

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved:

## **REGULAR MEETING**

June 12th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Burns, Gardner, Rose and Heller

Absent: none

Staff: Adams, Haase, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 6

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Burns to approve the minutes from the regular meeting May 8th, 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 Burns supporting. All ayes, motion carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for both the General and Fire Funds along with list of payables. Motion by Burns to pay the General bills, seconded by Gardner. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried. Motion made by Gardner to pay the Fire Dept bills, second by Burns. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carried. Motion by Burns to pay new building bills, Rose seconded. Roll call vote Gardner no, Burns Yes, Barnard Yes, Heller Yes, Rose Yes. Motion carried.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Supervisor Barnard presented his report. Clean up day this year had unfortunate consequences. Republic brought roll-offs instead of trucks which meant the property was not cleaned-up as in previous years. Tri-gas has decided not to allow us to use their location any longer. Supervisor looking into locations for August. Barnard received the annual bid from Advantage Turf Solutions for weed control at the soccer and ball fields. It does include option for spraying

walking trail. **Barnard made motion to accept bid including walking trail not to exceed \$8000.00, Burns seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.** Crystal Lake Co-op Preschool is having a golf scramble fundraiser. They need a gaming license from the state and asked the Township to be the facilitator. **Heller made motion to assist with license, Burns supported. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In May there were 6 Fire and 42 medical calls, for a YTD total of 195. In 2023 YTD of 200. 2024 Fire Academy is complete. There were 10 graduates with 1 from Benzie. The yearly physicals are done. Chief attended the Homeland Security conference in Grand Rapids, which included 16-18 hrs of training. He attended the Blaine Twp meeting and provided them an update of how things are going. Chief presented a list for medical supplies and equipment to stock the new first responder truck. **Burns made motion to approve supplies and equipment purchase not to exceed \$9000, Rose seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.**
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.
3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye said the county held their Truth in Taxation meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>. The canine cop had a couple successful jobs. A missing child was found, a fleeing suspect tracked and a drug bust during a motor vehicle stop. The government center has finished the trial phase of the infant in the workplace policy and has now become a permanent policy due to the success it had. The Benzie aquatic center is close to making its final decision on whether to purchase the Crystal Lake School.
5. Zoning Administrator: 36 permits issued to date. Planning commission meets next on July 11<sup>th</sup> 6pm. Ready for the RFP requests for the Zoning ordinance updates. Ms. Pitcher suggested a complaint form to be utilized. She presented a draft for review.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMUNICATION: A thank you card was received from the Conservation Resource Alliance.

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates- awaiting quote from current provider before deciding. Jason received info from a company called Iwork that integrates fillable docs and forms along with record keeping of permits, complaints etc.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: An opportunity to purchase neighboring property has come up. Not sure if additional acreage needed at this time. Info was passed on to Cemetery committee.
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: Gardner raised concerns over not having a full contract in place with Spence Brothers. He suggested a full review of contract and insurance policies to make sure we are covered. **Motion by Gardner to hire Lisa Vogler to be this attorney.**

**Burns supported. Roll call vote, Rose No, Heller no, Barnard no, Burns no, Gardner Yes. Motion failed.**

- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: The treasurer presented a budget amendment. **Burns made a motion to approve the budget amendment as written. Gardner seconded. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.** Written motion attached. Burns presented a resolution for WBJPC to move April expenses to March for year-end reporting per auditors. **Burns made motion, Gardner seconded. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.** Burns has had conversations with the county treasurer regarding them printing and sending tax bills instead of KCI. We are one of 2 townships that are not printed there. Treasurer is working with our attorney to have the delinquent personal property be written off.
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: Mary Pitcher updated the board on 4 properties. Case & Shields for non-confirming use, Benzie Hwy excess debris but has been making small progress, Platte Rd title search complete and owner of record is the deceased Mr. Bolton, next step will be Circuit court, Narrow Gauge next step is Circuit court.

NEW BUSINESS: Leo Hughes with Benzie Senior Resources gave an update on the programs and services provided to our area seniors and the upcoming ballot proposal.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: A resident is concerned over the potholes and standing water on Crystal Drive that is hazardous. Someone also suggested looking into a sound system as sometimes it is hard to hear the board discussion. Lastly a resident urged a final decision be made on the watershed overlay district amendment.

Motion to adjourn made by Gardner, Supported by Burns.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:37 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ **Motion passed to accept the quote from Advantage Turf Solutions to treat weeds at ball fields also including the walking trail.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to assist Crystal Lake Cooperative Preschool with obtaining gaming license.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to purchase supplies and equipment for new truck.**
- ❖ **Motion failed to hire Lisa Vogler as attorney for new fire barn project.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve budget amendment as presented.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to adopt resolution per auditors.**