

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

June 14th, 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: 7

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 of May 10th. Supported by Burns, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Reports for May 2023 were submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is paying 5.6% interest. Priest made motion to accept the treasurers' reports. Heller supported.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. Tim Maylone with Cherry Capital Connections is requesting a resolution for the use of township roads in order to bring broadband internet to areas of the township currently not served. Barnard had a meeting with the building committee and they are close to a finished design and hope to have updated number in a couple weeks. Tom Kucera with Crystal Lake Township provided a slope map for the township to review as we do not currently have one. Cost for the finished map is approx. \$1600. **Burns made a motion to approve the purchase of the slope map not to exceed \$1750 to Progressive AE. Heller seconded, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion approved.** The amendment for the overlay

district is still with Figura, hopeful ready for July meeting. All 4 park ball diamonds are being used and the west bathroom is now operational.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams submitted his report for May 2023 there were 6 fire and 35 medical runs making the YTD total 200. In 2022 there were 219 and 2021 there were 184. Yearly physicals are complete and the replacement gear is starting to arrive.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated the annual update from Networks Northwest was provided. The strategic plan for the county was approved. Truth in Taxation hearing was held and the general fund operating millage will remain at 3.3378 mils. The county is hopeful to use grant funds for officer training at NMC. Rebecca Huber stated that Citizen Emergency Response Teams will be recognized. GT Construction awarded the bid for the Lower Level Expansion Project. Parks and Rec feasibility study for hiring a director is being reviewed. County could be awarded the Robin grant of \$5 million for the broadband expansion in the county. Infants in the workplace is still a topic of discussion at the county building.
5. Zoning Administrator: 30 permits to date and 5 pending. Planning commission to meet July 6th 2023.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: A guest thanked the board for their efforts on the overly district amendment currently in review and offered assistance if needed. Another guest stated there were comments made that they had a vendetta against the zoning administrator, said they did not, But for the well-being of the township asked that the ZA be relieved of his duties effective immediately.

PRESENTATIONS: None

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Had a meeting Saturday prior and discussed playground equipment, walking trail and possible expansion of the dog park.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: Kelly Ottinger submitted the 2% grant for the fire department and is working on a fire equipment grant that is due July 10th.
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report

- Finance: **Burns made a motion to increase the playground budget from 150k to 170k to allow for delivery and installation. Priest seconded, roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. Burns mentioned budget changes due to grants and MI class interest income. Burns made a motion to amend the budget as presented and attached, Heller seconded, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: None

Closed Session – ZA assistant job position.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Guest commented regarding the road resurfacing on Crystal Drive that there are a couple spots where there are depressions that need more than chip seal. A guest also stated that the clearing of the corner lot on Holiday Ct, Judge Thompson disregarded subdivision rules and watershed policies and ordered the lot clear cut.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Heller.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:04 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the purchase of the township slope map.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to increase playground equipment budget from \$150,000 to 170,000**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve budget amendments as presented.**