

BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

Approved:

REGULAR MEETING

November 13th, 2024

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

Present: Barnard, Gardner, Rose, Burns and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Pitcher, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 12

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Rose to approve the minutes from the regular meeting October 9th, 2024 as presented. Supported by Gardner. All ayes, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns submitted the Treasurers report. Michigan Class is paying 4.9% interest. Winter taxes and newsletter set to go out Dec 1st. The treasurer announced appointment of new deputy treasurer Mary Salenski. Gardner made a motion to accept the report with Burns supporting, all ayes, motion carried.

CLERKS'S REPORT: The Clerk presented the Profit and Loss statement for the General, Fire and New Building Funds along with a list of the payables. A discussion of several items followed. Motion made by Burns to pay the bills. Rose supports, roll call taken all ayes.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard thanked Diana and the election committee for a smooth election. He also thanked David Gardner for finishing Jim Sheets term. Barnard welcomed Julie Orr as the new trustee. The parking space at the park is now complete. The supervisor is working with the BCRC on a quote for Lincoln Rd paving between Eden Hill and US31. The local roads committee meets in December. Cedar St residents have come up with a plan regarding storm water drains. This may be a special assessment situation.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In October we had 25 Fire and 41 Medical calls for a total of 66. YTD is 447. The hose testing is complete. There is ladder and pump testing coming up. The rescue vehicle will need new tires soon with estimate of \$3000. Trunk or treat was well attended. Chief will be on vacation Nov 14th – 20th.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye attended the MAC conference and, in a break-out session learned about a single source for finding state grants. A website called mifundinghub.org. Dan Thorell is now the full-time health officer for BLDHD instead of a shared role as health officer of Northwest Michigan. The county master plan review is underway. Benzie recycling has partnered with Leelanau and Grand Traverse County. They will be called Materials Management. Doug Durand of Benzie Senior Resources is retiring. There are job opportunities at the county.
3. Zoning Administrator: 71 permits issued to date with 3 pending. One major special land use received for storage units. Planning commission meeting will be Jan 9th 2025. Planning commission met last week. The meeting day has changed to second Thursday of the month going forward. The planning commission did recommend the CLWOD amendment to the township. Should have for review in December. They also are entering into an agreement with Foster Smith for legal counsel. The major special land use for the sober living home was withdrawn so the public hearing did not happen.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Vogler asked for clarification on the new building bills for this month and will they be represented on the treasurer's report.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: Website updates – Barnard and Pitcher presented the website committee recommendation to hire Garrison Digital Solutions to design and build out a new township website. **Burns made motion to accept recommendation not to exceed \$12,000. Gardner supported, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: Closed for season, water lines blown out, Park maintenance man will fix walls.
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: Burns presented budget amendments for the transfer approved at the October meeting as well as legal reimbursement for Sunkissed, and interest on the bond money we didn't budget for. See the attached full amendment. **Burns made motion to approve**

budget amendments as presented, Gardner seconded. Roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.

- Personnel: It was brought to the clerk's attention that there was a partial sentence in the approved minutes of Sept. 11 2024. It created confusion as to whether or not a motion had been made at the board meeting. Since we cannot correct approved minutes, the clerk wanted to state at this meeting that: In the Sept 11, 2024 meeting minutes, under personnel, the last five words in the paragraph should be stricken out. It was a matter of a "copy/paste" issue that had not been caught by anyone.
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: see zoning report
- Blight: Narrow Gauge and Old Platte Rd cases filed in court and papers served, awaiting next steps. Narrow Gauge is being sold on land contract and owner may be getting it back, which could help with the case.

NEW BUSINESS: Lisa Vogler stated her interest in being on the new building committee. She also presented her experience and letters of support from other agencies she has assisted. Gardner supports due to lack of legal counsel. Gardner made motion to add Vogler to the committee, Barnard seconded. Roll call vote taken, Gardner Yes, Burns No, Barnard No, Heller No, Rose No. Motion failed.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident stated that it is narrow-minded to have voted no on adding Vogler to committee. Another resident stated they support the addition of Vogler to the committee. A resident asked for clarification on the deputy treasurer appointment.

Motion to adjourn made by Burns, Supported by Gardner.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:10 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the Garrison Digital Solutions for new website build, not to exceed \$12,000.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the budget amendments as presented.**
- ❖ **Motion failed to add Lisa Vogler to the new building committee.**