

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 28, 2023

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 28, 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 Nye, seconded by Warsecke, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes:

Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Sauer, to approve the regular session minutes of February 14, 2023, as amended. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:02 a.m. Public Comment - None

FINANCE

Bills: Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to approve payment of the bills from February 10, 2023, through February 23, 2023, in the amount of \$340,111.04, as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING – Eclipse Communications Close Out CDBG Loan:

Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North Development, and Chris Varenhorst, Eclipse Owner, were present. They provided the background of Eclipse Communications LLC Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) loan, highlighted the accomplishments, provided an opportunity for the public to comment, and answer any questions.

9:22 a.m. Public Hearing Open - None

9:23 a.m. Public Hearing Closed

ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Doug Durand, Benzie Senior Resources, was present and provided a written report. The Income Tax program has been well received. About 230 packets have been sent out. Northwest Michigan Action Agency has assigned 2 more volunteers to assist. The client handbook is 95% complete. March for Meals is doing a champion week. Letters will be going out if you are interested in participating.

Cory Ellis, 911 Director, was present and presented the 911 Central Dispatch Annual Report.

ACTION ITEMS

2024/2025 Ambulance purchase: Tim King, EMS Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by Markey, seconded by Sauer, to approve the purchase of one E-450 Ambulance from RSVP Inc., in the not to exceed amount of \$218,129 with funds available in fund 214 Emergency Medical Services and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents for purchase and

COMMISSIONERS

Page 2 of 5

February 28, 2023

taking possession of the unit. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Solid Waste Household Hazardous Waste contract and Electronic Waste Collection contract: Jesse Zylstra, Solid Waste Director, was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Cunningham, to approve the 2023 Electronic Waste Collection Services contract with Bay Area Recycling for Charities, and the 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services contract with ERG Environmental Services, authorizing Chair to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider the resolution adopting ballot language for county roads: Matt Skeels, Road Commission Manager was present and would like the Board of Commissioners to accept their request to renew and restore the Road Commission mileage rate for the November 2023 ballot, with ballot language to be provided at a later date. Motion by Sauer, seconded by Jeannot, to restore the Road Commission millage rate and have it on the November 2023 ballot, with ballot language to be provided for adoption at a later date. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Consider vehicle purchase from Watson Benzie for Sheriff's office use: Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Markey, to approve the purchase of one Dodge Durango vehicle from Watson Benzie in the not-to-exceed amount of \$45,000, and \$15,000 to fully equip the vehicle for patrol purposes, with funds available in the Capital Fund. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Adoption of Directory of Charges: Motion by Cunningham, seconded by Warsecke, to adopt the directory of charges for Benzie County as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approve Comfort Dog Program and related Sheriff's Office Policy: Undersheriff Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Nye to approve the Comfort Dog Program and Policy for the Benzie County Sheriff's Office and approve the creation of the necessary revenue and expenditure lines to accept donations and pay for the care and training for the designated dog for this program. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approve three part-time Bailiff positions and budget amendments: Undersheriff Hubers was present to answer any questions. Motion by Markey, seconded by Cunningham, to approve a general fund budget amendment in the amount of \$90,000 for three part-time bailiff positions and related equipment, with funds available from fund 282. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Approve State surcharge for Central Dispatch operations: Cory Ellis, 911 Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by Jeannot, seconded by Warsecke, to approve maintaining a \$3.00 per device surcharge for Central Dispatch Operations from July 2023 to June 2024 and authorizes the Clerk and Central Dispatch Director to sign the necessary documentation for submission to the State of Michigan. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 3 of 5

February 28, 2023

Approve Letter of Understanding – Leelanau County emergency switch service on radio: Cory Ellis, 911 Director, was present to answer any questions. Motion by Nye, seconded by Cunningham, to approve a memorandum of understanding with Leelanau County Central Dispatch for Emergency Alert Button Activation monitoring, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, and authorize Director Cory Ellis to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

10:19 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Reconvene

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Chair Roelofs attended the Village of Lake Ann meeting and the EMS advisory Board meeting.

Comm Jeannot provided a written report.

Comm Cunningham provided a written report. She updated her report to state that the Airport Authority meeting was cancelled.

Comm Nye attended Agenda Review meeting, Village of Beulah meeting, 3 Sewer Feasibility Study meetings, EDC meeting, Benzie Leelanau Health Department Board meeting, Benzie Leelanau Health Department Finance meeting, Benzie Leelanau Health Department Bylaws meeting, and MAC Health and Human Services Committee meeting. Reminder that Wade Trim will hold a public meeting on March 7, 2023, 6:00 p.m. at the Mills Community House, to provide information and answer any questions regarding the Sewer Feasibility Study.

Comm Markey attended Benzie Senior Resource meeting, LEPC/LPT meeting, Homestead Township Special meeting, and MAC Judicial and Public Safety meeting.

Comm Warsecke attended the Parks and Recreation meeting.

Comm Sauer attended Weldon Township meeting, sat in on a DNR webinar meeting, Village of Elberta meeting, Benzie Leelanau Health Department meeting, Road Commission meeting, and sat in on Representative Roth event in Honor.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Katie Zeits report that she is working with Emergency Manager Rebecca Hubers regarding funding for the emergency communication tower. Have a meeting with Senator Stabenow on Friday and have reached out to Senator Peters. Have received the MERS annual statement and we are at about \$2,000,000 loss in investments. Meeting with Crystal Lake Township regarding digitalization. Gave a reminder regarding submitting a letter of support for the Broadband Robin Grant application. Have a meeting with Liam regarding his non-profit called Government for Tomorrow. His mission is to get youth involved in local government. ARPA report is due April 30, 2023, to the Michigan Department of Treasury. Working with Network Northwest on updating the Benzie County Master Plan.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - None

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - None

COMMISSIONERS

Page 4 of 5

February 28, 2023

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS - None

PRESENTATION OF CORRESPONDENCE

- Cheboygan County Resolution #2023-04
- Marquette County Resolution – Dark Store Legislation
- Marquette County Resolution - Honoring Michigan Association of Counties
- Marquette County Resolution – Supporting County Board of Revisions Legislation
- Livingston County Resolution #2023-02-021
- Ingham County Resolution #23-074
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department minutes for January 25, 2023
- Benzie Leelanau Health Department agenda for February 22, 2023

10:55 a.m. Public Comment - None

Motion by Warsecke, seconded by Markey, to adjourn at 10:56 a.m. Ayes: Cunningham, Jeannot, Markey, Nye, Roelofs, Sauer and Warsecke Nays: None Motion carried.

Bob Roelofs, Chair

Tammy Bowers, Benzie County Clerk

INDEX

1. Approve the agenda as presented.
2. Approve the regular session minutes of February 14, 2023, as amended.
3. Approve payment of the bills from February 10, 2023, through February 23, 2023, in the amount of \$340,111.04, as presented.
4. Approve the purchase of one E-450 Ambulance from RSVP Inc., in the not to exceed amount of \$218,129 with funds available in fund 214 Emergency Medical Services and authorizes the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents for purchase and taking possession of the unit.
5. Approve the 2023 Electronic Waste Collection Services contract with Bay Area Recycling for Charities, and the 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services contract with ERG Environmental Services, authorizing Chair to sign.
6. Restore the Road Commission millage rate and have it on the November 2023 ballot, with ballot language to be provided for adoption at a later date.
7. Approve the purchase of one Dodge Durango vehicle from Watson Benzie in the not-to-exceed amount of \$45,000, and \$15,000 to fully equip the vehicle for patrol purposes, with funds available in the Capital Fund.
8. Adopt the directory of charges for Benzie County as presented.
9. Approve the Comfort Dog Program and Policy for the Benzie County Sheriff's Office and approve the creation of the necessary revenue and expenditure lines to accept donations and pay for the care and training for the designated dog for this program.
10. Approve a general fund budget amendment in the amount of \$90,000 for three part-time bailiff positions and related equipment, with funds available from fund 282.

COMMISSIONERS

Page 5 of 5

February 28, 2023

11. Approve maintaining a \$3.00 per device surcharge for Central Dispatch Operations from July 2023 to June 2024 and authorizes the Clerk and Central Dispatch Director to sign the necessary documentation for submission to the State of Michigan.
12. Approve a memorandum of understanding with Leelanau County Central Dispatch for Emergency Alert Button Activation monitoring, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel, and authorize Director Cory Ellis to sign.

Art Jeannot
Commissioner Report
February 28, 2023

- Participated in 3 meetings on behalf of the County since our February 14th meeting.
- **2/16 – Northern MI Community Action Agency**
 - Business as usual. The Executive Director (Kerry Baughman) will give us an agency update at one of our May BOC meetings.
- **2/17 – Economic Development Corporation**
 - We had a second presentation from Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center advocates. Eventually they would like to ask for financial support from the County as well as a letter of support when applying for grants.
 - The annual organizational meeting was held. Betsy Evans has agreed to act as Chair and Dan Barcheski as Vice Chair. Meetings will continue the 3rd Friday of each month starting at 9am.
 - Tim Maylone from Cherry Capital gave us an update on our broadband initiative.
 - We have begun discussions about the role the EDC/BRA will have in our community.
- **2/24 – Northern MI Community Action Agency (Executive Committee)**
 - Discussed committee assignments, budget and year to date financial performance.
- **Other**
 - Met with State Representative Coffia to discuss district needs. She has invited us to request help with funding for a radio tower in Frankfort.



To: BoC and public

28 Feb 23

Meetings attended:

Commissioner Cunningham, District 3

kcunningham@benzieco.net

231.822.4067

17 Feb 23 **MAC Environmental, Natural Resources & Regulatory Affairs:** introductions. Abigail Hendershott, Exec Dir Public Policy of the PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) in Michigan Dept of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Topic: Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS), "forever chemicals". Michigan has the highest concentration in the US.
I have some to share.

20 Feb 23 **Rep. John Roth Coffee** and public discussion, Sweets, Honor. Topics included gun control and legalities.

21 Feb 23 **Frankfort City Council**, shared ROBIN information. Chris Spence will post Dist 3 summary in City Hall
Mayor Holwerda asked council and public to submit ROBIN letters of support.
Carried: Disbursement of SRO funds to county.

Crystal Lake Township will schedule a special meeting for cash disbursement policy and practice.
Dick Bayer, Airport Authority, no history of PFAS being used at the airport.

22 Feb 23 **BHR Collaborative**, speaker, Jennifer Pool, Single MOMM, Jennifer @singlemomm.org. A transition service for single moms. Will be hiring someone for Benzie County position.

New private childcare provider in Benzonia, "Where the Sidewalk Ends", contact Sarah May,
benziehsc@gmail.com

23 Feb 23 **Airport Authority**