

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

Oct 11th, 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: 5

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Priest to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 13th.

Supported by Burns, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for Sept 2023 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.47% interest. Priest made motion to accept the treasurers' report. Burns 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 Sept 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. The playground equipment is now installed and removed the old. The DNR public hearing regarding making the Betsie River a no wake river, some residents were in attendance. The public can still send their opinions to the DNR via email by 5pm October 28th 2023. The Supervisor drafted a letter of support to the DNR Michigan Invasive Species program on behalf of the Benzie County Conservation district for their grant application.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: Trunk or treat Oct 31st 5-8pm Traverse Ave will be closed in front of Fire Dept., Sept run numbers are 12 fire, 36 med, for YTD total 420 calls. 2022 total was 409, 2021 was 383. A Michigan Fire Equipment grant was awarded in the amount of \$30,000 toward the fire gear replacement in progress. Hose testing passed except 1 section out of 6000'. NFR agency license has been reissued thru September 2024.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Village of Beulah was denied SRF funding for upgrades, they started process for USDA funding. A Headlee reset is on the ballot to assist with costs. NMC is looking to expand to Benzie by including residents for in-district tuition rates, with assistance of a future millage approval. Nye stated the prior motion to accept bid for Animal Control connection to Village water was rescinded and an alternate bid of \$52,000 was accepted. The 2023/2024 budget was approved. There will be a townhall at 5:30pm on October 30th in the Commissioners Room regarding the Headlee Reset. The county was notified of a Spark grant award of \$400k for Betsie Valley Trail Phase 1, paving the trail from Beulah to Case Rd.
5. Zoning Administrator: 57 permits to date and 3 pending. Slope map has been drafted and should be finalized soon. Watershed overlay update, the supervisor has contacted Lake Twp and is looking for consistency around the lake.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Residents and members of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Initiative spoke regarding Overlay amendment and its urgency and asked if seeking an attorney is the delay. Agree cohesiveness across county is warranted but should not delay approval as submitted. Barnard says he is still working with Figura as well as Lake Twp. Another resident stated that she hopes the amendment is accepted sooner than later, as they have seen more work happening that should fall under the provisions of the amendment.

COMMUNICATION: Gilmore Twp -in process of revising their master plan has sent us an invite to participate.

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: Jason working on the capital road grading plan.
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: No report

- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: Hearing from Sept 14th both variances were granted with conditions.
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Barnard made a motion to approve the liquor license for Ed Poupour through the State of Michigan. Heller supported. Roll call vote taken, all ayes. Motion passed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Troy Heinz – new manager for the Benzie County Road Commission came to introduce himself and dropped off a report of the millage usage.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Priest.
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:46 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to give consent to the State for Ed Poupour to obtain the liquor license.**