

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JULY 17, 2007**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, July 17, 2007, in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan, 49617.

Present were: Commissioners Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse  
Absent:           Excused: Kelley

The pledge of allegiance was given with invocation by County Treasurer Linda Wilson.

**Agenda:** Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Smeltzer, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Bob Weaver at 11:15 a.m. and National Park Service letter during New Business. Motion carried.  
Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse   Nays: None   Exc: Kelley

**Minutes:** Motion by Picher, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve the minutes of June 19, 2007 Regular meeting as presented. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse   Nays: None   Exc: Kelley

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve the minutes of July 11, 2007 Special meeting a presented. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse   Nays: None   Exc: Kelley

9:09 a.m. PUBLIC INPUT:

Eric VanDussen, Benzonia, talked about building renovations cost; consolidated plan prepared by Craig Seger; recording of meetings.

William Paul Hunt resides at South Shore and Lobb Road says there is a problem with parking by the boat launch near his home.

9:16 a.m. Public Input Closed

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPT HEAD COMMENTS**

Craig Johnson, EMS Director, states that the garage building on 669 is complete and an open house for the public will be held Thursday, July 19, 2007, from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; things are going well, even with the staffing cuts.

Comm Roper inquires regarding the building department issues.

Chuck Clarke states they have held a meeting with the contractors; internally things are going better but still have issues to work on.

Comm Walterhouse inquired of the building department shortfall; budget will be OK; sharing staff with Planning, so that will help the building fund, with some wages coming from the general fund.

Chuck states that Dave Neiger has talked with Mark Wyckoff as to his (Mark's) future role, which will be limited; Planning & Zoning committee will sort this out.

Motion by Roper, seconded by Walterhouse, to add Mary Pitcher to the Planning & Zoning Ad Hoc committee. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse  
Nays: None   Exc: Kelley

Craig Seger, Zoning Administrator, presented a DRAFT of the Mission Statement.

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### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Comm Pitcher presented Consent Calendar Items 1-4.

Comm Sandman removes item #2.

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Walterhouse, to approve Consent Calendar items 1, 3 and 4 as presented. Roll call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

Motion by Pitcher seconded, seconded by Smeltzer, to proceed with a Quit Claim Deed, drafted by Municipal Financial consultants Incorporated (John Axe), of the property on which the original Government Center sits, to the Benzie County Building Authority. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: Sandman Exc: Kelley

Comm Pitcher states that the budget committee will meet next week with the Sheriff.

### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Pitcher, to approve the Policy & Procedures for County Committee Appointments as presented. Roll Call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Smeltzer, to endorse Scott Gest as the Elberta Representative to the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council to end August 1, 2010. Roll call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Pitcher, to endorse William Parris to replace James Honchell on the Betsie Valley Trail Management Council as the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail Representative until October 1, 2009. Roll Call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

Comm Damm requests support for a wage study to be completed by MSU Graduate students for Benzie County; discussion held and the issue will be discussed further at the August meeting of this board; Comm Damm to provide information to all members prior to the meeting.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Motion by Smeltzer, seconded by Damm, to appoint Administrator Chuck Clarke as the Officer Delegate; Cody Kastl as the Employee Delegate and Kelly Long as the Alternate Employee Delegate to MERS. Roll call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

10:07 a.m. Break

10:22 a.m. Reconvene

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Comm Pitcher provides a draft letter addressed to the National Park Service.

Jeannette Feeheley with Citizens for Access to the Lakeshore (CAL) is also present.

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Ms. Feeheley states that all information provided last month is also on their website [www.citizensforaccesstothelakeshore.com](http://www.citizensforaccesstothelakeshore.com)

Comm Pitcher asks for approval and/or input regarding the letter. The board will email her their thoughts and any possible changes and she will redraft the letter for next month.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- Area Agency on Aging Resolution: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Smeltzer, to adopt the resolution for Area Agency on Aging as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Roll call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse  
Nays: None Exc: Kelley
- Crystal Lake Elevation Report received.
- Little Platte Lake Elevation Report received.
- Huron County resolution received – information only.
- Letter received from Kelly Monteruil regarding the building dept; letter is being investigated and will be taken care of.
- Letter from Dept of State Police regarding Emergency Management monitoring review.
- Animal Control report for June 2007 received.
- Letter received from the Benzie Housing Council that their audit is complete and the Board of Commissioners are welcome to stop by and review it.
- Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services minutes from May 7, 2007 received.
- Airport Authority minutes from June 7, 2007 received.
- Letter received from Gerrit DenBoer regarding dog bite; Chairman Roper will respond after conferring with Undersheriff Heckman.
- EMS Advisory Committee minutes of June 5, 2007.
- Building Dept report for June 2007 received.
- Michigan Northern Counties agenda for July 16, 2007
- Michigan Northern Counties minutes from June 18, 2007 received.
- Road Commission minutes of June 13, May 22, June 19 and June 27, 2007 received.
- Resolution from the Benzie Transportation Authority in support of the Road Commission millage.
- Airport Authority Annual Meeting minutes of July 5, 2007 received.
- Menominee County Resolution in support of SB 410 & 411 – information only.
- Letter from Platte Township in support of the Road Commission millage idea.

10:57 a.m. Break

11:05 a.m. Reconvene

Tad Peacock and Micki Jannazzo, 211 Systems

Tad says when you think of 211 you think 911, except think information and referrals for all human services available in the five county area; a presentation was given with a hand out; if and when Benzie County is a partner, the calls will go into a call center in Muskegon; the cost would be about \$2,000 annually for Benzie County and they are asking for the county to provide \$1,000 of that.

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Comm Pitcher asks them to put their request in writing and the budget committee will consider it.

11:23 a.m. Bob Weaver, Benzie County Road Commission

Mr. Weaver provides information to the board requesting a proposal be placed on the November 2007 ballot for Local Road Preservation in the amount of .75 mills for six years. Some townships have supported this issue with a resolution and other with a letter asking that the voters be able to decide the issue.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Smeltzer, to authorize a county-wide Local Road millage for .75 mills on November 6, 2007 ballot for six years. Roll Call. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

Comm Pitcher asks Mr. Weaver to help Mr. Hunt out with his issue at Lobb Road.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Comm Pitcher states that the web site has been updated and another meeting will be scheduled; will attend a conference call with the EPA regarding the Brownfield grant which was denied.

Comm Sandman provided a written report and states that Officer Dave Casey has resigned from the Frankfort Police Department; they are looking to hire a person who has been a part time officer; Thursday, July 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elberta Life Saving Station there will be a presentation on the proposed Betsie Bay Development.

Comm Damm has nothing to add.

Comm Walterhouse asks about the MERS conference being Sept 18 – which is a regular meeting date – how can Chuck attend.

Comm Pitcher asks Comm Walterhouse if there is a maintenance budget for the trail and who is in charge? Yes there is and Bill Olsen is the contact.

Comm Smeltzer stated that he attend the Joyfield and Blaine Township meetings and they both would not take a position on the road commission millage issue.

Comm Roper informed the board of an open house on August 1, 2007 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Benzie Transportation Offices; they are looking at putting bike racks on the buses. They are also working to have a run from 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. – the businesses are receptive to that; Almira Twp is talking about a rental charge for the use of their building to entities.

12:09 p.m. PUBLIC INPUT

Bob Weaver states regarding Blaine Twp that they won't support a resolution, but they are working together on a project; will attend MTA on Wednesday evening; August 31 is the Platte Road completion date.

Eric VanDussen talked about the June 19 motion to enter closed session.

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12:15 p.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Smeltzer, to adjourn until August 21, 2007, or the call of the chair. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Pitcher, Roper, Sandman, Smeltzer and Walterhouse Nays: None Exc: Kelley

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Mark E. Roper -- Chairman

Dawn Olney – Benzie County Clerk

1. Approved the agenda as amended.
2. Approved the minutes of June 19, 2007 regular meeting as presented.
3. Approved the minutes of July 11, 2007 Special meeting as presented.
4. Approved adding Mary Pitcher to the Planning & Zoning Ad Hoc committee.
5. Approved Consent Calendar items 1, 3 and 4 as presented.
6. Auth to proceed with a Quit Claim Deed to the Benzie County Building Authority.
7. Approved the Policy & Procedures for County Committee Appointments as presented.
8. Auth endorsement of Scott Gest as the Elberta Rep to the BVTMC until 8/1/2010.
9. Auth endorsement of William Parrish to the BVTMC until 10/1/2009.
10. Appointed Chuck Clarke as the Officer Delegate; Cody Kastl as the Employee Delegate and Kelly Long as the Alternate Employee Delegate to MERS.
11. Adopted the resolution for Area Agency on Aging as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
12. Auth a county-wide Local Road millage for .75 mills on November 6, 2007 ballot for six years.