

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

## REGULAR MEETING

Dec 13th, 2023

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Priest, and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Nye, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 9

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 November 8<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Supported by Priest, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for Nov 2023 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.5% 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 Nov 2023 along with payables. **Motion by Burns to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Priest.** Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. Memorial Park facilities are winterized for the winter.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. A pre-bid meeting for the new township/firehall was held for the site work portion. There were 5 contractors that came. Dec Board of Review had 3 items. March 2024 date to be determined. Spring clean-up day is May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024, there was an error in the newsletter. Supervisor mentioned there were several candidates whom showed interest in the vacant trustee appointment.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: October run numbers are 15 fire, 34 med, for YTD total 507 calls. The reporting software for emergency runs is no longer supported in Jan 2024. Chief looking into new/alternate options. Pump testing is Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup>. Chief is looking into a FEMA firefighter grant for the Scott Airpacks. Chief attended a live fire training in Cadillac. Chief hopes to be able to do some here in future.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye mentioned that the county website and emails have now been updated to .gov extension. Emergency manager Hubers honored some CERK volunteers. 911 expansion is on schedule and on budget. The NMC officer training had it's first graduates. 24 hr road patrol is anticipated to start in spring. State Representative Betsy Coffia visited and gave a presentation. Headlee reset talks continue with the townships in order to place on August ballot. The mold house may be able to be remediated via conversations with ServePro. The county took over the Betsie Valley Trail fiduciary role.
5. Zoning Administrator: 64 permits to date and 1 pending. The planning commission will be working on starting zoning amendments. Will be looking into multifamily and accessory structures.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: a resident is concerned over the delay in the watershed overlay amendment. Another resident spoke in regards to the needed zoning for multifamily dwellings and for landowners to be able to utilize an accessory structure while building a permanent residence.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- 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: Mary Pitcher stated 1 pending regarding request for a garage to be built with reduced setbacks. Meeting Thursday at 1pm.
- Blight: Mary Pitcher will be working on Bluewater/Eden Hill and the Bolton Properties.

**NEW BUSINESS: Burns made a motion to appoint David Gardner to the remainder of the vacant trustee term. Priest supported, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.** Siddock group presented an update on the fire barn project along with a prelim of the building exterior. They suggested placing a deposit on the metal frame material to reserve it at current prices. **Motion made by Burns to place a deposit of \$80,175 for the metal framework. Priest Supported, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident stressed concern asked when we may have an update on the Crystal Lake Watershed overlay amendment.

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 appoint David Gardner to the vacant trustee position.**
- ❖ **Motion made by Burns to place a deposit of \$80,175 for the metal framework.**