

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: 0

Staff: Nye, Adams, Haase

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 3

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 December 14th, 2022 supported by Sheets, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. She stated that taxes are coming in steady. Many are paying by CC. Still putting excess in MI Class due to interest rates. A budget amendment due to interest incomes rate will be done later in meeting. Burns made motion to accept the Treasurers report, Priest second. Roll call vote, 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 December 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: Supervisor attended the local roads meeting. He stated that no roads in Benzonია Township made this year's list. The majority of the projects slated for work are in Colfax Twp. Jason is checking into a Blight elimination grant through the State of Michigan Land Bank Authority. It will be talked about with Sheets to see if any current properties fit the criteria. Brine used last year was a good experience. Covered better and had fewer resident calls. Price expected to increase about 15-20% but may only need 1 application this year. Jason is continuing to work on security camera quotes. Looking to request ARPA funds for their purchase

and installation. The township received a request from Gosling Czubak wanting our first payment for the Beulah Beach remediation storm water reduction grant project. Questions arose as to commitment to consider versus commitment to participate. Jason will look in to the matter.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams reports for the month of December a total of 42 calls for service. Of which 8 were Fire, 34 for Medical, bringing YTD total to 550 calls. Calls up this year from the 2021 total of 532. Had one gear vendor in this week in order to start looking at a budget, another vendor will be looked at as well. Our gear has 10 yr life span and all will expire by Jan 2024.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye stated BOC meeting organizational meeting has taken place. Bob Roeloffs will remain chair and Nye will remain Vice-Chair. Meetings will remain on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 9am. They will record them and post to YouTube so anyone can watch at any time. Shelly Thompson, County Treasurer stated that the taxable value goes up by the rate of inflation or 5% whichever is lessor, first time since 1999 that the 5% was used. Chair of airport authority, all hangers are leased. Airport authority has concerns with the status of the Betsie Hosick building that is for sale. Doug Durand with Senior Resources is in good shape have been budgeting wisely, still wishing for a bigger building. County will be receiving funds from an opioid settlement. Will be looking at proactive versus reactive uses.
5. Zoning Administrator: 4 permits issued YTD. There were 53 issued in 2022. The next Planning Commission meeting is February 2nd 2023 at 6pm. Becker site plan review slated to happen. Master plan update ready for recommendation will be ready for approval. Proposal for an amendment to the Crystal Lake Watershed overlay district will be discussed.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident recommended checking into Nest cameras for park. Resident asked if the blacktop drive off Mollineaux Rd for Becker project was approved. Jason stated that the drive to the first home has been approved.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: still investigating cameras, will start looking at playground equipment.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: Questions arose regarding Fire Recovery sending unpaid bills to collections. This will need looked into with further discussions regarding policy.
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report

- Finance: **Burns proposed a budget amendment due to additional revenue from investing with MI Class. Burns made motion to perform suggested budget amendment, Sheets second, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: The Pennington Park decision is being challenged. Documents forwarded to attorney.
- Blight: Narrow Gauge – Sheets sent certified letter to owner and L/C purchaser. River Rd site, Sheets has spoken to owners' mother.

NEW BUSINESS: Chad Hollenbeck from Benzie Bus gave 2022 annual report, presented an overview of how the rides work as well as updates on personnel changes.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident wondered if snowmobiles would be allowed once trail paved? Supervisor said proposal includes a use of material that is safe for snowmobile traffic.

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, supported by Burns.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:24 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- Discussed Beulah Beach/Storm Runoff remediation
- Motion passed to approve budget amendment for MI Class interest income.
- Benzie Bus annual report was given