

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

August 14th, 2024

Meeting called to order by Clerk Heller at 3:00 PM.

Present: Burns, Gardner, Rose and Heller

Absent: Barnard

Staff: Haase, Nye, Pitcher, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 14

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 July 10th, 2024 as presented. Supported by Gardner. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Report submitted by Burns. Michigan Class is currently paying 5.3% interest and bond account is paying nice interest. There will be budget amendments presented. The Truth in Taxation public hearing will be held before the September meeting. Gardner made a motion to accept the report with Rose supporting. All ayes, motion carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented a Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire and New Building Funds along with a list of the payables. Motion by Burns to pay the July bills. Rose supported. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

No report.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In July we had 4 Fire and 36 Med calls for a total of 40. YTD is 274, 2023 was 320. Officer appointments in process and a new FF/EMT application received.
2. Cemetery Sexton: No report.

3. Township Attorney: No report.
4. Commissioners Report: Nye stated that the 12 townships in the county had a total of 484 early voters. Tim Malone with Cherry Capital Connect gave update that broadband lines are now installed past 3100 residences. New 1 year recycling contract approved for the county sites and events. Update from MERS the county retirement program is now 67% funded. Election milage results all but the jail passed. How to save a life presentation using Narcan is being held tonight at 6pm and then on 21st 'is it a scam' presentation being held at 6pm at the commissioners meeting room. Nye states she has had several residents contact her regarding concerns of speeding by their homes. Would like to suggest the flashing speed signs like the village has.
5. Zoning Administrator: With ZBA activity increasing Pitcher requested Bruce Wildie be appointed to the ZBA as an alternate. **Gardner made a motion to appoint Wildie as ZBA alt. Rose seconded. All ayes, motion passed.** Sunkissed hearing is scheduled for Sept 3rd at 1:30 in circuit court. Two ZBA's August 29th 2024. The township sent out RFPs for assistance with zoning ordinance rewrite, we received no proposals. However Mary received phone calls from 2 companies that said check back in the fall. John Ransom giving water quality studies presentation at the twp hall on Monday August 19th at 4pm.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident stated they submitted a FOIA on the construction project as there are concerns.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Has been no meeting yet this summer. Porta Johns are not as clean as should be, call made to Elliott/KenJac. considering posting open and close times for the park, there are persons staying the night in park and little can be done as we don't have a closed time. Possibility of having a resident vs nonresident fee for park/pavilion use. Walking trail tentatively scheduled for paving end of August or first week of September.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: More discussion needs to happen on the 4" fill inside building and the signing of change orders. **Gardner made a motion to require a second board member signature for all change orders for the new build. Burns supported, Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: Clean-up day went well at new park location on Aug 10th 2024.
- Finance: No report
- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report

- ZBA: see zoning report
- Blight: Clean up on Benzie HWY complete. Case/Shields – sail boat issue is in process a ticket issued. Awaiting court for Platte Rd as there could be funds to assist with demo.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident stated that she has been at the park and on the bus and only the driver has gotten off, passengers do not. Another resident stated that a person is staying at the park since it's not posted that it is closed at night. Resident supports the second signature and supports Gardner as signer. Resident states hard to hear as meetings get larger, please speak louder and identify themselves. Another resident states to check with Village of Beulah regarding website as theirs has been down for 2 weeks also to ask about outages. Last resident stated to check with multiple providers.

Motion to adjourn made by Rose, Supported by Gardner.

Clerk adjourned the meeting at 4:42 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to appoint Bruce Wildie as ZBA alternate.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to require additional board member signature for all change orders on new building construction.**