

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 14, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 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 Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Commissioner Warsecke suggested that Commissioners proceed with the Committee of the Whole meeting once the Board of Commissioners meeting is done, as there is only one item on the afternoon agenda.

Commissioners agreed to proceed with the Committee of the Whole meeting once the Board of Commissioners meeting is done with a 15-minute break in between.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Nye, to approve the regular session minutes of January 24, 2023, as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:06 a.m. Public Comment - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to approve payment of the bills from January 20, 2023, through February 09, 2023, in the amount of \$667,967.21, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Introduction of new director for BACN: Gerri Van Antwerp, outgoing Executive Director, wanted to thank everyone for all their support over the years, and introduce the new Executive Director, Sarah Sullivan.

Brianne Lindsay, Equalization Director, provided a written report.

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion of EMS Advisory Board and possible action: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Warsecke, to disband the EMS Advisory Committee to allow due diligence to be performed by staff and Commissioners to determine a purpose, possible outcomes, membership, and the future of an EMS Advisory Committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

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Adoption of Central Dispatch Amended Bylaws: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the Benzie County Central Dispatch Advisory Board Bylaws dated January 12, 2023, as recommended by the Advisory Board. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Establish an ad hoc Committee regarding Benzie Housing Committee: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Cunningham, to establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendations for the future of the Benzie County Housing Committee and that the Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioner Jeannot, Administrator Designee, and Clerk Tammy Bowers be appointed to such committee. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Animal Control Tires – declare surplus and authorize their sale: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Nye, to declare Chevy Tahoe tires surplus and authorizes their sale and disposal. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approval of inmate time keeping program: Undersheriff Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Markey, to accept the proposal from Cadmus Scribe for an inmate time keeping system in the not-to-exceed amount of \$4,400 for installation and training, and approves an agreement for annual service and maintenance of the system in the amount of \$3,600 per year for a period of three-years with option to renew at staff discretion, with funds available in the Inmate Telephone Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Replace Service Door near sallyport door, budgeted at \$25,000: Undersheriff Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Sauer to accept the proposal from Kyle Harris, Western Detention, and Johnson Controls for the replacement of the sallyport door at the jail in the not-to-exceed amount of \$25,000, with funds available in the capital fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Cole Property Acquisition – winter tax bill: Claire Herman, Grand Traverse Land Conservancy and Ed Hoogterp, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the payment of prorated property taxes for acquisition of the Cole Property in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000, with funds available in the Railroad Point Endowment Fund and approve the necessary budget amendments to process payment, contingent on Parks and Recreation Board taking the same action. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, and Warsecke Nays: Sauer Motion carried.

Motion by Markey, seconded by Warsecke, to approve 10% closure cost, not to exceed \$72,000 for it to be reimbursed to the County after closing, with funds available from General Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer, and Warsecke. Nays: None Motion carried.

Approve Change Order #3 to Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project Contract: Chuck Clarke was present to answer any questions. Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Nye to approve Change Order #3 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$62,000 and that the Board of Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$62,000 for the project to allow for reimbursement revenues from the

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Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County be approved. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Discussion regarding Point Betsie Project and consideration of allocating funds towards the project: Dick Taylor, former president of the Friend of Point Bestie, presented their request for funds for the Point Betsie Shoreline Project and what they have done to support this project.

10:47 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Reconvene

NEW BUSINESS

11:00 a.m. Wade Trim presentation – Area 31 Sewer Feasibility Study: Brian Sousa and Ken Schwerdt were present from Wade Trim and gave a presentation. They were tasked to look at the Village of Beulah, Village of Benzonia and Benzonia Township to complete a feasibility study for wastewater for those areas. Looking to service the commercial corridor M115 north and around east end of Crystal Lake. There will be an in-depth presentation, question, and answer session for the public on March 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Mills Community House.

Approval of MOU and Agreement for Recreation Improvement funds for BVTM: Motion by Sauer, seconded by Markey to accept the Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant for Betsie Valley Trail maintenance in the amount of \$10,000 and authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for the Recreation Improvement Funds, and further authorizes the necessary budget amendments to accept funds. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approve purchase of three Sheriff Department Vehicles: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer to approve the purchase of three Dodge Durango vehicles from Watson Benzie in the not-to-exceed amount of \$130,000 and further that it approves up to \$45,000 to fully equip each vehicle for patrol purposes, with funds available in the School and Youth Resource Officer Fund and the Capital Fund, with reimbursement in the total amount of \$60,000 from Centra Wellness. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended 2 EMS Advisory meetings, Area Agency on Aging of Northern Michigan meeting, Parks and Recreation interviews, and Veterans Affairs meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report. Commented that he attended the State of Benzie event yesterday. The County Administrator represented us very well. Vance Bates has 50 years of service in the Almira EMS/Fire Department.

Comm Cunningham provided a written report. She also attended the Frankfort Elberta School Board meeting last night.

Comm Nye attended AP Review, Agenda Review, Benzie Leelanau Heath Department meeting, 3 Sewer Feasibility Study meetings, zoom meeting with Commissioner Sauer and Commissioner Cunningham regarding Sunkissed development on Crystal Lake, Planning Commission meeting, EMS Advisory Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Village of Benzonia meeting, Land Bank meeting, Centra Wellness Board meeting, Benzie School Board meeting, and the Benzie Summit.

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Comm Markey attended EMS Advisory Ad Hoc Committee meeting, Homestead Township meeting, Centra Wellness Network Board meeting, Northern Michigan Regional Entity meeting, and Village of Honor meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended Solid Waste Advisory Board meeting, Benzie Transportation Authority meeting, Conservation District meeting, Parks and Recreation meeting, Colfax Township meeting, and Inland Township meeting.

Comm Sauer attended the Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, zoom meeting regarding Ironman, Gilmore Township Public Hearing, Joyfield Township meeting, Blaine Township meeting, Maples meeting, Benzonia Township Public Hearing, Road Commission meeting, Village of Thompsonville meeting, and was contacted by the Historical Society regarding funding request.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits reported that the website is getting closer to going live. Working on the migration for new Microsoft licensing and 2 factor authenticators. Carpet has been installed in the Board of Commissioners room, outer common room and by the elevator. Still need to replace carpet in the courtrooms, courtroom hallway, room 206 and in front of the Administrator's Office. Spoke at the Benzie Summit yesterday and it was very good. Appraisal II position is posted for the Equalization Department. Received a report from the State of Michigan Property Services Division stating they are very happy with what has been turned in and believe it to be accurate and on time. We have received Opioid money of \$100,000 from the settlement.

Commissioner Nye wanted to acknowledge the Equalization Director's update in the packet. Really appreciated it.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve items 1 - 2 of the January 24, 2023, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Parks and Recreation Committee: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye to reappoint Lee Ferguson, Sean Duperron, Barbara Skurdall and Shaun Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Commission, term expiring December 31, 2025. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Benzie Transportation Authority: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer to appoint Brian Halliday, to the Benzie Transportation Authority term, expiring April 30, 2026. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Benzie Leelanau Health Department November 21, 2022, minutes
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department November 28, 2022, minutes
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department November 30, 2022. Minutes

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- Benzie Leelanau Health Department December 7, 2022, minutes

12:04 p.m. Public Comment

Annie Browning, Village of Beulah, wanted to wish everyone a Happy Valentine Day. Glad things are going on to help people with housing. Glad the sewer system is being talked about. Working on Master Plan for the Village of Beulah.

12:06 p.m. Public Comment closed.

Committee of the Whole meeting will start at 12:15 p.m.

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Jeannot, to adjourn at 12:07 p.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 presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of January 24, 2023, as presented.
3. Approve payment of the bills from January 20, 2023, through February 09, 2023, in the amount of \$667,967.21, as presented.
4. Disband the EMS Advisory Committee to allow due diligence to be performed by staff and Commissioners to determine a purpose, possible outcomes, membership, and the future of an EMS Advisory Committee.
5. Approve the Benzie County Central Dispatch Advisory Board Bylaws dated January 12, 2023, as recommended by the Advisory Board.
6. Establish an ad hoc interview committee to make recommendations for the future of the Benzie County Housing Committee and that the Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioner Jeannot, Administrator Designee, and Clerk Tammy Bowers be appointed to such committee.
7. Declare Chevy Tahoe tires surplus and authorizes their sale and disposal.
8. Accept the proposal from Cadmus Scribe for an inmate time keeping system in the not-to-exceed amount of \$4,400 for installation and training and approves an agreement for annual service and maintenance of the system in the amount of \$3,600 per year for a period of three-years with option to renew at staff discretion, with funds available in the Inmate Telephone Fund.
9. Accept the proposal from Kyle Harris, Western Detention, and Johnson Controls for the replacement of the sallyport door at the jail in the not-to-exceed amount of \$25,000, with funds available in the capital fund.
10. Approve the payment of prorated property taxes for acquisition of the Cole Property in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000, with funds available in the Railroad Point Endowment Fund and approve the necessary budget amendments to process payment, contingent on Parks and Recreation Board taking the same action.
11. Approve 10% closure cost, not to exceed \$72,000 for it to be reimbursed to the County after closing, with funds available from General Fund.

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12. Approve Change Order #3 to the Point Betsie Shoreline Protection Project agreement with Barr Engineering in the amount of \$62,000 and that the Board of Chair be authorized to sign and that the related budget amendment in the amount of \$62,000 for the project to allow for reimbursement revenues from the Friends of Point Betsie and payment of invoices by the County be approved.
13. Accept the Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant for Betsie Valley Trail maintenance in the amount of \$10,000 and authorize the Chair to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement for the Recreation Improvement Funds, and further authorizes the necessary budget amendments to accept funds.
14. Approve the purchase of three Dodge Durango vehicles from Watson Benzie in the not-to-exceed amount of \$130,000 and further that it approves up to \$45,000 to fully equip each vehicle for patrol purposes, with funds available in the School and Youth Resource Officer Fund and the Capital Fund, with reimbursement in the total amount of \$60,000 from Centra Wellness.
15. Approve items 1 - 2 of the January 24, 2023, Committee of the Whole Consent Calendar as presented.
16. Reappoint Lee Ferguson, Sean Duperron, Barbara Skurdall and Shaun Johnson to the Parks and Recreation Commission, term expiring December 31, 2025.
17. Appoint Brian Halliday, to the Benzie Transportation Authority term, expiring April 30, 2026.

Committee of the Whole

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January 24, 2023

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
February 14, 2023

- Participated in 5 meetings on behalf of the County since our January 24th meeting.
- **1/26 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
 - The agency updated the board on the weatherization program and tax preparation. These programs bring value to our community.
 - I have suggested that the agency make a presentation to the BOC at a future meeting.
- **2/3 – MI Association of Counties (Finance and General Governance)**
 - Legislative updates were given. We can anticipate amendments to the Open Meetings Act to allow remote participation, an increase to revenue sharing and expansion of Veterans property tax exemptions. There is ongoing discussion about the need for additional Juvenile Justice facilities.
- **2/9 – Platte Township**
 - The township is budgeting for upgrades to the facility that will include parking lot enhancements and implementing energy efficiencies to the building.
- **2/10 – Transportation Authority**
 - Participated in interviews for potential board members.
- **2/13 – Almira Township**
 - I will discuss any relevant information at our meeting.
- **Other**
 - Attended and presented at the “State of Benzie Event”. My role was to discuss current EDC activity. Several topics were covered to include housing, broadband and County updates.
 - Attended an event put on by the Benzie Historical Society that discussed the history of car ferry’s in Frankfort.



BoC 14 Feb 2023

Commissioner Cunningham, District 3

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231.822.4067

Attended/Presented

HSBC Health Services Collaborative Thompsonville planning for a Summerfest. Benzie Area Youth (BAY) launching a campaign to counter youth addictions and provide mental health, contact: Sarah May, 231.882.2123. BAY article was in the Record Patriot.

Visited Grow Benzie for introduction

Airport Authority introduction, shared letter of intent for tower space on "Tank Hill", in Frankfort.

Attended Gilmore Twp board public discussion on housing development.

Attended public coffee with John Roth, State Rep

Lake Twp Board meeting new supervisor, Jeff Johnson. 23 Feb 23, 6pm, public hearing on Proposed Budget.

Ad Hoc interviews for Benzie Bus Authority

NMCA Northern Michigan County Assoc. MAC Legislative Report: State Priorities

Increasing resources for Juvenile Justice System

Compensating local government for funds diverted by veterans property tax exemption

Revamping the PPTax exemption to provide annual reimbursement to locals

Revising OMAct to meet demands of the 21st century

Creating a fair revenue sharing system for counties

Enacting reforms to ensure proper funding of local courts

Frankfort/Elberta School Board

Community

Garden Theatre is offering captioned movies at noon on Mondays.

Benzie/Leelanau Kinship, Zoom.