

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

April 12th, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Sheets, Priest and Heller

Absent: Burns

Staff: Haase, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson, Adams

Guests: 4

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Priest to approve the minutes from the regular meeting February 8th, as well as the special budget meeting of February 7th, 2023. Supported by Sheets, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: No report submitted.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds for the month of March 2023 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. Consumers came back with a proposal of \$1,500.00 for the tree replacement to grant the easement for line relocation on the north side of Grace Rd. The Fire Hall committee will be recommending Spence Brothers for the build. We are awaiting their formal contract. AJ's Excavating will be starting the walking trail once frost laws are off. First clean up day is May 13th.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams submitted his report for March 2023, read by Barnard. There were 14 fire and 20 medical runs making the YTD total 110 runs. 3 members attended active assailant training.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that 911 dispatcher Krista Ketz was recognized for her 24 yrs of service. Her and her husband deputy Ketz are both retiring soon. Bert Gale gave quarterly update from the building dept was received and they are on par for new permits. Sunkissed Hills concerns were raised again, Bert stated all permits were obtained appropriately and that the erosion fence failed due to heavy rain. Remediation was handled but still some silt to deal with. Animal control and 911 dispatch had equipment hit by last lighting storm. A body scanner has been approved for the county. Potential use by other counties. \$100,000 in ARPA funds has been set aside for use toward the opioid epidemic. County treasurer stated the foreclosure list has 7 parcels on it.
5. Zoning Administrator: 15 permits issued, 1 major and 1 minor in progress. Crystal lake watershed overlay district updates are with the attorney for review.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Kucera with the Crystal Lake Watershed thanked us for consideration of the updates and will assist with answering any questions or providing additional information as needed during our review of the update.

PRESENTATIONS: None

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Jason sent a letter to BLUA asking about their ability to take the sewage from the proposed corridor expansion. BS&A is making progress, our QuickBooks info uploaded, and training tentatively scheduled for October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: The spring cleaning crew is starting and Sheets will order porta john.
- Parks: Looking to open in a couple weeks, Jason is coordinating Dan Clap to finish the ball park bathroom.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: The 2023 brine contract was received. The first treatment is \$2275.32 2nd with County Farm Rd and the park is an additional \$1345.77. The second application if needed will be the same. **Sheets made motion to approve brine contract, Priest support, Roll call taken all ayes, motion passed.**
- Community Activities: First cleanup day is May 13th 7am -11am behind Tri-Gas, Benzonia.

- Finance: No report
- Personnel: Barnard is working on job description for ZA assistant position.
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Narrow Gauge is still making process. Several vehicles have been removed.

NEW BUSINESS: Kelly Ottinger retired from BACN. Diana will be meeting with her to discuss grant writing for the township. Josh Stolz says Grow Benzie is working to put together grant writing assistance program. Jill Pullen has been recommended for the deputy treasurer position. **Heller made motion to accept the recommendation. Sheets second, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Guest commented regarding the over the road light at US31 and Crystal Drive needs moved, cannot see Crystal Drive. Guest stated the sewer authority meeting was well presented and asked if the info could be added to our website.

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, Supported by Priest.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:41 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **AJ's Excavating to start on walking trail.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to accept the 2023 brine contract from the BCRC.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to appoint Jill Pullen as deputy treasurer.**