

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved as amended

REGULAR MEETING,

April 8, 2020

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at our new meeting time: 7:00 PM.

Present: Barnard, Priest, Sheets, Burns and Heller

Absent: None.

Staff: Adams

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sheets moved to approve the agenda, supported by Priest. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from March 11, 2020 meetings, supported by Sheets.

All Ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns gave report. Burns made a motion to accept the report; Priest supported. Roll Call vote, all ayes.

## CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds and a list of Accounts Payable for the month of March 2020 for both accounts. Burns made a motion to approve the report & pay the bills. Sheets supported. Roll call vote, all ayes.

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Jason Barnard reported that Scott Papineau has started his work on the new property for the fire barn project. The cemetery is now open, with many new flowers and decorations installed. The cemetery committee will be working on a new ordinance prohibiting artificial decorations in the future. RJ Jordan took care of replacing the large flag in the cemetery.

## STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF : reported on preliminary drawings for the new fire truck. He explained that BFT partnered with the Thompsonville FD for the purchase of bulk foam. Also reported the fire of a new fire fighter, Jerry Hendricks who has fire fighting experience. After the chief recommended him joining the department, **Burns made a motion to hire Jerry Hendricks as a probationary fire fighter and Priest seconded. A roll call vote was taken and those voting ayes were: Sheets, Burns, Barnard, Priest and Heller.**

2. Cemetery Sexton: No report,
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: No report
5. Zoning Administrator: Six permits to date with others pending

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: Clerk reminded everyone of filing for re-election if interested.

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: Sheets will get the porta potty installed for the season. The new cemetery ordinance is still being amended and the clerk noted that some changes are recommended, namely the ban of using artificial flowers and decorations, with the new ordinance going into effect in 2021.
- Parks: **See below**
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Clean-up day
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report.
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: The Park committee reported they interviewed two applicants for the park maintenance person and are recommending Barry Hahn for the position.

**A motion by Jim Sheets and seconded by Karen Burns to hire Barry Hahn for the park maintenance position. After no discussion a roll call vote was taken with those voting AYE are: Sheets, Burns, Barnard, Priest and Heller.**

The committee also had three bids for general mowing for Memorial Park. After **much discussion a motion was made by Jason Barnard to contract with Signature Services to mow the Park for one year at \$7,500.00. Jim Sheets seconded it. A roll call vote was taken with those voting Aye were: Sheets, Barnard, Priest and Heller. Karen Burns abstained. Signature Services will be hired.**

Jason Barnard announced that the 2020 – 2021 Committee Assignments will stay the same as last year with the exception of Sheets going to the cemetery committee and Barnard going to the Community Activities committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, 4/16/20

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Note new meeting time
- Motion: Hired new fire fighter, Jerry Hendricks.
- Motion: Hires park maintenance person, Barry Hahn
- Motion: Contracted with Signature Services to mow everything but the ball fields at the Park.