

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2013

Approved Minutes

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Sheets at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Sheets, Heller, Burns, Priest, Barnard.
Absent: None.
Staff: Fernelius.
Guests: 5 guests in attendance.

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Treasurer requested adding #4 under New Business to set the millage rate for 2014 fire.**

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 9, 2013, and Special Meetings of October 16, and November 6, 2013 as presented. Supported by Barnard. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

CLERK'S REPORT

(A) Approval of bills
Discussion.

Clerk presented bills for the month of November.

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

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor updated the board on several items.

***Supervisor noted the scheduled dates for the Township Clean-up Days – May 24th and August 9th, 2014.**

Supervisor received 2 requests for the 2% monies grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians – from BACN and Special Olympics.

Motion by Burns that Benzonia Township acts as recipient of the 2% grant money for BACN and the Special Olympics for the next grant period. Supported by Barnard. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor has scheduled with Alison Michalak, Platte Twp. for our board to meet with them on Wednesday, November 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Platte Twp., regarding zoning changes made by the West Benzie Joint Planning Commission.

STAFF REPORTS

(A) Fire Chief: Not present. No report.

- (B) Cemetery Sexton: Report received. Discussion about the Sexton making an agreement for his assistant, Aaron Hickey to cover as Sexton when Eric is not available. ***Sexton will prepare the form and present to the board.**
- (C) Township Attorney: No report.
- (D) Commissioner Report: Supervisor presented a written report from Glen Rineer, in his absence.
- (E) Zoning Administrator: No report. Neiger will furnish his report upon his return.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comment was received from Ann Noah regarding the cemetery contract for DMB Lawn Service as to the amount awarded by the contract, requesting that the wording be corrected in minutes of October 9, 2013.

Also, requested to have the scheduled 11:00 a.m. meeting with West Benzie Joint Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 27th be canceled as an inappropriate time for the public to attend on the day before Thanksgiving.

Discussion followed. ***Supervisor will contact Alison Michalak at Platte Twp. about rescheduling this meeting.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Denis Frankenberger – Justification for tax increase or Special Assessment.

ACTION ON COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

None.

PENDING BUSINESS:

- (A) Committee reports were received.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fire Dept. Grant For Extrication Struts

Clerk reported that she has applied for the grant through the MTPP – Par Plan Insurance, but will need a signed resolution of approval by the board to submit with the application. Discussion.

Motion by Priest to submit a signed resolution to approve applying for a grant to request funds for Extrication Struts for the Benzonia Fire Department through the MTPP (Par Plan Insurance). Supported by Barnard. Roll Call Vote: Priest, yes. Heller, yes. Burns, yes. Barnard, yes. Sheets, yes. Motion carried.

2. Web Site Update

Clerk reported she would like to update the looks and content. Discussed putting it out for bids.

***Clerk will prepare for publishing it and putting it out for bids.**

3. Rescind Special Assessment

Motion by Burns to rescind the Special Assessment District for the Fire Department. Supported by Barnard. Roll Call Vote: Sheets, yes. Barnard, yes. Priest, yes. Heller, yes. Burns, yes. Motion carried.

4. Settle On Tax Amount Levied From The Millage Vote For Fire

Discussion.

Motion by Sheets to set the Fire Millage rate at 0.8000 mill. Supported by Barnard. Discussion. Roll Call Vote: Heller, yes. Priest, yes. Burns, yes. Barnard, yes. Sheets, yes. Motion carried.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Comment was received from Ann Noah ‘ regarding update of the Web Site.

Comment was also received regarding the cemetery maintenance contract.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 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