

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

August 10, 2022

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Nye, Adams, Haase

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 5

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from regular meeting of July 13th, 2022, supported by Sheets, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Priest made a motion with support of Burns to accept the report. All ayes.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds for the month of July 2022 along with payables. Motion by Sheets to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Priest. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Bill Kennis and Diane Tracy gave a brief overview of the proposed Benzie Wellness and Aquatic center. They are in the early stages of securing pillar partners but wanted to share the vision as it will be a community effort.

***Supervisor Barnard read a citizen lead proposal for the November 8th, 2022 ballot for the initiation of an ordinance to prohibit adult use Marihuana establishments. Motion to accept made by Barnard, second by Sheets, Roll call vote taken, All Ayes, motion passed. Ballot language attached to these minutes.**

***The Fire Dept operational milage is set to expire Dec 31 2022, a motion by Sheets and supported by Priest to add a proposal to the November 8th 2022 ballot for the renewal and**

increase up to 2.5 mils. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed. Ballot language attached to these minutes.

***2 bids were received for the completion of the park walking trail. Burns made a motion to award the bid to AJ's Excavating. Priest second, roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.**

***The sewer feasibility study is in its early stages, both villages have approved the formation of an authority and the scope of the township portion being the South line of the Village going south to Hoadley Rd. Sheets made a motion to accept, Heller supported, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

***A proposal to reduce the MRTMA annual renewal fee from \$5000 to \$3500 was presented. Burns made motion to accept, Sheets second, roll call taken, motion passed.**

The Village of Benzonia asked to borrow the infield rake for the Academy Park ball field. Burns made motion to accept and Priest supported.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams reports for the month of July, a total of 44 calls for service. Of which 10 were Fire, 34 for Medical, bringing YTD total to 316. Chief Adams attended a conference, as well as an active shooter training. 4 members took a med control hybrid course.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report. Sheets added a new flag has been received.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye reported that Tom King is looking into housing for the EMS first responders as the current property is inadequate. The broadband- Merit study continues and there are 3 levels of participation, the one most suitable is a public/private combo with a project manager. The relocation/expansion of the 911 area is underway with RFPS being sent and received back. The County building will be expanded on the East end. There is a survey on line for the community to help decide how the ARPA funds will be utilized.
5. Zoning Administrator: 36 permits issued to date, a handful pending. The mixed-use PUD is changing scope. The housing and mobile home park may be dropped. The master plan update is moving to the stage of survey results review with a draft proposal by Oct or Nov meeting.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: A citizen thanked the board for their cooperation with the Village. Another citizen was unhappy with the Marihuana ballot proposal wording.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates, BS&A, FOIA rates. Clerk Heller commented that the contracts are being sent to BSA to lock us in.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Paul Emling was contacted regarding weed and feed the park. No pickle ball update.

- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: Zimmerman Rd is being paved. Lines placed on Love and Case Rds.
- Community Activities: Clean-up Day for August, 6th was a success, however not as busy.
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: Fuel charges - Barnard still needs to talk with both parties
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Trustee Sheets reported the Bolton property is communication by mail as phone is not working. He is also looking at the Fairway Drive and Walker Street property.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizen stated they love the sidewalks and got permission from village of Benzonia to get estimates for weeding and edging them to keep them looking good. She stated that there is a small township portion and will keep us informed of the findings. Another citizen mentioned it was disheartening to hear of changes to the PUD scope.

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, supported by Priest.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:08 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Motion on the Citizen lead Marihuana ordinance for Nov 8th 2022 ballot.
- Motion on resolution #2022010 for the Fire Dept operations renewal/increase.
- Motion on Sewer feasibility scope and creation of authority.
- Motion on Walking trail bid being awarded to AJ's Excavating.
- Motion on The MRTMA annual renewal fee reduction.