

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

Nov 8th, 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 Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 11th. Supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for Oct 2023 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.53% 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 Oct 2023 along with payables. **Motion by Priest to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Burns.** Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. Memorial Park facilities are winterized for the winter.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. The roads renewal millage passed. The roads committee will meet in December 2023. He told everyone of the passing of long-time board member Jim Sheets. The board will be taking names for appointment of the remainder of his term that runs through Nov 2024. **Barnard made a motion to appoint Mary Pitcher to Blight Officer. Burns seconded, roll call, all ayes.**

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: October run numbers are 9 fire, 30 med, for YTD total 459 calls. There were 325 hotdogs given out. Chief attended Vector Solutions training in Lansing. Fire Academy runs Jan-May, Chief will be assisting with teaching, but no Benzie attendees. Breather Semi Annual Testing is underway. Fire gear is all in and issued. Received an app from a recruit with experience, more to come.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Land Bank accepted bids to demo two structures in Thompsonville. The bids were lower than first expected so there is enough left to demo the "mold" house. The county is hoping to renew the Smart 911 service app. Town hall meeting was held October 30th with Twp leaders to discuss bringing the Headlee reset initiative to the public for a vote. A Veterans memorial service will be had at the Veterans Pavilion at 1 pm on Saturday.
5. Zoning Administrator: 62 permits to date and 1 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: a resident acknowledged Mr. Sheets passing. They stated that the seat on the planning board and township board does not have to be the same person. They also asked for clarification on the length of appointment.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: The park is closed for winter.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: Starting on winter taxes.
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: 1 new coming.
- Blight: Supervisor will get Mary Pitcher up to date on current properties.

NEW BUSINESS: Burns made a motion to sign the resolution to support the county efforts with the Headlee reset as presented by Supervisor Barnard. Priest supported. Roll call vote taken, all ayes. Motion passed. A letter from Anne Noah was read to the board.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Tom Kucera asked for the boards cooperation in committing to a timeframe for passing or rejecting the overlay amendment.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Heller.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:39 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to sign resolution to support the county efforts with the Headlee reset.**
- ❖ **Motion to appoint Mary Pitcher as Blight Officer.**