the Government Center Meeting Room Use Policy as amended regarding fee assessment.
2. Consideration of a Youth Advocacy Dog program, subject to documentation outlining procedures related to this activity with funds going through the School Resource Officer fund, and the School Resource Officer committee providing a recommendation.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
January 24, 2023

- Participated in 1 meeting on behalf of the County since our January 10th meeting.
- **1/20 – EDC/BRA**
 - We did not have a quorum present. As a result, no action was taken on the agenda items.
 - BWAC presented to the committee their concept for a community center. Good information, however it stimulated a number of questions before any position would be taken on their behalf. I anticipate the group will make a similar presentation to the Board of Commissioners.
 - A discussion was held regarding the future of the EDC/BRA. It was agreed we need to develop a business plan to determine the role and organizational look of this committee. More discussion to follow. My question to the BOC---what do you want from this activity?
 - An update to our broadband initiative will be given in February.



To: BoC and public

24 Jan 23

Meetings attended:

**Commissioner Cunningham, District 3
NEW**

kcunningham@benzieco.net

231.822.4067

17 Jan 23 Frankfort City Council

Airport encroachments have all been resolved. Mr. Bayer/Airport manager is a passenger and med-evac asset.

Dog park was approved, location, Charles J. Kibby Park (city launch site area across from the Tackle box)

16 Feb 23, 1-3pm Frankfort City Hall, there will be a workforce housing "workshop", with the consultant present and Josh Mills. Please contact City Hall for additional information. 231.352.7117

A letter of intent written to place a radio tower on "Tank Hill".

Community Relations: every other month (beginning in January) the fire and police chiefs will have coffee with Michigan Shores residents.

Crystal Lake Township

Mayor Holwerda and Councilman Olsen asked the council to consider contributing \$51,000 to complete the, Bellows Beach Park on Crystal Lake, money to pay for cameras and lighting. Other park improvements were paid for by a grant.

Reports: Planning and Zoning, short term rentals increased by 20%. Suggest that police should have an ordinance to enforce STR concerns. CLT should review Benzonia and Lake Township Master Plans concerning STR. The RV Park owner is selling east 16 acres.

18 Jan 23 Benzie Area Chamber of Commerce

Benzie Summit, details being discussed. Steve Campbell/ Harbor Lights, will chair the Awards Committee

For Business of the Year, profit and non-profit.

Community

21 Jan 23 Garden Theatre, Book Film Discussion