

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2022

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 3:01 PM.

Present: Barnard, Burns, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Nye, Adams, Haase

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 2

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from regular meeting of September 14th, 2022, supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Priest made a motion with support of Sheets 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 September 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: Tree planting was a success, 20 trees planted around the park with help of approx. 20 volunteers. Match for the tree cost is \$1923.50. Report of water leak in the cemetery, village was asked to shut off temporarily. Fact sheet presented for the fire department Operations milage. Barnard mentioned potential new ZBA member Steve Stephen, **Burns made motion to accept Stephens to the ZBA with Priest supporting. Roll call vote, all ayes motion carried.** Supervisor received a website design quote from Revise for \$8600 with a \$2000 annual subscription fee which includes maintenance, host, storage and training.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams reports for the month of September a total of 37 calls for service. Of which 10 were Fire, 27 for Medical, bringing YTD total to 409. The Fire Fighter Association is hosting a Trunk or Treat on Oct 31st from 5-8pm. Chief Adams gave costs estimates for future equipment/gear purchases. \$3500 ID maker, \$3500 thermal image camera, \$4000 for RDC-Boat for river rescue, \$6000 for rescue jacks.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye reported that the Benzie Senior resources had a record year and has a need for home health aides. The number of medical rides has also increased. Animal control is hiring part time clerk. School officer has been hired and has 19 yrs experience. Requests for ARPA funds are being chosen, two of which are Frankfort Housing Council and Frankfort Land rust. Memorandum on understanding signed with Graceland for a housing development on property they own. County master plan update to be an addendum for this cycle with full update next cycle. Cherry Hut celebrates 100yrs!
5. Zoning Administrator: 47 permits issued to date, handful pending. Barnard stated that the draft update of the Master Plan is ready for public review for the required 60 days. **Sheets made motion to accept draft status of the master plan update, Burns second. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: Email from Benzie Senior Resource office regarding a property on Case Rd that has an ongoing issue with water runoff in the yard from the road. Supervisor will look into the issue.

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates, BS&A, FOIA rates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: Sheets stated the sexton has done a great job.
- Parks: Water will be shut off by end of October. Walking trail is still slated to start this fall.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: 3 letters to go in the mail Smith, Johnson and Nelson.

NEW BUSINESS: Heller mentioned that all AV ballots requested had been sent out. Also stated that the Public Accuracy test is set for Oct 26th 2022 at 10am and read the list of election workers for the General Election.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizens asked if the new rulings were in place to allow the township to count ballots early. Clerk replied stating that that rule is for precincts with 10,000 or more voters.

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, supported by Burns.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:53 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Motion by Burns to appoint Steve Stephens to the ZBA board. Supported by Priest. Roll call taken, all ayes. Motion passed.
- Motion by Sheets second by Burns to accept the draft status of the master plan update. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.
- Clerk reported names of the election workers for November.