

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 14, 2015

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

Present: Sheets, Heller, Burns, Priest, Barnard.  
Absent: None.  
Staff: Hanmer, Fernelius, Neiger  
Guests: 4 guests in attendance & C. Carland, Comm., B. Schaub, Benzie Co. Rd. Comm., & F. Post,  
Benzie Co. Emergency Mgr.

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Barnard to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2014 as presented.  
Supported by Priest. Voice Vote: All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Discussion.

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

CLERK'S REPORT

(A) Approval of bills  
Discussion. **\*Treasurer explained the additional costs for dredging the Settling Basin.**

Clerk presented bills for the month of January.

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

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor updated the board on several items.

**\*Supervisor noted that the scheduled MTA Chapter Meeting will be held here at Benzonია Township on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.**

**\*Supervisor scheduled a Budget meeting for Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m .**

STAFF REPORTS:

(A) Fire Chief:

Reported for the month of December:  
3 Fire runs; 6 medical runs.

Presented a 2014 Year End Report:  
83 fire runs; 166 medical runs.

Chief updated the board on several items.

Presented a request for Ice & Water Rescue

Equipment - 4 suits and tools - approximate cost \$5,000 - \$6,000. **\*To be acted upon under New Business.**

(B) Cemetery Sexton:

Report received. **\*Presented a total for 2014 of 31 burials and 12 Lot Assignments.**

(C) Township Attorney:

No report.

(D) Commissioner Report:

Mr. Carland updated the board on several items regarding County business.

**Reported on the Board of Commissioners Organizational Meeting. They have changed their scheduled meetings from the first & third Tuesday of the month to the second and fourth Tuesday. The 1st meeting will be at 9:00 A.M. – the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting will be at 4 P.M.**

**\*Supervisor stated that the Township will go on record opposing the takeover of Dispatch by the Sheriff's Office & also opposing the change of Frank Post's position as Emergency Manager for Disaster Planning.**

(E) Zoning Administrator:

Report received.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter of thanks from Dennis Pace – Chairman of the Friends of the Benzonia Ice Rink – for the township support.

ACTION ON COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

None.

PENDING BUSINESS:

(A) Committee reports were received.

**Building & Grounds:**

Burns reported that she is seeking estimates for a new roof on the Township Hall. Also reported that a new furnace has been ordered for the Fire Hall, and the furnace will be installed on Friday by Moore Mechanical.

**Fire Department:**

Request by the Fire Chief to purchase Ice & Water Rescue Equipment.

Motion by Barnard to purchase the gear for the Ice & Water Rescue up to \$6,000. Supported by Priest. Roll Call Vote: Sheets, yes. Heller, yes. Priest, yes. Barnard, yes. Burns, yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

**1. Discussion Fireworks Ordinance**

Supervisor reported on his response from MTA regarding pending legislation on it.

**2. Brad Schaub – Benzie Co. Rd. Comm. – Storm Sewer Project**

Brad presented Sketch #1 for a storm sewer project on Cedar St. – at a cost to the Township of \$3,500.

Presented Sketch #2 for a storm sewer project on Bixler Rd. at a cost of \$5,000 to the Township.

Discussion followed.

**\*Supervisor recommended authorizing to spend not more than \$9,000 for the two projects.**

Motion by Burns to go forward with the Cedar St. and Bixler Rd. projects for a total not to exceed \$9,000 from the 2015-2016 budget. Supported by Barnard. Roll Call Vote: Burns, yes. Barnard, yes. Heller, yes. Priest, yes. Sheets, yes. Motion carried.

**3. Christy Brow, Assessor – Full Tribunal Appeals – Dean Michaels & Watson.**

Assessor not present. \*Burns explained about the process for the Tribunal Appeals and the Township stipulating to them. Discussion. **\*Supervisor will discuss this with the County Administrator, and the board will address it at a special meeting.**

**4. Frank Post – Hazardous Mitigation Plan**

Presented a draft plan of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan – asking the board to review and adopt a resolution for it at their next meeting. He also presented a sample resolution guide for the Clerk to use.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Supervisor acknowledged the two high school students in attendance.

Fire Chief suggested that the Township Board send a letter to the Board of Commissioners in opposition to the Sheriff's Dept. taking over the dispatch service, and also the Emergency Manager.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

---

Diana L. Heller  
Township Clerk