

**BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING**

September 1, 2016

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Sheets at 1pm.

Present: Sheets, Burns, Priest, Barnard, Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Steve Adams, Benzonía Firefighter and Almira Township Firefighter

Guests: Richard Figura, Township Attorney. David Neiger, Township Zoning and Blight Officer

Clerk read Call of the Meeting as posted by law on Monday, August 30, 2016 at 12PM.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there will be a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2016 of the Benzonía Township Board. The time will be 1pm at the Benzonía Township Hall, 1020 Michigan Ave. The purpose will be to talk about hiring a new fire chief, the retirement of the office manager and anything else that may need action at this time by the Township Board. Signed: Diana L. Heller, Clerk

Supervisor Sheets read the resignation letter from Judith Herban, Office Manager, and effective September 15, 2016. Karen Burns made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets. Sheila Priest seconded. Motion passed.

Supervisor Sheets read the resignation letter from the long time Fire Chief John Hanmer, effective August 31, 2016. Barnard made a motion to accept the resignation with regrets. Priest seconded it. Motion passed. Steve Adams, a potential new Fire Chief, told us what he expected as compensation for becoming Benzonía Township's new Fire Chief. Discussion followed. Steve Adams, then left the meeting. After a discussion, confirming that he would be in Benzonía all day Thursdays for administration work, Clerk Heller made a motion to hire and compensate the new Fire Chief \$25.00 per hour for administration work and \$27.00 per hour for duty pay. Trustee Barnard seconded the motion. Discussion followed, then a roll call vote followed: Sheets, yes; Burns, yes, Barnard, yes; Priest, yes; Heller, yes. Motion passed.

Treasurer Burns brought up the Board's latest Michigan Tax Tribunal issue (MTT) and the Board of Review (BOR) information. After a discussion on the Watson MTT, Burns made a motion for our attorney to attend the Tax Tribunal and fight on the townships' behalf. Seconded by Heller. A discussion followed, led by Attorney Figura. A roll call vote was held: Sheets, yes; Burns, yes; Barnard, yes; Priest, yes; Heller, yes. Motion passed.

David Nieger updated the Board on several cases on which he has been working with varied results.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 1:47pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diana L. Heller, Township Clerk