

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

April 10th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner, Rose and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Haase, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 10

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting March 13th, 2024, and Special meetings on March 7th and March 26th 2024 as presented. Supported by Gardner, all ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Gardner made a motion to accept the report with Heller 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 March 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. Brent Somsel with Spence Brothers, is requesting an amendment to the AIA for the new building for a "not to exceed amount" of \$5,729,327.00; Treasurer **Burns made a motion to approve the "not to exceed" amount and give the supervisor permission to sign the new contract when received. Gardner Seconded, Roll call vote: all ayes, motion passed.** The committees list needs updated due to new board members. The bonds sold on 4/9/24 with an interest rate of 4% and funds should be received by May 1st. Benzonias Twp Fire Dept took over responding to Blaine township calls as per our assist contract

dated April 1st 2024. A \$30,000 fire equipment grant was received from the State of Michigan. The supervisor received 1 bid so far for new website. Spring clean-up day is May 11th 7:30-11am.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: 6 Fire and 27 medical calls, YTD 106. GL Homeland Security training on May 8th and 9th. Will be keeping an eye on the DNR website for daily updates during wildfire season. Cert training is May 4th & 5th at the Government Center. The new first responder truck is set to be wrapped April 15th then radio and lights installed April 22nd.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye gave updates from the Board of Commissioners meeting. The treasurer's office stated there will be no tax foreclosure sales this year. BOC approved addition of 1 corrections officer for remainder of the year. A jail millage will be on August, 2024 ballot. 42k in ARPA funds remain. Child care has not been addressed yet, there have been 3 requests for funds. An ad hoc committee will be formed to recommend where funds will be dispersed. Centra Wellness gave presentation regarding the programs they have and the people they serve. 2024 Equalization report shows taxable value went up 9.37%. There were 157 new addresses issued in Benzie County in 2023. The interview committee met to review applications for the Headlee Advisory committee citizen position. Randy Rice was unanimously chosen. All the positions are filled and have 10 days to meet. BOC halfway through their fiscal year so they did a budget trial balance review. Met with Networks Northwest to discuss points needed for the county Master Plan update.
5. Zoning Administrator: 18 permits issued to date, 3 pending, Planning commission meets next May 2nd 6pm. WBJPC did a site review for Wild Things Farms request for campsites. The WBJPC recommended denial and is working to finalize the determination. Assistant Zoning Administrator Mary Pitcher presented the 2023 Joint Panning Commission Annual report.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident urged caution regarding general contractor and contract, its same company used for the Maples. Another resident agreed the Maples was a sore spot. A guest stated Inland just got new website and will provide contact info.

COMMUNICATION: The clerk presented the request from AT&T for the renewal of the Metro Act. **Gardner made motion to approve the renewal, Burns supported, Roll call vote was taken: all ayes, motion passed.**

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates- 1 quote received from Revize, hoping to get a couple more. FOIA policy update- board members asked for their input for draft.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report. Possibly by Mother's day, weather permitting.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Spring clean-up day May 11th 2024
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Bluewater at Eden Hill, fine paid and cleaned up what was required but Twp doesn't have any ordinance specific to mowing.

NEW BUSINESS: David Egeler- Probate Judge candidate introduced himself and gave info regarding what he would like to do in office should he be elected. 1st initiative is Sobriety court.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A resident gave support for David Egeler, A resident asked why we didn't get the Dollar General and why we don't have a farmers' market, a resident off Hoadley Rd stated its in bad shape and needs more than patching. Gary Sauer District 7-Joyfield Twp agrees it's in bad shape.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Gardner.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 3:44P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the "not to exceed amount" and give the supervisor permission to sign the new contract for the new building when received.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the Metro Act contract renewal.**