

THE BENZIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 9, 2010

The Benzie County Board of Commissioners met in a special meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Beulah, Michigan, 49617.

Present were: Commissioners Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse
Absent: None

An invocation was given by Commissioner Kelley together with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda: Motion by Kelley, seconded by Roper, to approve the agenda as amended, adding Public Input at the beginning of the meeting; job descriptions, ACO and ACO clerk and county administrator. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse Nays: None

9:02 a.m. PUBLIC INPUT

Eric VanDussen suggests selling the car that sits in the parking lot; why are we paying Aldo Davis \$65,000 last year when he is under contract that is not economical; new position that you created for ACO secretary/building/soil erosion/zoning – where will the funds come from to pay a portion of it.
9:05 a.m. Public Input Closed

This meeting is for discussions with the department heads funded by the general fund regarding budget cuts.

Linda Wilson, County Treasurer, gave everyone a copy of the budget; 4% cut in taxable values this year; in order to calculate, will need to \$177,000 cut in the general fund budget; \$20,877 is already state cuts; 7.155% cut in each budget is what is needed. Looking for ideas and suggests – cut staff, hours, what; will probably happen again next year; other counties have taken the hit too; the board will have to make stiff decisions here.

Chairman Tanner asks Tom Longanbach if his could grow. \$177,000 is probably high, could come in less.

Chairman Tanner asks all departments to look at their budgets and get back with us. Would like to set up another meeting; as soon as we have final figures; February 19 should have final numbers from the assessors.

Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$100,000 last year; keep your budget in balance over the year, then hits won't be taken at the end of the year.

Tom Longanbach says if we need to make cuts, we need to stop the aerial photo project with the State of Michigan.

Chairman Tanner says we would rather you do this, not us.

Linda says it has been suggested at cutting the Government Center hours back to 32 hours per week; she is still looking at health insurance costs; unemployment costs are up this year.

Tom asks if we cut 10%, are we still subject to the board's whim after that. Yes

Sheriff Heckman says this will amount to positions and/or positions at the sheriff office.

Linda says other budget will take a hit later (winter) – EMS, ACO, Bus, Maples, Building.

Comm Pitcher says she hope you can sense that we are trying to be thoughtful and fair as much as we can in this situation.

Tom asks if you feel the need to reduce the hours, can you use furlough days with a longer weekend.

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Sheriff says how about coinciding with the State of Michigan furlough days; thinks there may be 14 scheduled this year. Not sure how that would effect the courts.

Kris Randall says the state furlough days do not affect the court; we run five days a week. Keep in mind with the two counties, if you do schedule a furlough day, I can take that into account when scheduling; let me know.

Dodie Putney, Benzie Leelanau District Health Dept, being a district health dept, this type of a cut would affect Leelanau too; says they would take a double whammy if cuts were made; will apply to Leelanau too; will be very tough for them.

Chip Johnson, CMH, says they are seeing 18-20% cuts in Medicaid and on the state funding side.

David Thompson, Referee, says on the juvenile side they won't lose revenue; CRP contract is fixed on the FOC side and not affected this year.

Sheriff says each department should meet with the budget committee.

Kim Ireton, Probate Register, says they have collected \$14,000 this year and budgeted for \$5,200; having harder cases and having to appoint attorneys too.

Chairman Tanner says will leave this to the budget committee to work it out.

Other Business:

We have a Letter of Understanding with the union; redrafted the Asst Animal Control job description and created a description for the ACO Secretary; what you have a drafts; Dave Stoker has already seen these and they need to be sent to the union; would look for approval contingency on the union approval.

9:37 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. Reconvene

Discussion held regarding the job descriptions; the clerk would be Monday to Friday 1-5 p.m. at the ACO; 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for the other positions.

Steve Haugen says that it would be a stretch for the building department for now; there was a reason a budget was created without a secretary in it.

James Croel, ACO says they will make it work; don't know that there is 20 hours per week for the secretary; this wage is higher than it was ever paid.

Chairman Tanner states that it is recommended that the ACO handles the animals – not the secretary.

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Hollenbeck, to adopt the Assistant Animal Control Officer job description as presented, contingent on union approval. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Waltherhouse Nays: None

Motion by Pitcher, seconded by Roper, to adopt the Building/Planning/Soil Erosion/Animal Control Secretary job description as presented, contingent on union approval. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Waltherhouse Nays: None

County Administrator Position: Committee to meet with John Amrheim will be: Commissioners Tanner and Damm, Linda Wilson, Amy Bissell, Bill Sholten, Marlene Wood-Zylstra and Craig Johnson.

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Comm Pitcher states regarding the \$65,000 paid to Aldo Davis, could we task the budget committee to look into that too.

Jamie Croel, citizen at large appointment to the Animal Advisory Committee; interview committee will interview and she will be a part of that.

10:07 a.m. PUBLIC INPUT

Eric VanDussen states that he has not seen the job description for the ACO secretary position, will she work with dogs – no; Sheriff is willing to give back his salary increase along with the Under Sheriff – due to budget cuts; can you reduce department head wages – why Steve Haugen and Tom Longanbach make more money than the Sheriff – department heads make more than elected officials in Benzie County; contract with Aldo does it make economical sense to keep him on contract.

10:10 a.m. Public Input Closed

Motion by Roper, seconded by Hollenbeck, to adjourn until February 16, 2010, or the call of the chair. Motion carried. Ayes: Damm, Hollenbeck, Kelley, Pitcher, Roper, Tanner and Walterhouse
Nays: None

Donald R. Tanner -- Chairman

Dawn Olney – Benzie County Clerk

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1. Approved the agenda as amended.
2. Adopted the Assistant Animal Control Officer job description as presented, contingent on union approval.
3. Adopted the Building/Planning/Soil Erosion/Animal Control Secretary job description as presented, contingent on union approval.
4. Appointed committee of Don Tanner, Anne Damm, Linda Wilson, Amy Bissell, Marlene Wood-Zylstra and Craig Johnson to work with John Amrhein to draw up a job description for the county administrator.