

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

July 14th, 2021

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 7:00 PM.

Present: Barnard, Priest, Sheets, Burns and Heller

Absent: None.

Staff: Nye, Haase, Adams, Wilkinson

Absent: Hahn

Guests: 3

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Sheets to approve agenda, Burns second. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Sheets to approve the minutes from the regular meeting June 9th, 2021. Supported by Priest, All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns gave report. Priest made a motion to accept the report with Sheets supporting, All ayes, motion carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds for the month of June 2021 along with payables. Motion by Priest to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Sheets. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report for June. ARPA funds being applied for and the Villages must apply separately. **A resolution has been presented to abandon the unpaved East-West portion of Henry Rd next to the high school. Sheets made motion to adopt Resolution #2021-03 with Burns supporting. Roll call taken, all ayes. Resolution adopted.** Discussion in works about putting a sign on the new property regarding "Future Site" of Benzonia Twp Fire Dept with the Fire Logo. Details still need ironed out but would like to have it and additional informational materials out to public in plenty of time for inclusion on the November ballot. The

Memorial Park walking path ½ mile course has been marked out, phase 3 plans starting for a full mile. Owners of the Hill property were served court order in response to blight issue.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams submitted his report for June. There were 17 fire and 32 medical. YTD 233. New engine 10-12 weeks out, talks with another township on sale of old engine. List being put together to accessorize the new engine.
2. Cemetery Sexton: Bob Wilkinson new sexton introduced himself.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Rhonda Nye reported that ARPA funds conversations still ongoing. At BOC meeting BACN gave a presentation on the new building. Construction to start in Sept. Public event slated for July 26<sup>th</sup>. Katie Zeits was awarded the county administrator position. Lease between county and DNR in draft for regarding lease of the Outlet.
5. Zoning Administrator: 27 permits approved to date, 1 variance pending. Aug 5th meeting with watershed and hearing about a solar ordinance

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Guest stated from his experience best to pave trail as soon as possible or upkeep for weeds in gravel could be extensive. Suggested mutt mitt stations along path also.

COMMUNICATION: **Received FOIA request for election information from True North Law. FOIA policy revisions introduced. Motion by Sheets made to table until next month. Burns second, Roll call - all ayes.**

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates, BS&A

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: Fire Recovery account active and 3 runs submitted.
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: August 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 7-11 clean up day 7-11am behind Trigas.
- Finance: **Budget amendment to create a line item for Excise Tax funds, Burns made motion, Second by Priest, roll call – all ayes.**
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Laura Spaeth and Doreen Carter from AWL gave presentation about what the AWL does to support the Animal Shelter and the community. Covid hindered fundraising and would appreciate any assistance the Township could give towards shelter needs. **Truth and Taxation public hearing was held 7/14/2021 at 6:45pm. Motion made by Sheets to charge the maximum amount allowed. Burns supports, Roll call taken, All ayes. Motion passed.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, Supported by Burns  
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, July 14th, 2021

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ Motion passed to adopt resolution #2021-03 for abandonment of portion of Henry Rd
- ❖ Motion passed for a budget amendment to create a separate line item for Excise Tax funds.
- ❖ FOIA policy discussions -True North Law request – motion passed to table until August
- ❖ Park walking trail discussions continue.
- ❖ Sign for new Fire Dept facility

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk