

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing was called to order at 2:45pm, July 12, 2023 by Jason Barnard with these members present: Karen Burns, Sheila Priest, Diana Heller, Jason Barnard. Jim Sheets was absent

The clerk read the purpose of the Public Hearing which was to present the 2023 Truth and Taxation Rate. No public present was present so Burns made a motion at 2:50pm to close the public hearing, Heller supported. All voting Aye, motion passed and the public hearing was closed.

REGULAR MEETING

July 12, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Priest and Heller.

Absent: Sheets

Staff: Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson, Haase

Guests: 4

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting June 14, 2023. Supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Priest made a motion to accept the report with Burns supporting, all ayes by all present, Sheets absent. Motion carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT:

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard suggested a change in Clean Up Day times. Next date is August 12 and changing times to 7am – 10am due to time restraints. **Motion** made by Burns, seconded by Priest. All present voted Aye, Sheets absent, motion passed. July Board of Review will be July 18th at 1pm with this being a meeting for only clerical errors or mistakes. A West Benzie Joint Planning Commission now has its own web site and a link has been put on our township web site. Tim Malone from Cherry Capital Connection ask that the township enter into an agreement for a right of way in the form of a telecommunications permit. A **motion** was made to enter into an agreement with Cherry Capital Connection for right of way in the township by Barnard and Burns supporting, board voting all ayes and Sheets absent. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: There were 17 fire calls and 42 medical calls for the month. Chief Adams said they got called to the Manistee wild fires this week. All are out at the moment.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Commissioner Nye said the county approved additional speeding signs in the county. A large grant was awarded to Benzie County to help bring a communications tower to the western part of the county. She also mentioned there were employment opportunities in the county. Ten million is ear marked from the budget to help with internet in Benzie County.
5. Zoning Administrator: 37 total permits with 1 pending at this time. Notice of an Open Meetings Act will be held at the Mills House, 7/20/23 at 6pm by Tim Figura.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Everything is in good working order.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Consumer Energy requested a renewal of their electric franchise ordinance. The old one expires at the end of January, 2024. A **motion** was made by Burns and supported

by Priest to accept Consumer Energy's renewed franchise ordinance. All voting aye, with Sheets absent. Burns with Priest supporting made a **motion** to accept the 2023 Tax Rate Request. All present voted Aye with Sheets absent. Burns noted that the Headlee millage did not roll back this year due to inflation. Supervisor Barnard presented a quote from Anavon for a phone system that is intended to move over to our new building. Burns made a **motion** to purchase the new phone system and not to exceed \$6,000.00. A roll call vote was taken with all present voting Aye and Sheets absent.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Mary Ferens asked for a Crystal Lake Water Shed update and another person asked if there was a policy on board members attendance to meetings.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, supported by Priest.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:35P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Public Hearing – Truth& Taxation, 2:45pm, 7/12/23
- *Motion to change Clean Up Day hours on August 12, 2023 to 7am – 10am.
- *Motion for Cherry Capital Connection for telecommunications right of way.
- *Motion to accept renewal of Consumers Energy Franchise Agreement.
- *Motion to accept the Tax Rate for 2023.
- *Motion to purchase new phone system from Anavon, not to exceed \$6,000.00.