

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

## REGULAR MEETING

November 9, 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: 3

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Sheets to approve the minutes from regular meeting of October 12th, 2022, supported by Burns, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Milage for Fire Operations passed. Heller 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 October 2022 along with payables. Approval to include second DC Plumbing invoice. Motion by Burns to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Priest. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Supervisor mentioned job well done on the election. Fire ops milage passed, will need to decide percent to levy. Special meeting will be required. Assessing dept may have to have a computer that is open to general public, more to come. Park closed and winterized. Jason to provide a list of website needs to Jim Stamm so he can give us an estimate before a final decision is made.

### STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams reports for the month of September a total of 41 calls for service. Of which 8 were Fire, 33 for Medical, bringing YTD total to 450. 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trunk or Treat on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> was a success. Chief Adams stated annual ladder tests completed and all units passed. Hose tests to be completed next.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.

4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye thanked everyone as she was reelected for another term. The Benzie Leelanau health department offered Dan Thorell, the interim public health officer, the full-time position. He has accepted and finalization of his contract is in the works. BLDHD has announced changes to the Point of Sale inspection process. There will be public hearings in Benzie on Nov 21<sup>st</sup> and in Leelanau on the Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2022. At the BOC meeting Sheriff Rosa spoke highly of the School Resource Officer programs. State jail inspection has been completed and there was compliance in all areas. 24/7 road patrol efforts in progress. 1.5 million in ARPA funds committed to broadband efforts. An open access model will be used to make this a private/public partnership. New 911 director Cory Ellis has been hired.
5. Zoning Administrator: 52 permits issued YTD, few pending. The next Planning Commission meeting is December 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 at 6pm. The draft master plan should be ready to approve at that time.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident asked to confirm if fire milage was for construction or operations... it's for operations. Second resident asked for confirmation if all will be levied. proposal stated up to 2.5 mils. Supervisor and board will be getting clarification on process.

COMMUNICATION: Rebecca Hubers, The County wide hazard mitigation plan draft has been sent to the townships and is ready for their review. Hubers will not be 911 supervisor any longer but will still be an advocate for updating the communications systems.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: Porta john to be removed. Handicap one to be put at the dog park for winter.
- Parks: Awaiting status update from AJs excavating on walking trail.
- Building and Grounds: Fire barn was power washed and area trimmed behind it.
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Karen Burns is working on newsletter for December billing cycle.
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: 1 variance granted and 1 appeal with original decision upheld.
- Blight: progress started on Walker St, Fairway Dr - items removed except wading pool, Eden Hill – machinery removed but lawn not done, Platte Rd - communications ceased, Narrow Gauge still no response, will work on next step.

NEW BUSINESS: General election update: 2614 registered voters. Election day we had 778 in person voters and 902 absentee ballots for a total of 1680 votes cast. Lots of new faces, new registrants, a few issues to correct but everyone got to vote!

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Veterans service Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Veterans Memorial Park.

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, supported by Burns.  
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Fire department operations milage passed.
- Rebecca Hubers provided County wide Hazard Mitigation plan draft update.
- Blight officer gave update on Fairway Dr, Walker St, Narrow Gauge and Eden Hill Rd properties.
- Clerk reported on outcome of General Election.