

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

## **REGULAR MEETING**

April 13, 2022

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 3:00 PM.

Present: Barnard, Burns, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Nye

Absent:, Adams, Hahn, Wilkinson, Haase

Guests: 3

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Sheets to approve the agenda as presented, Priest seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Sheets to approve the minutes from regular meeting of March 9, 2022, special meetings on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and March 17, 2022. Supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns, with comments on transferring some money into Michigan Class, but would be available to the township at several days' notice. 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 March 2022 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 with a summary on the progress on the new building, and after consulting with several professionals on the situation and concerns about inflation for the price of the new project, it was decided to take a break on the project and see how the construction area progresses in the coming months. Board of Review was held for 2022 with 57 petitions being heard. The supervisor also presented information on a collaboration with four other local municipalities on an effort to fund a sewer feasibility study in the Benzonia Area. It

was suggested that we use our 2022 marijuana proceeds to help off set our portion, which would be \$40,000.00. After a discussion, a motion was made by Sheets to join with the County, Village of Benzonia and the Village of Beulah to help fund the sewer feasibility study, with a bid not exceed \$100,000.00 Supported by Priest. After a roll call vote, motion passed.

#### STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Prior to leaving on vacation, Chief Adams submitted his report, which is attached. For the month of March, a total of 39 calls for service included 6 for Fire, 33- for Medical at 33 for the month and 137 for yearly total. Chief Adams reported that Ryan Merrill has resigned form the fire department. Sheets made a motion, supported by Priest to accept Ryan Merrill’s resignation, Motion passed. Chief Adams also reported that the four probationary firemen have been moved to permanent status and will receive compensation according.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye reported conversations have begun at the County level to consider what to do with the ARPA funds that will make the most impact in the county. She also reported that she will be running for reelection with opposition.
5. Zoning Administrator: 14 permits have been submitted, up from ten from last month. Sara Ross of the planning commission is working on a new project at the corner of Marshall & Homestead Roads, multi-use.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Those speaking were: Dan Hook of the Village of Beulah on the Sewer project, Rebecca Hubers representing Benzie County EMS-911 addressing the flood plain in the county, Bob French for the village of Benzonia with interest in the sewer study.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates, BS&A, FOIA rates. Burns and Heller brought up the subject of replacing our accounting software program with BS & A. The whole project is estimated to cost approximately \$40,000.00. Burns made a motion to purchase the BS & A software for accounting and payroll for the township not to exceed \$40,000.00. A roll call vote was taken with all voting AYE, motion passed. They will be visiting other municipalities who use the same software.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: The sexton will be opening the cemetery soon and the porta potty will be ordered.
- Parks: The park will open the second week in May and the bathrooms should be fully operational with running water. The estimates on the walking trail will be starting soon with a meeting of the Park Committee happening next week.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report

- Township Roads: **No report**
- Community Activities: Clean up day will be Mary 7, 2022 from 7am – 11am.
- Finance: **Budget amendments presented on the 2022-2023 budget. Burns made motion for Fire and General fund budget amendments. Priest seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion passed.** Sheet attached.
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Sheets reported he was waiting for two reply letters.
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**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, Supported by Priest.  
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:25P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ **Supervisor called for a “wait & see” on the new fire barn project**
- ❖ **A motion was made on contributing \$40,000.00 to the area sewer feasibility study with four other municipalities. All ayes, motion passed**
- ❖ **Ryan Merrill’s resignation from the fire department was accepted by the Board.**
- ❖ **A motion was made to research and purchase BS & A accounting software, up to \$40,000.00 for the package. Motion passed.**
- ❖ **Budget amendments were presented by the Treasurer on the 2022-2023 budget which are attached to the minutes.**