

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

October 9th, 2024

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Barnard at 3:02 PM.

Present: Barnard, Gardner, Rose and Heller

Absent: Burns

Staff: Haase, Pitcher, Adams

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson, Nye,

Guests: 9

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Gardner to amend the agenda to separate Mika Myers in the bills, Heller seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

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

Motion by Gardner to approve the minutes from the regular meeting September 11th, 2024 as presented. Supported by Rose. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: The report was submitted by the Clerk in the Treasurers absence. Gardner made a motion to accept the report with Rose supporting, all ayes, motion carried. The treasurer requested a **financial adjustment** which the clerk presented, to transfer \$28,500.00 from general fund to WBJPC to cover legal fees from the Sunkissed suit. **Heller made motion to approve the transfer, Gardner supported, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented the list of workers for the November 5th 2024 election. She then presented the Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire and New Building Funds along with a list of the payables. Motion by Gardner to pay the General and Fire bills. Rose supports, roll call taken all ayes. Gardner made motion to pay Mika Myers bills, Rose seconded. Roll call taken, all ayes motion passed. Barnard made motion to pay the bills for the new fire barn. Rose supported. Roll call taken, all ayes, motion carried. **Barnard made motion to approve change order for \$93,984. Rose supports, roll call vote taken, Gardner No, Barnard Yes, Heller Yes, Rose Yes. Motion passed.**

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard has submitted a request for cost estimate to the road commission for having Lincoln Rd paved. There will be public hearings regarding the Crystal Lake Watershed Overlay amendment and a special land use for Riverbend Recovery on Nov 7th 6pm.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In September we had 13 Fire and 29 Med calls for a total of 42. YTD is 381. Chief will be on vacation Oct 14th – 20th. Chief plans to apply for the GTB 2% grant for purchase of another Lucas machine. Deadline is Nov 30th. The phones and tablet were acquired through First Net and with government discounts came in below initial estimate. Hose testing is Friday the 18th. Gardner asked the Fire Chief what plans he has going forward for the department. Discussion followed.
2. Commissioners Report: No Report
3. Zoning Administrator: 69 permits issued to date. Tomorrow night is public hearing for the proposed CLWOD amendment at 6pm here. Public hearing for Riverbend Recovery Nov 7th 2024 @ 6pm.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: A resident asked to clarify that in the Sunkissed case wasn't actually a loss but a dismissal without prejudice. An attorney for a marijuana business contests the recent approval of an adult use license.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates – Barnard plans to have estimates for review at Nov meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: 3 quotes were received for the new cemetery mowing contract. They were from DMB Lawn Service, Signature Services and Hunter Rose. **Gardner made a motion to accept DMB Lawn services with a verbiage change regarding workers comp and state it includes spring and fall cleanup. Barnard supported, Roll call vote taken, Gardner Y, Barnard Y, Heller Y, Rose – abstain.**
- Parks: Jim Gillison is the new committee chairperson.
- 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: see zoning report

- Blight: Narrow gauge and Old Platte Rd filings in circuit court should be made this week.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident wondered why the water wasn't on at the cemetery in spring and now in fall with weather still warm. The supervisor stated that spring is not opened til just before Memorial weekend due to temps then some repairs to be made and currently, off for repairs.

Motion to adjourn made by Rose, Supported by Gardner.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:20 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the financial adjustment for WBJPC, RE: Sunkissed Hills.**
- ❖ **List of election workers presented.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the cemetery contract with DMB Lawn services.**
- ❖ **Motion to approve change order of \$93,984.00**