

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

unApproved:

REGULAR MEETING

Jan 10th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner, and Heller

Absent: Priest

Staff: Haase, Nye, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 7

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 13th 2023. Supported by Gardner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report for Dec 2023 was submitted. Burns stated Michigan Class is now paying 5.56% interest. **Burns made motion to accept the treasurers' report. Gardner 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 Dec 2023 along with payables. **Motion by Burns to accept report and pay the bills minus Wade Trim expense, seconded by Gardner.** Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. Supervisor met with Spence brothers to review site work bids for new building. AJs was the recommended bid by Spence Brothers. The bid award will be included in the approval of Spence Brothers as the Construction Manager for the new fire barn. **Heller made motion to accept Spence Brothers as construction manager. Gardner seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.** Supervisor suggested David Gardner to the West Benzie Joint Planning Commission vacancy. **Heller made motion to appoint Gardner to**

WBJPC. Burns supported. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion passed. Barnard introduced Betsy Taylor, who has agreed to sit on the ZBA. **Burns made motion to appoint Betsy Taylor to the ZBA. Gardner second. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion passed.** The supervisor attended the Benzie County Road Commission meeting. Lincoln Rd and Cedar St projects were discussed briefly. Cedar not on this year plan. Lincoln Rd is under an agreement from 2022 that the Road Commission will put this work out for bid. The township needs to approve the project going to bid via the BCRC. **Gardner made motion to approve the BCRC sending Lincoln Rd project out for bids. Burns support. Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.** 2024 Board of review training is January 18th. March BOR sessions are as follows. The 5th at 1pm is organizational meeting. 11th 3-9pm and 12th 9-3pm. Benzie Conservation District doing a walk through on 1-11-24 of the current building to see if meets their needs as a future home.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: December run numbers are 8 fire, 38 med, for YTD total 553 calls. 3 more than 2022. Fire Academy is in progress until June, 1 Homestead Twp person attending. Emergency reporting service will no longer be supported. Chief suggest signing up with Emergency Networking. **Burns made motion to purchase Emergency Networking for \$4675.00, Gardner supported. Roll Call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: Will have report/opinion on the Crystal Lake Watershed Overlay prior to the meeting on the 11th.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that Dave Egeler current prosecuting attorney will run for Probate Judge. The county treasurer will be retiring Feb 29th 2024. Her replacement is by appointment. The conservation district gave their annual report and mentioned they will be looking for a new building. Recognition to Judge Kida and her creation of the successful drug court. The 501c3 will be dissolved due to funding coming from different areas. The organizational meeting was held and Bob Roeloffs will remain chair and co-chair is Tim Markey. The BOC had discussed changing the meeting time, but voted to keep as is at 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 9am.
5. Zoning Administrator: 64 permits for 2023. 1 in Jan 2024. Next meeting is February 1st 2024.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Troy with BCRC clarified that the agreement for the request to bid needs signed and received before the request for bids will go out.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Park closed except dog park.
- 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 there were 5 ZBA hearings conducted in 2023. The Planning Commission decision on Sunkissed Hills is being appealed, no date yet.
- Blight: Mary Pitcher reported EdenHill/Bluewater property contact has ceased. Discussing further action with attorney, undersheriff and magistrate regarding citations. Narrow Guage property no updates. Platte Rd property has unpaid taxes for 2 yrs, possible tax foreclosure next year. Pitcher is the option to level structure and place a lien on the property.

NEW BUSINESS: None

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A guest asked for clarification on the acronym ACO used in the commissioners report.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Gardner.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:50 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to appoint Spence Brothers as construction manager.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to appoint Gardner to WBJPC.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to appoint Betsy Taylor to the ZBA.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the BCRC sending Lincoln Rd project out for bids.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to purchase Emergency Networking for \$4675.00.**