

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2013

Unapproved Minutes

Meeting called to order by Clerk Heller, in absence of Supervisor Sheets, at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Heller, Burns, Priest, Barnard. ***Sheets arrived at 7:35 p.m.**
Absent: None.
Staff: Hanmer, Fernelius, Neiger.
Guests: 4 guests in attendance & G. Rineer, Comm.

Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Burns that the Clerk officiates the meeting until the arrival of the Supervisor. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

*Supervisor Sheets arrived at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Burns to approve the agenda as presented. Supported by Barnard. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Burns to correct the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 7th, 2013 to read Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m. Supported by Heller. Roll Call Vote: Burns, yes. Heller, yes. Priest, yes. Barnard, yes. Sheets, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Barnard to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 11, 2013, and Special Meeting of September 18, 2013 as presented. Supported by Burns. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer presented a financial report for the month of September from the General and Fire Funds. (Copy of report attached to minutes in the Record Book)

Discussion.

Motion by Burns to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of September as presented. Supported by Heller. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

(A) Approval of bills
Discussion.

Clerk presented bills for the month of October.

Clerk presented to the board for their review, an end of the month Trial Balance.

Motion by Barnard that bills be allowed as presented by the Clerk. Supported by Priest. Roll Call Vote: Priest, yes. Sheets, yes. Barnard, yes. Burns, yes. Heller, yes. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor updated the board on several items.

Reported on correspondence from Jerry Rank, Village of Beulah regarding the Settling Basin.

Discussion.

Motion by Burns to join with the Village of Beulah for dredging of the Cold Creek Settling Basin, provided they are willing to wait until after the beginning of our fiscal year for our share of the payment.

Supported by Barnard. Roll Call Vote: Sheets, yes. Heller, yes. Burns, yes. Barnard, yes. Priest, yes. Motion carried.

***Supervisor noted the County MTA Chapter Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Almira Township Hall.**

***Supervisor acknowledged the gift of the picnic table for Memorial Park from Magna Industries.**

STAFF REPORTS

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| (A) <u>Fire Chief:</u> | Reported for the month of September:
1 fire run; 17 medical runs.

Chief updated the board on several items. |
| (B) <u>Cemetery Sexton:</u> | Report received. |
| (C) <u>Township Attorney:</u> | No report. *Supervisor reported on the communication from Mr. Figura under the Supervisor's report. |
| (D) <u>Commissioner Report:</u> | Mr. Rineer updated the board on several items regarding County business. |
| (E) <u>Zoning Administrator:</u> | Neiger reported on several items. |

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ed Hoogterp discussed the Crystal Lake Watershed problem, particularly of the Trapp Farm.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ACTION ON COMMUNICATION ITEMS: None.

PENDING BUSINESS:

- (A) Committee reports were received.

Cemetery:

Supervisor presented an estimate from DMB Lawn Service for a 3 year contract for \$15,000. Discussion.

Motion by Heller to renew the contract with DMB Lawn Service for \$15,000 for 3 years, 2014, 2015 & 2016 seasons, with a 4% increase per year. Supported by Priest. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: Priest, yes. Sheets, yes. Barnard, yes. Heller, yes. Burns, abstained. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Resolution to adopt changes to the F.O.I.A. Policy

Burns reported on a suggested rate change with a minimum charge of ½ hour – charged to the nearest quarter hour.

Motion by Burns to adopt the F.O.I.A. Policy with the new language, which is found on Page 3 – Article V – Fees, Paragraph B – the last sentence which will be changed. ***Burns read the referenced part of the F.O.I.A. Policy to be changed, to put in the minimum of ½ hour on the F.O.I.A., and also to change to the nearest quarter hour.** Supported by Barnard. Roll Call Vote: Burns, yes. Heller, yes. Sheets, yes. Priest, yes. Barnard, yes. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comment was received from Anne Noah making several constructive criticisms of the Benzonia Township Board.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The full proceedings of these minutes are on tape in the Clerk's office for thirty days after approval of them.

Submitted by:

Judy Herban
Recording Secretary

Diana L. Heller
Township Clerk