

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

**PUBLIC HEARING** – Approving Public Hearing for 2024-2025 Budget.

The public hearing was called to order at 2:45pm, March 13, 2024 by Jason Barnard with these members present: Karen Burns, David Gardner, Diana Heller and Jason Barnard.

The clerk read the purpose of the Public Hearing which was to present the new budget for 2024 – 2025 to the general public and to answer any questions they might have. There being 4 guests present, with no public comment, Karen Burns made a motion at 2:59 pm to close the public hearing, David Gardner supported. All voting Aye, motion passed and the public hearing was closed.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

March 13th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Haase, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 7

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting February 14th, 2024, and Special Budget meetings on February 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> and March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024. Supported by Gardner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Burns made a motion to accept the report with Gardner supporting, 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 February 2024 along with payables. Motion by Burns to accept report and pay the bills, seconded by Gardner. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. Colleen Garey from Pace North gave us a presentation on their all-inclusive care and support program. Board of Review was held the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> there were 41 requests. Barnard presented a request to amend the poverty guidelines to allow a 75% reduction. **Burns made motion to accept Poverty Guidelines amendment, Gardner supported, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.** Blaine Twp will now be serviced by Benzonia Township Fire Dept. Supervisor stated that we received another excise tax payment for the 4 location totaling \$236,345.40. There were 2 candidates for the vacant trustee seat present. Al Rose and Kristie Walsh. They each gave a little intro of themselves.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: 12 Fire and 27 medical calls YTD 73. Chief has notified central dispatch of the change to service territory to include Blaine. The Electric Vehicle class had 45 attendees. Chief said good info was presented. A FEMA grant has been submitted, should hear between April and September if awarded. Chief on vacation March 18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2024.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that the Board of Commissioners is discussing the millage renewal for the ballot. @ more full-time persons needed at the jail to be fully staffed. Doug Durand stated there will be a milage of 1 mil for Senior Resources. The population grew 2% between the last 2 census. Employees at the county will be receiving a mental health assistance benefit. The ad hoc committee for the Headlee rollback has 3 applicants for the community representative. Nye states that she has reached out to the state congresspersons and representatives regarding earmarks for the Village of Beulah sewer issue. She urges everyone to do so as well in hopes to lessen the cost burden to the residents. Nye plans to run again for commissioner.
5. Zoning Administrator: 10 permits issued to date, 2 pending, Planning commission meets next May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm. Minor land use hearing March 14<sup>th</sup> for a 4-site campground in Platte Twp.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates- agreed it's been long overdue, this may a good use of some of the excise funds, FOIA process updates – will be looking into again soon.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report. May open soon weather permitting.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Spring clean-up day May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Bluewater at Eden Hill, citation deadline has expired possibly go to court. Narrow Guage may need additional resources to help with cleanup, discussions with attorney regarding circuit court.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Motion by Gardner to approve a resolution for the issuance of unlimited tax bond of 3.5 mil. Supported by Burns. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Motion approved.**

**Motion by Gardner to approve a resolution for the issuance of a limited tax bond up to 2 mil. Supported by Burns. Role call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Motion approved.**

**Motion by Gardner to approve a resolution for disclosure and post issuance compliance. Burns seconded. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heler yes. Motion approved.**

**2024-2025 Budget Resolutions presented by Heller and are as follows.**

**a) 2024-2025 Meeting schedule: Burns moved to accept; Gardner supported. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Meeting schedule approved**

**b) 2024-2025 budget: Gardner moved to approve; Burns supported. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Budget approved.**

**c) 2024-2025 Meeting notice: Gardner made a motion to approve, Burns supported. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Motion approved.**

**d) 2024-2025 Treasurer invest funds: **Sheets** Burns made a motion to approve, **Burns** Gardner supported. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Motion carried.**

**d). 2024-2025 Wage scale: Burns moved to approve; Gardner supported. Roll call vote: Gardner yes, Burns yes, Barnard yes, Heller yes. Wage scale approved.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident had question regarding settlement for Sunkissed Hills. Supervisor gave update he could until signed by judge. Mary on behalf of the Crystal Lake Watershed mentioned work is reinstated this year to relocate the mergansers to aid in swimmers itch in Crystal Lake. Also, the aquatic invasive species program has been treating the Eurasian Milfoil and it has receded and may not need treated this year. A resident asked if we have final numbers on the firehall. Supervisor stated we are awaiting final bid package but are close. Judge Mead introduced himself, thanked the clerks for their work this past election and looks forward to serving the residents for another term.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Gardner.  
Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:20P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ **Public hearing prior to Regular Meeting.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to accept the amendment to the Poverty Guidelines**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve limited and unlimited tax bonds.**
- ❖ **Motion passed approving disclosure and post issuance compliance.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve 2024-2025 Budget Resolutions.**