

**THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OCTOBER 13, 2009**

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan, 49617.

Present were: Commissioners Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper and Tanner

Absent: Walterhouse arrived at 6:15 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was given with invocation by Commissioner Kelley.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Roper, seconded by Pitcher, to approve the agenda as amended, adding 7.C. Appendix A; 7.D. Brownfield Report; 7.E. Renewable Energy Grant Information; 12.B. Gene Mayo issue. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper and Tanner Nays: None Exc: Walterhouse

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes will be provided and addressed later in the meeting.

6:05 p.m. PUBLIC INPUT

Alison Michalak, Platte Township, urges the board to reconsider the elimination of Zoning from the county budget; asks to retain for one year to allow the seven townships time to determine what they will do in the future.

Lonnie Bullion, Energy Systems Group, has recently done work for the Benzie Central Schools and can audit the county facilities to determine energy inefficiencies.

Terry Money asks if his business put new lights in the gym at the high school? Yes

6:10 p.m. Public Input Closed

FINANCE

General Finance Issues:

Terry Money, National Utility Refund Program, they look for loopholes in utility spending; they look back 48 months to review bills; any refund would be payable 50% to the entity and 50% to the company; there is no initial charge; any future savings will be entirely to the entity (county).

6:15 p.m. Comm Walterhouse arrives

Motion by Hollenbeck, seconded by Walterhouse, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enter into agreement with StonePillar Capital LLC for the National Utility Refund Program, pending review of the contract by Mr. Figura, authorizing the chairman to sign. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Road Commission Contracts:

Motion by Roper, seconded by Walterhouse, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enter into agreement with the Benzie County Road Commission for street maintenance on the Jail Access Road as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Motion by Roper, seconded by Pitcher, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to enter into agreement with the Benzie County Road Commission for Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance as

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presented, authorizing the chairman to sign. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Appendix A – Assistant Building Inspector:

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Hollenbeck, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to correct Appendix A for the Asst. Building Inspector salary for 2008-09 as per the contract to \$43,075 and to correct the 2009-10 salary to reflect the 2.75% increase to \$44,260. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Brownfield Grant – Mary Pitcher:

Comm Pitcher talked about the grant and that there was more funds available last year than this year; new group of reviewers; RFP is the same as last year and should we resubmit last years application. Motion by Kelley, seconded by Roper, to apply for the Brownfield Grant with action of this board. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Energy Grant – Dave Neiger:

NM Council of Governments has received a \$48,000 grant per county for energy audit; \$8,000 for an energy audit; \$40,000 balance for equipment and services for the first year; county is only eligible one time; create a Green Team of five members.

Budget Issues:

Budget Updates – Linda Wilson:

She provides a fund balance report; five funds are in the red: 214 EMS; 217 Marine; 230 BVTMF; 285 Point Betsie; 292 Child Care.

Spending Issues: None

Sheriff: No Report

Reports:

Linda Wilson, County Treasurer, provides the cash summary report; recommends transfer of \$50,000 to the Child Care Fund.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Pitcher, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to transfer \$50,000 from fund 101 General Fund to 292 Child Care Fund. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Indebtedness Report: Bonded Debt totals \$810,000.00 – no longer have a jail debt; \$690,000 still owe on the Government Center addition and \$120,000 for Ambulances; interfund borrowing totals \$1,352,771.40.

Microphones & Speakers for the Commissioners Room: Looked into them and they will not be able to move from room to room; called Bob Summerville and asked what it would take to make the

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annex into the Commissioners Room; he made two proposals; Jay Pettitt suggests moving the storage area and to add a solid wall; will use existing desks in the commissioners room; bare necessities; Provides a list of items totaling \$74,800; use this room for a conference room; new room would accommodate 90 chairs; sound system; could be wrapped in with energy savings; if not over \$100,000 could use the Tax Revolving Fund and pay back with interest; courts could use it if they need another courtroom; would be a larger room for other meetings; hearing impaired system should be included; perhaps we could use rollback dividers in the other half for additional meeting rooms; would transfer the chairs from the current commissioners' room and get additional chair – not necessarily the same.

Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Tanner, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to authorize the Building Authority to study the project and look into possible funding. Roll call. Motion carried. Ayes: Kelley, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: Damm, Hollenbeck and Pitcher

USDA Loan: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Pitcher, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to allow the USDA loan in the amount of \$650,000 to be cancelled and send a letter to USDA notifying of the desire to cancel. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

7:20 p.m. Break

7:30 p.m. Reconvene

Lonnie states that there is no cost for the audit.

Minutes: Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Kelley, to approve the September 8, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried. Aye: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

PERSONNEL

General Personnel Issues:

Planning Commission Appointments: Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Roper, to recommend the following to the Board of Commissioners for completion of the Planning Commission appointments:

Kathy Ralston	Tourism & Recreation	1 year term
Karen Roberts	Business & EDC	1 year term
Tim Schwerin	Citizen at Law	1 year term
John Schluter	Twps Western Half	2 year term
Mike Moorman	Twps Eastern Half	2 year term
Clinton Brian	Ag, Forestry & Land Use	2 year term
George Granlund	Environmental & Protection	3 year term
Katherine Ross	Education	3 year term
Margaret Minster	Human Services	3 year term
Mary Pitcher	Ex Officio	Exp 12/31/2010
Donald Tanner	Ex Officio	Exp 12/31/2010

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Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Gene Mayo: Linda Wilson states that January 1, 2009, Gene Mayo became a full time employee by working 40 hours per week, 16 hours as Emergency Management and 24 hours as EMT; he was told he had health insurance and holiday pay, but told he receives no vacation; you need to decide if he does or doesn't get vacation time.

Motion by Kelley, seconded by Pitcher, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to treat Gene Mayo the same as any other full-time employee of the county with health insurance, retirement, vacation pay and any other benefits afforded other full time employees. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

Comm Roper would like a policy on this issue; if a grant ends, he could go back to a part time employee and not receive benefits.

HR Study Committee Report:

Comm Hollenbeck reports that they met on October 6 and had a good meeting; all three commissioners were present; she reads an anonymous letter to the board. She will get the matrix to all employees as to which commissioner is that department's liaison; she talks about the risk avoidance grant application.

Other General Topics Requiring Discussion and Potential Board Action:

Hand Sanitizer: The State of Michigan is requesting hand sanitizers be placed in all buildings that they lease space. Comm Roper will talk with Rick Morris regarding this issue and the purchase of same.

Comm Walterhouse feels the issue at the building department will have to be taken care of by this board.

Parks & Recreation budget allows for a part-time secretary; how does this board want us to proceed? Not budgeted for – was requested but not approved.

Comm Kelley says it is nice to see building going on in Thompsonville with no grant funds or stimulus money – Mr. Gibbs is doing it on his own.

8:10 p.m. PUBLIC INPUT – None

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Hollenbeck, to adjourn until November 10, 2009, or the call of the chair. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

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Motion by Walterhouse, seconded by Roper, that upon recommendation of the Committee of the Whole for Finance Consent Calendar approval:

1. To enter into agreement with StonePillar Capital LLC for the National Utility Refund Program, pending review of the contract by Mr. Figura, authorizing the chairman to sign.
2. To enter into agreement with the Benzie County Road Commission for street maintenance on the Jail Access Road as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
3. To enter into agreement with the Benzie County Road Commission for Betsie Valley Trail Maintenance as presented, authorizing the chairman to sign.
4. To correct Appendix A for the Asst. Building Inspector salary for 2008-09 as per the contract to \$43,075 and to correct the 2009-10 salary to reflect the 2.75% increase to \$44,260.
5. To transfer \$50,000 from fund 101 General Fund to 292 Child Care Fund.
6. To authorize the Building Authority to study the project of renovations to the annex and look into possible funding.
7. To allow the USDA loan in the amount of \$650,000 to be cancelled and send a letter to USDA notifying of the desire to cancel.

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Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Kelley, that upon recommendation of the Committee of the Whole for Personnel Consent Calendar approval:

1. To complete the Planning Commission appointments as presented.
2. To treat Gene Mayo the same as any other full-time employee of the county with health insurance, retirement, vacation pay and any other benefits afforded other full time employees.