

Village of Beulah  
7228 Commercial Street, PO Box 326  
Beulah, MI 49617  
231-882-4451

The Village of Beulah met in a regular meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. by President Jeri VanDePerre at the Village Hall 7228 Commercial Street, Beulah, Michigan.

Present: Trustees Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre

Staff Present: Superintendent Streeter, Treasurer Lumm, Clerk Olney, Zoning Admin Coury Carland

Public Present: Commissioner Rhonda Nye, Vicki Carpenter, Emily Pangborn, Jen Koscielski, Marjie Pearsall-Greenwald, Leroy & Kitty Ely, Jerome and Deborah Smith, Eric & Kelly Chorley

Conflict of Interest by any council member: None

Agenda: Motion by Downs, seconded by Browning, to approve the agenda as amended, adding New Business #3 Sewer Feasibility Study; and Treasurer discussion regarding participation in program for water users that are low income to assist with payment. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion by Downs, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 regular meeting as corrected. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Bills:

Motion by Hook, seconded by Downs, to approve payment of the bills for March 2022 as presented. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – None

Correspondence:

Commissioner Nye reported that two public hearings were held at the county level regarding Paving of the Betsie Valley Trail and for True North Project in Honor; the next Board of Commissioner meeting is April 12 and Committee of the Whole is April 11 to allow for attendance at the ground breaking for the new elementary school.

ZA Carland reported that it has been a quiet Spring; received an application to change zoning at the Emporium on M-115 from General Commercial to Multifamily. Would like to start the process for rezoning if council is in agreement; there is a 15-day notice requirement; also notice to people within 300 feet; asks to begin the process to rezone.

Motion by Hook, seconded by Downs, to start the process for an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to Multifamily use. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Margaret Lumm

Motion by Hook, seconded by Browning, to accept the Treasurer's report for March 2022 as presented. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Water bills have gone out, together with Short-Term Rental letter and Cross-Connection Survey. Margaret explains the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program to assist with paying low-income families with their water bills; the Village needs to sign up for the program, then she can provide the individuals with the information to apply themselves.

Motion by Hook, seconded by Loll, to approve Village of Beulah signing up and agree to participate with the Low-Income Housing Water Assistance Program as presented. Ayes: Browning, Dows, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

Trustee Smith: Water/Sewer – No Report.

Trustee Hook: Law/Finance – No Report.

Trustee Hook: Buildings/Grounds – No Report.

Trustee Browning: Parks/Rec – Campground Manager has been hired – Cassidy Pallin, start date of May 1. Short-term – will be holding a meeting to plan for July 4 festivities, swimming lessons at Beulah Beach; CLCBA Music in the Street. Long-term: Betsie Valley Trail paving is moving forward.

Trustee Loll: Streets & Sidewalks – Street and pedestrian signs are being ordered; sidewalk near Jacqueline’s Jems needs some repair; grant opportunity for repair work for Benzie Street – Gosling Czubak has been contacted; Lake Street pavement markings to be done; thank you to Brady.

Trustee Downs: Equipment – No report.

Superintendent Streeter: Brady updated the board regarding water samples for lead and copper have been taken from the wells and all are good; spoke regarding a generator for the lift station; new truck – explained the bids, cabin chassis from International and bed of the truck from Truck and Trailer Specialties; street sweeper will be available on June 1 – if there is a cancellation, we could get it earlier; pot holes have been filled with a hot trailer equipment from the county; ordered new shirts for the crew; seeking part time seasonal help and sent an ad to Benzie Central High School; Kerby will start the campground work next week.

Truck Purchase: Motion by Hook, seconded by Downs, to authorize the purchase of truck with additions as proposed, authorizing the President to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

1. Generator for Lift Station: Motion by Hook, seconded by Smith, to accept the proposal from DHM Services in the amount of \$29,587.56 for a generator at the Lift Station, authorizing the President to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

**New Business:**

1. Generator – Office Building: Motion by Hook, seconded by Smith, to accept the proposal from DHM Services in the amount of \$9,565.20 for a generator at the Village Office Building, authorizing the

President to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None  
Motion carried.

2. Sheriff Summer Road Patrol Contract: Motion by Smith, seconded by Downs, to approve the Sheriff Patrol Agreement between the Village of Beulah and the Benzie County Sheriff's Office for summer road patrol as presented (CLCBA to pay \$822.50 for Music coverage), authorizing the President to sign. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.
3. Sewer Feasibility Study: Commissioner Nye spoke regarding this study; it would be a collaboration of Benzonia Township, Villages of Beulah and Benzonia; proposed for each entity to take ownership and the Board of Commissioners would agree; she would propose to the County to use funds received from the marijuana sales.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Loll, to approve the Village of Beulah's participation in a sewer feasibility study to move forward with \$10,000 allotted for this from Sewer R & R. Roll call. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

President VanDePerre reported that she has a letter from business owners in Beulah regarding the decision to have Music in the Street rather than Music in the Park and also a letter from Bill Kennis, Executive Director of the Benzie Bus; she read the letters into the record (copies attached).

8:20 p.m. Public Input

Marjorie Pearsall-Groenwall, Benzie Aquatic Center, spoke about a community pool and asks the council to host free swim lessons at the Beulah Beach this summer.

Wanda Sheerer asks to use the beach this year – it is a safer area.

Kitty Ely, Owner of Northern Décor, stated that during COVID they lost money during the time that the street was shut down for the Music – there were no more customers when the street was shut down.

Kelly Chorley, Ursa Major Bistro, stated that their biggest concern was lost revenue; what does the village have to lose by putting it back in the park.

Emily Pangborn, Laurel & Grace, stated that her words were taken out of context about the comment that they only sold candy; people wanted a restroom and water.

Bill Kennis, Executive Director of Benzie Bus, also spoke regarding Music in the Street and a survey he had done.

Vicki Carpenter, CLCBA, stated that unfortunately the letter mentioned above just went to CLCBA this morning; and stated that there will be an officer on duty during the music; issues with alcohol; streets will close at 5:00 p.m.

8:34 p.m. Public Input Closed

Next meeting: May 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Motion by Downs, seconded by Smith, to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Ayes: Browning, Downs, Hook, Loll, Smith and VanDePerre Nays: None Motion carried.

Dawn Olney

Beulah Village Clerk





April 5, 2022

To whom it may concern:

As business owners in downtown Beulah, we would like to request that the placement of Music in the Park for Summer 2022 be added to the village council agenda this month. We are requesting that the streets not be closed to accommodate Music in the Park. Our reasons/concerns for this are as follows:

1. Lost revenue. Closing the streets to set up the music stage last summer cost us valuable business. No matter the time the streets are closed, once they close, business stops.
2. Parking. There is already minimal parking downtown for businesses, especially for the older crowd that is unwilling or unable to walk to our businesses. Having the street closed means they simply will not bother to come to our businesses on that day, resulting in lost revenue and unhappy customers.
3. Natural resource assets. One of Beulah's biggest assets that draws visitors and residents alike is our beautiful Lake, beach area, and park. It does not make sense to leave the park empty to set people up in the street with a view of buildings to listen to the music.
4. Family event. There was a noticeable difference in the crowd setting with the music stage set between two bars. Kelly @ Ursa Major has shared that there was a substantial increase in drunk people outside of her building every music night, as well as cigarette and marijuana smoke constantly rolling in their walk-up window as they took orders. The smoke was enough of a problem that she was unable to have her younger staff members work the window. Having it outside of the walk up window also made it extremely difficult to hear to even take orders.
5. Outdoor event mandates no longer require social distancing set in place for events. The original reason for having music in the street as opposed to the park was to accommodate Michigan State mandates for holding outdoor events in 2021, which required more space than the park could accommodate. Those mandates were lifted before music in the street began last year.
6. We have shared our opinions with CLCBA regarding this matter, both last year and this year, and feel like we are not being heard. The bottom line is that we lost revenue last year because of this setup. After 2 years of lost revenue due to covid restrictions, we simply cannot afford to lose anymore.

Sincerely,

Kitty Ely, Northern Decor  
Eric & Kelly Chorley, Ursa Major Bistro  
Candi Riddell, Crystal Moon  
Nels & Karen Nelson, Eastshore Market  
Jen Koscielski, Grace & Laurel  
Emily Pangborn, Grace & Laurel  
Howard Kennedy, Corner Pub

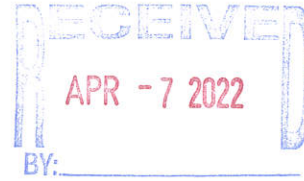
Randy & Elaine Newbold, Adventure Sports



**Dawn Olney**

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**From:** Bill Kennis <bill@benziebus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 7, 2022 10:44 AM  
**To:** clerk@villageofbeulah.net  
**Subject:** Music in Streets Survey



**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Beulah Council, as a member of the CLCBA I was asked, because of my "outsider and unbiased position" being an outside the village member of CLCBA through Benzie Bus to conduct a confidential and face-to-face survey about how business owners felt about Music in the Streets last summer. Clearly a majority enjoyed the new level of professionalism that a stage and sound crew provided, the extra space in the streets that spread out attendees especially during the 3-4 largest shows allowed, and some restaurants clearly increased revenue from patrons Ursa Major stayed open for Ice Cream sales, Crate & Cargo sold Cherry Republic products & Lucky Dog, Corner Pub and 5 Shores had increased revenue. Yes, several retailers mentioned that they weren't open for various reasons including: personnel, the opportunity costs weren't worth it and funny, some even selfishly wanted to enjoy the shows and forgo business revenue. Although, some enjoyed the park setting, a great majority felt that for the benefits of generating traffic and exposure to downtown businesses; which is why CLCBA program numerous events for Beulah business exposure, being downtown clearly outweighed going back to the park. Concerns about closing streets early and any open alcohol or smoking would be addressed by CLCBA proactively and the CLCBA Board discuss these proactive measures continuously at meetings and this morning approved paying for an Officer to be present before, during and after the shows always with the goal of the safest, most successful downtown events ever. Although the survey results were created for the sub-committee and is an internal document pitched to business owners as "confidential", I think a redacted version could be shared for evidence of the seriousness that CLCBA placed on being inclusive for hearing everyone's voice. Respectfully, Bill Kennis Executive Director Benzie Bus

