

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

Sept 13th, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Priest, Sheets and Heller

Absent: 0

Staff: Haase, Nye, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

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 Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of Aug 9th. Supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for August 2023 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.46% interest. Heller made motion to accept the treasurers' report. Sheets supported, 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 August 2023 along with payables. **Sheets made a motion to split the cost of paving Husky Trail with BCRC, with our share not to exceed \$37,636.25.** Burns supports, roll call taken all ayes, with Barnard abstaining. **Motion by Burns 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. Ragnar Running race will be the 22nd/23rd. Jason is awaiting final numbers from architects on the new build. The building footprint bid package is ready but interior/exterior needs to be finalized. Jason received a letter from Lake Twp

regarding Crystal Lake Watershed overlay and general Zoning revisions. Public Hearing to be held Sept 14th, 7pm at Lake Twp Hall.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Chief Adams was present then had an emergency call. No report given.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated the county accepted a bid from AJ's Excavating for a retaining wall by animal control. They will be looking to connect to village water after wall in place. 24hr road patrol is expected to start spring of 2024. Jared Henry, Benzie County Public Defender resigned, He was appointed as a Probate Judge and will also be 85th District Court Judge. Jane Johnson will serve as Interim Chief Public Defender. Nate Loop, the Maples Director, resigned. Megan Garza will serve as Interim Director. 3 year contract agreed on for recycling scheduling system. The 2023/2024 budget was approved. Money has been set aside for a Community Development Person. There will be a townhall at 5:30 on October 30th in the Commissioners Room regarding the Headlee Reset.
5. Zoning Administrator: 43 permits to date and 5 pending. Sunkissed Hills in Independent review. Mary Pitcher is a good addition to our zoning department.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Kucera from Crystal Lake Twp, requested that the watershed overlay amendment we received in March, be made a priority and approved.

COMMUNICATION: With Figura changing firms and with relationship to trustee, a request was made to seek new council for future dealings. This was handed over to personnel committee.

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Ball fields will need resurfaced soon. The well house roof was replaced. Stones have been placed in area around bridge. Playground equipment delivery anticipated in a couple weeks with installation shortly after.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: Jason would like to look at going back to a road grading (number scale) system to rate what roads get work done and when.
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report

- ZBA: next meeting 14th at 1pm, 2 variance requests, one legal nonconforming and 1 increase in max height.
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Sheets made a motion to have personnel committee review the option to continue with Figura or find new firm. Priest supported, Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Ed Poupour is requesting assistance with State Liquor license. He is required to have township approval per the state. Another guest stated it may be in the interest of the township to request an RFP in regards to township attorney. Also, the berm at Veterans Memorial pavilion may be taken out in order to facilitate better maintenance. Lastly asked if liquor license will need a public hearing?

Motion to adjourn made by Sheets, Supported by Burns.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:45P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to split the cost of paving Husky Trail with BCRC, with our share not to exceed \$37,636.25.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to have personnel committee review the option to continue with Figura or find new firm.**