

# BENZONIA TOWNSHIP BOARD

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Approved

## REGULAR MEETING

January 8th, 2025

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

Present: Barnard, Orr, Rose, Burns and Heller

Absent: None

Staff: Haase, Pitcher, Adams, Nye

Absent: Hahn, Wilkinson

Guests: 9

Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

TREASURERS REPORT: Burns submitted the Treasurers report. Taxes are coming in good. Still have a balance in the bond fund for the building. Will discuss fund transfers between accounts at upcoming budget meetings. Burns made a motion to approve the report with Rose supporting, all ayes, motion carried. Burns needed to clarify for the record that Mary Salenski is replacing Jill Pullen as deputy treasurer.

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 for December 2024. Motion made by Burns to pay the bills. Rose supports, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.

### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Barnard stated that the local roads meeting was held and there are no Benzoniam Township roads that made the short list. Barnard is still awaiting numbers for Shields Dr, Lincoln Road (31 to Eden Hill) and Hanmer Rd for paving. The speed signs we had approved costs way more than the not to exceed amount. Barnard to continue searching others but may need to revisit. The conservation district has submitted an offer on our current building. However, their appraisal came in \$100k less than assessed value. **Burns made a motion to have our own appraisal on**

**the current building. Rose second, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion carried.** The WBJPC made recommendation to accept the CLWS overlay amendment. However, Barnard feels the firm that assists with our master plan update should also review. He will discuss at the joint meeting with Platte. Foster Swift has been retained by the planning commission and is their current attorney of record.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. FIRE CHIEF: In December we had 12 Fire and 30 Medical calls for a total of 42. 2024 YTD is 541. The fire dept had one truck in the Christmas Magic parade. The chief hasn't heard results of the GTB 2% grant yet, may not hear until February. Parts were ordered for the Engine and the tanker. One will need repair to an air pressure issue to the amount of \$3300.
2. Commissioners Report: Nye stated the county plans to finish or address these items in 2025, the salary reviews for non-union employees, the carry in boat launch, the communications tower in Frankfort, the Point Betsie apron repair, Broadband expansion, infrastructure expansion such as Natural Gas extension and sewer. There is talk of the need for another EMS station. At the organizational meeting Art Jeannot was voted chair and Nye is vice chair.
3. Zoning Administrator: 76 permits issued to date. The planning commission meeting for Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 6pm was rescheduled to the 16<sup>th</sup> due to a major special land use hearing. Mary asked if the appointment for the planning commission was going to be made. She attended Platte Twp meeting and they are ready to take action on the overlay amendment. **Burns made motion for the Supervisor to appoint Julie Orr to the WBJPC. Rose supports, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident asked for update on the shed being removed from a home on Crystal Dr. Pitcher commented that will be moving forward now that engagement letter has been signed with Foster Swift. Resident spoke about the attorney use policy and his concerns over not having one in place.

COMMUNICATION: None

PENDING BUSINESS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Cemetery: No report
- Parks: No report
- Building and Grounds: No report
- Fire Department: No report
- Township Roads: No report
- Community Activities: No report
- Finance: Set budget meeting for January 14<sup>th</sup> a@ 1:30pm

- Personnel: No report
- Policy: No report
- ZBA: No report
- Blight: No report

NEW BUSINESS: Barnard stated that he didn't have an issue with the Attorney use policy supplied by a resident. Discussion was had, there of course would need changes specific to our entity but he'd entertain a motion. **Burns made motion to adopt the attorney use policy with the appropriate changes. Orr supported, roll call vote taken, all ayes, motion passed. Burns made motion to hire Foster Swift for blight cases. Orr support, roll call taken, all ayes, motion passed.**

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident suggested that we look into the possibility of legal malpractice with our current representation especially if no one had given permission for them to reply to the current litigations.

Motion to adjourn made by Rose, Supported by Burns.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 4:07 P.M.

Submitted by:

Diana L. Heller, Clerk

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ❖ **Motion passed to hire an appraisal of the current building in order to set sale price.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to approve the appointment of Julie Orr to the WBJPC.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to adopt the attorney use policy.**
- ❖ **Motion passed to hire Foster Swift to work on blight issues.**