

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

May 10th, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Priest and Heller

Absent: Sheets

Staff: Haase, Nye, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 3

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Priest to approve the minutes from the regular meeting April 12th. Supported by Heller, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Reports for March and April 2023 were submitted. Burns stated Michigan class is paying 5.1% interest. Priest made motion to accept the treasurers' reports. Burns supported.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds for the month of April 2023 along with payables. Motion by Priest to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Burns. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. He is recommending the board approve the request from Consumers Energy for the Grace Rd line relocation with the \$1500 tree replacement payment. **Heller made motion to accept the Consumers Energy proposal, Priest seconded, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.** The amendment for the Crystal Lake Watershed Overly District is with the attorney for review. Anticipate a public hearing in June. The walking trail is nearing completion. The AIA documents for hiring Spence Brothers as our General Contractor for the fire barn is with the attorney for review. **Burns made a motion to grant the**

Supervisor permission to sign the AIA docs once our attorney gives review approval. Priest seconded, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed. Barnard and Chief Adams have been talking about Fire Dept staffing due to the call volume.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams submitted his report for April 2023 there were 19 fire and 28 medical runs making the YTD total 159. In 2022 there were 168 and 2021 there were 138. Chief and the crew will be meeting with the gear rep for hats, gloves and boots.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that it is Corrections Officer week and Richard Beilfuss was named Deputy of the Year, Police week is the 15th through 21st. The paving of the BVT will happen in 3 phases, there is a millage request proposed for the road commission, County audit in good standing. Headley fund millage request in works again. NWMCAA has programs to assist low-income home owners with projects. ARPA funds of 20k were earmarked for opioid rehab program. There is a new policy at the government center that is being discussed regarding infants in the workplace. There will be a 1pm ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Pavilion on Memorial Day.
5. Zoning Administrator: A special land use permit issued for Fox Ln, next Zoning Board meeting is in June.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: A resident asked to review what is happening with Sunkissed Hills and its permit conditions. Supervisor stated conditions being met are still in progress.

PRESENTATIONS: None

COMMUNICATION: Yearly audit of the township will be May 24th through 26th.

PENDING BUSINESS: Jason is still waiting to hear from BLUA or if BLUA replied to Wade Trim.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Building and Grounds: Jason and Karen met with a playground equipment rep and are in the process of getting equipment estimates. In order to go ahead with getting full installation quotes a choice of equipment needs made. Prices range from 50k up. **Burns made a motion to get final bids on equipment not to exceeds \$150,000. Priest seconded, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: Barnard still working on Lincoln Rd and Cedar St prices. Hope to have both done by next year.
- Community Activities: First cleanup day is May 13th 7am -11am behind Tri-Gas, Benzonia.

- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Diana met with Kelly Ottinger and discussed rate, work time, location, rate, etc and feels she will be an asset. **Priest made motion to utilize Kelly Ottinger as grant writer for the township at \$25/hr, Burns seconded, 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.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Priest.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:55 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to approve Grace Rd line relocation proposal.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to grant permission for supervisor to sign the AIA docs for Spence Brothers once legal review complete.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to make playground equipment choices to allow for further installation cost estimating but not to exceed \$150,000.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to utilize Kelly Ottinger for township grant writing at \$25/hr.**